

## *Is The Bible Reliable?*

### **2 Timothy 3:16**

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**2 Timothy 3:16**, *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

### **The Reliability, Authority And Accuracy Of The Bible:**

#### **1) EXTERNAL EVIDENCE Affirms The Bible's Reliability**

- The number of manuscript copies, and the short length of time between the original manuscripts and our first copies of the New Testament.
- Extreme care was taken when the Scriptures were copied.
- Confirmation of places and dates by archaeology.

#### **2) INTERNAL EVIDENCE Affirms The Bible's Reliability**

- The majority of the Bible is from eyewitness accounts. (1 John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8)
- Amazing agreement and consistency throughout the Bible.
- The only historical document that deals with the problem of evil from beginning to end.

#### **3) INSPIRATION Affirms The Bible's Reliability**

- Inspiration is the process through which God gave us the Bible. The Spirit of God worked in the hearts of the human writers to inspire them to write down the words.

God's written words through these human authors are perfect, infallible and trustworthy.

(2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Acts 1:16)

#### **4) JESUS And The Early Church Affirm The Bible's Reliability**

- Jesus recognized the authority of the Old Testament. (Luke 24:44)
- In the early church, for a New Testament book to be considered Scripture, it had to have the authority of an apostle; teach absolute historical truth; be confirmed by the early church to be part of the canon. The word canon refers to the list of books that are accepted as Scripture based on the above criteria.

#### **5) PERSONAL EVIDENCE Affirms The Reliability Of The Bible**

- Historically the Bible is the world's best-selling book.
  - Countless lives have been changed through its message.
  - No one has ever regretted building his or her character, family, business and life on the teachings of the Bible.
- 2 Peter 1:19**, *We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place...*