

Reasons to Believe the Bible

Reasons To Believe - Part 2

Gary Chappel - September 30, 2018

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

"What I am saying is true and reasonable." Acts 26:25 (NIV)

2 Questions on the reliability of the Bible:

1. Is it reliable as a historical document?
2. Is it really God's Word?

The Bible is reliable as a historical document based on...

1. The number & quality of the manuscripts.
 - Compared to other ancient literary works.
 - The practices of the scribes.
 - The differences in the manuscripts.
2. Historical accuracy.
3. The confirmation of archeology.

I will know that the Bible is God's Word when I...

1. Examine what it says.

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me,⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

John 5:39-40 (NIV)

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.¹² As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

Acts 17:11-12 (NIV)

2. Test what it says.

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

3. Choose to obey God.

Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me."¹⁷ Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.¹⁸ Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

John 7:16-18 (NIV)

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

4. Live a transformed life.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

For neither is circumcision anything [of any importance], nor uncircumcision, but [only] a new creation [which is the result of a new birth—a spiritual transformation—a new nature in Christ Jesus].

Galatians 6:15 (AMP)