



## What is Real?

### Week 1 | Is the Bible True and Reliable?

#### | KEY THOUGHTS

- Christians and non-Christians alike agree that **there is no other book like the Bible.** Though it's the most popular book in the world, it also receives more opposition and push-back than any other.
- Why is that? Because of what it claims:
  - **It is true for everyone, everywhere;**
  - **It tells us who God is, and who we are;**
  - It lets us know **how we can experience eternal life through faith in one person alone, Jesus Christ.**
- Paul and the other apostles believed it to be true and reliable, because...
  - They knew where it came from—**from God Himself**, speaking directly to mankind;
  - Jesus quoted from every part of the Old Testament, affirming all of it as being **the record of actual historical moments, not myth or legend;**
  - **Jesus spoke of it as solid, unbreakable truth, reliable and authoritative.**
- That's what the New Testament tells us; but how can we trust the New Testament? Because of...
  - The sheer number of manuscript copies still in existence;
  - The virtually complete agreement in content between all those thousands of manuscripts;
  - **No other document in history comes even close as being as verifiably reliable based on so many factors.**
- Despite all the overwhelming evidence for its reliability, faith in Jesus Christ is the foundation for trusting in the Bible.
  - Only when you hear the Holy Spirit call your name and respond in faith will you see the Bible for what it is.
  - Then you will see that the Bible is living, active, and supernaturally transformative.
- The Bible is a gift from God to all mankind; its truth crosses time and culture and is relevant to everyone, everywhere.

## | SCRIPTURE

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God. may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV)**

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**2 Peter 1:21 (ESV)**

“ ...your word is truth...”

**John 17:17 (ESV)**

“ ...Scripture cannot be broken...”

**John 10:25 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup> as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

**2 Peter 3:15-16 (ESV)**

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

**Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)**

## | PRACTICAL

- Through reading and studying the Bible, you can discover who God is, and who you are in relation to Him.
- God sets His people free from the deception of this world when they read the Bible in faith.
- Many find it helpful to follow a systematic Bible reading plan:
  - Following a plan make sit easier to be consistent in reading the Bible each day;
  - It answers the question, “Where should I read today?”
  - It can be helpful to follow a plan with another person.
- Reading the Bible in faith can open your mind to the absolute, unchanging truth of God, and your life to the joy, the freedom, the healing, and the riches that God has given us in His word.

## | REFLECT

- When you approach the Bible as true and authoritative, you'll find places where it goes against the grain, pushing back against your values, your viewpoints and opinions, your priorities.
- When that happens, you have two choices:
  - Ignore what God says in His word and rationalize that it doesn't apply to you in your situation; or
  - Submit to it and allow God to transform you to be more like Him.
- God sets His people free from the deception of this world when they read the Bible in faith.
- How might God transform your life if you investigate His character and nature as revealed in the Scriptures, and submit yourself to His authority?

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