



Why Should We Even Believe The Bible?

By Kurt von Schleicher

"The Book is a divine production; it is perfect, and is the last court of appeal - 'the judge which ends all strife.' I would as soon dream of blaspheming my Maker as of questioning the infallibility of His Word."—Charles Spurgeon

Why the Bible? Why don't we just memorize verses from other important stories or from say ...cute nursery rhymes so that our kids can enjoy them? Some people do and there is some wonderful literature out there. But for the well rounded, well-read Christian wanting to make the most of their time, some literature to actually memorize is more profitable on multiple levels to invest their limited time with.

But Kurt, on what authority shall we believe the Bible is true and the very Word of God—you know, worthy to invest my time in? Who said it was God's Word and who will prove or verify this fact? Man, those are great questions and that's why this page is here! How about this:

1.) We could believe it's God's Word based on the authority of the historical Christian Church. That is the response of the Roman Church to these questions. Mr. John O'Brien, in his book "*The Faith of Millions*" says:

"The declaration of the Catholic Church that the books of the New Testament are all inspired by God constitutes the sole authority for the universal belief of both Catholics and Protestants in their inspired character."

But wait, the Belgic Confession disagrees with O'Brien's stance. It denies the claim with these words:

We [meaning Protestants] receive all these books, and these only, as holy and canonical, for the regulation, foundation, and confirmation of our faith; believing without any doubt all things contained in them, not so much because the Church receives and approves them as such, but more especially because the Holy Spirit witnesses in our hearts that they are from God, and also because they carry the evidence thereof within themselves. For the very blind are able to perceive that the things foretold in them are being fulfilled. (Art. 5)

2.) We could believe it's God's Word based on the authority of its own excellence. The Westminster Confession states:

And the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is, to give all glory to the Lord), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God. (1.5)

3.) We could believe it's God's Word based on the authority of the Lord's Holy Character. The Westminster Confession also speaks in this way. It says:

The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man, or church; but wholly upon God (who is truth Himself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God. (1.4) We should believe the Bible is the Word of God because it is the Word of God; otherwise we believe in the word of Man. But we have another problem, a spiritual one. The light of the Word is shining, but we are blind from birth. Paul tells us, "No one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God," and therefore "the man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor. 2:11, 14). As the Westminster Confession says, "Our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts" (1.5).

Yes, only God can verify his Word. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit is the highest Authority in the earth and universe. God is the One who can explain his Word to people in such a way so as to open up their spiritual eyes so they will be enabled to understand it and believe it.

Why should we trust what the Bible says? We know that the Bible is God's Word, because no less an authority than the sinless Son of God, Jesus Christ Himself says it is. You might say, "That is just circular reasoning." No, not so fast. The New Testament writings are actually reliable historical documents. The authors of these writings were eyewitnesses to the life of Christ, or they were close associates of actual eyewitnesses. They gave us a clear testimony as to the divinity of Jesus Christ. Christ Himself claimed to be God, and then He proved His claim by (1.) fulfilling messianic prophecies and by (2.) His working of helpful miracles, and last but not least by (3.) Christ's historically verifiable physical resurrection from that borrowed grave.

Can we prove that Jesus is God incarnate? He did this Himself, therefore whatever He says is truth and needs to be respected and received as such. What does Christ say regarding the Scriptures? He tells us the Bible is God's written Word to man! But what about the Old Testament? Isn't it too Old? Jesus said that the **"Scriptures cannot be broken,"** and therefore they are inerrant, sufficient, authoritative, and inspired. Christ promised that the Bible will guide not only his apostles, but all of us well ...in the truth if we would allow this. Christ wasn't chatting about subjective truth; He was talking about objective verifiable truth.

We believe in Sola Scriptura like Christ did—viewing the Bible as the top yardstick to which all religious questions, impressions, morals, apparitions, opinions and lifestyles are

measured. And in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we can see the Bible views itself as the final court of arbitration for both faith and practice. But Jesus, God in human flesh, testified not only to Scripture's authority (Matt. 22:43), but also to the Bible's reliability (Matt. 26:54), to the Bible's sufficiency (Luke 16:31), and to its finality (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10). Bottom line: The living Word (Jesus Christ) bears testimony to the Written Word of God (the Bible). You have to be dealing with someone who is intellectually integrous though—an honest, open-minded person. There are open humble sinners and there are closed-minded, stubborn sinners. If someone has already made up their mind and doesn't want to be confused with the real facts, you're never going to be able to talk them into the kingdom. As easy as it would be to talk someone into joining God's Kingdom, it would be that easy for someone else to talk them out of it. Only the Holy Spirit can truly open the heart of a close minded unbeliever, grant them scriptural understanding, true repentance and make them truly regenerated on the inside. We need to pray for them, that the Holy Spirit will persuade them to open up to the truth. And don't be afraid to quote the Scriptures when talking with them. That's where Bible memorization comes in. You can only export, what you first import ...and remember, God's word does not return void.

Do You Value The Bible?

The Bible says, ***"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth"*** (2 Timothy 2:15 NIV). Please learn to prayerfully treasure God's Word more than food. Job said, ***"I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food"*** (Job 23:12). The Bible is more than a measuring rod or book of history. It's spiritual food for the Christian. Just as you feed your physical person, you must feed your spiritual man. When we mix worship with study we partake in a wonderful balance of nutritional strength. I love that song that goes: Read your Bible, pray every day and you'll GROW, GROW, GROW. We want you to grow in Him. We don't want you to be malnourished or lopsided spiritually.

I believe that every church, every department of every church, every leader, every parent and every Christian should be full of the Spirit and full of the Word. The church you commit yourself to needs to excel in both worshipping the living Word and thoroughly teaching the written Word! During His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ not only balanced the fruit of the Spirit with the gifts of the Spirit, He was also full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

It's so good to take a healthy portion of Scripture (maybe dealing with a topic or a book that directly addresses your weakness) and thoroughly study it. I have friends who have memorized whole books this way. This is so edifying to do! It radically builds you up and fortifies you spiritually... just to take some time to prayerfully meditate on one part that really stands out to you. How beautiful. What a joy!

"His (the godly person's) delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His Law he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1:2 emphasis mine).

"Your Word I have hidden in my heart"

that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11).

Find a quiet place today to meditate on God's Word. Ruminating is meditation. It's focused thinking and praying over the Scriptures. You know, like the cow chews its cud seven times, regurgitating it back up to get all the nourishment the bovine can work out of it ...and so should we be doing with the Scriptures. Now, worry is negative meditation. Never worry, it's a total waste of time and don't forget Scripture memorization. Some hostages or war, who were later released have said that their knowledge of God's Word was their most valued asset behind bars. Committed Christian, in your life, nothing will be more precious than those verses you've committed to memory, against the many difficult ordeals you'll face. Knowing Jesus well, will largely depend on how well you know the Bible.

You Can Do This—Memorize Scripture With Zeal!

Habitual sequence-quoting:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. THE TOPIC | 2. THE REFERENCE |
| 3. THE VERSE | 4. THE REFERENCE |

- ✚ The reference is normally more difficult to remember than the actual wording in the verse. That is why it should be repeated out loud before and after the quoting of the verse as you repeatedly read the text. The reference is like the address, the handle on the suitcase so to speak, enabling you to lift up a complete portion from the Bible whenever needed.
- ✚ The real secret of Scripture memory is review, review, review. Again, *"either use it or lose it."* Remember the verses just like you would remember a telephone number. You dialed, Dialed, DIALED and then you had it for life! You remember how you memorized the code for the lock on your school locker don't you? As your friends were standing there waiting and waiting on you, yelling and then throwing their books at you, you kept trying to get it down. But then you did get it down and never forgot it that whole school year. You can memorize by review, Review, REVIEW!
- ✚ Quote the verse aloud (if a place where those around you won't think you're totally weird). Pray over the verse, asking God to make the meaning very clear, very understandable and applicable to you. Memorize one phrase at a time, using the reference, adding phrase by phrase until the entire verse is committed to memory. Then pray daily that God will use you with it, that He will give you courage to put feet to your faith... that people will come to Christ because how your words and actions harmonize. You'll be like salt and make them thirsty. They will want the peace you enjoy, the joy you express and simply want to be like you.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

Again, we affirm this: that the **Bible** is the book that is the final court of arbitration for all of mankind and the inerrant, infallible revelation of God to man. Don't go by your feelings, dreams, goose bumps, emotions or by what others say. Test it all in light of God's Word.

*Be Like A Berean—A Bibleophile!
The Bible Came From God Through Man,
But God Made Sure Man Didn't Mess It Up!
Men Have Tried to Destroy It.
Satan Tries To Keep You From It.
It Wasn't Written To You, But For You, So Study The Context.
Learn What It Meant To The Original Writers And Readers,
Get God's Thoughts Inside You!
Get His Words Into Your Heart,
Into Your Shoe Leather,
And Into Your Mouth!*

***This Book Will Keep You From Sin,
But Sin Will Keep You From This Book!***

Who Were the Old Testament Authors?

- ✚ **The Pentateuch** (the first five books of the Bible including Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) was written by Moses at the end of his life in the wilderness just prior to the Israelites' entry into Canaan.
- ✚ **Joshua, Judges, and Ruth** were all likely written during (or immediately prior to) the kingly reign of David over Israel by unnamed, pro-David/anti-Saul, priestly historians.
- ✚ The large portion of the **Psalms** were written by King David before and during his reign over Israel. Other authors of Psalms include Moses (Psalm 90), Solomon (Psalms 72 and 127), the sons of Korah (Psalms 42-49; 84-85; and 87-88), the sons of Asaph (Psalms 50 and 73-83), and Ethan the Ezrahite (Psalm 89). A number of Psalms are also written anonymously.
- ✚ The books of **Proverbs** and **Song of Solomon** (also known as Canticles) were penned by King Solomon during his reign — though chapters 30 and 31 of Proverbs were written by Agur and Lemuel respectively.
- ✚ Though such a date and parentage is contestable, **Ecclesiastes** likely finds authorship in the Post-Exilic period and is written in the voice of the character of King Solomon. It may well be the last Biblical book written previous the New Testament.
- ✚ The prophetic books of **Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, and Zephaniah** were all written during the Kingdom Era by the prophets whose names are borne by the books' titles.
- ✚ The books of **Samuel** are anonymously written and probably came about during the Kingdom Era as well.
- ✚ **Habakkuk** and **Joel** were probably written just prior the Babylonian capture of Jerusalem and were written by the prophets for whom the books are named.

- ✚ **Jeremiah** wrote both **Lamentations** and the book of Jeremiah and wrote over a course of years spanning the periods immediately preceding and succeeding the capture of Jerusalem.
- ✚ **Obadiah** probably wrote just after the Exile in Babylon began, while **Ezekiel's** and **Daniel's** respective books spanned the entirety of Israel's 67-year captivity.
- ✚ The books of Kings were likely penned by their unknown author during the Exile.
- ✚ Ezra may have compiled both **Ezra** and **Nehemiah** and Jewish tradition names him the author of **Chronicles**, but whatever the case, the books were all written Post-Exile.
- ✚ **Esther**, written after the Exile, was likely penned by a Persian Jew.
- ✚ **Haggai**, **Zechariah**, and **Malachi** were all written after Israel's return from Babylonian and Persian captivity and their authors share names with the books' titles.
- ✚ The book of **Job** is of a quite ambiguous origin, but though the author remains anonymous, it too was probably authored during the Post-Exilic Era.

Who Were the New Testament Authors?

✚ Narratives:

The gospel according to **Matthew** was written by Matthew the tax collector.
 The gospel according to **Mark** was written by John-Mark.
 The gospel according to **Luke** was written by Luke the Physician.
 The gospel according to **John** was written by John the disciple that Jesus loved.

The **Acts** of the Apostles was written by Luke the Physician. (It's an historical record).

✚ Epistles (or letters):

The Pauline Epistles are those written by the Apostle Paul (a.k.a. Saul) of Tarsus:

Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

The Peterine Epistles are those written by Peter of the Twelve:

1 Peter
2 Peter

The Johanne Epistles are those written by John, the disciple that Jesus loved:

- 1 John
- 2 John
- 3 John

And though sharing in three literary traditions — apocalyptic, prophetic, and epistolary — listing John's Apocalypse (also called **Revelation**) as an epistle will suit our purposes here. This was written by the same John the beloved (as above).

The book of **James** was written most likely by James the half brother of Jesus.
The book of **Jude** was written by Jude the brother of James.

The epistle of **Hebrews** is written anonymously. Many believe it was the Apostle Paul who penned this Book, while others believe it was Apollos. Most scholars lean toward someone other than Paul (simply because the grammar and use of certain key Pauline terms is markedly different from the whole body of his identified epistolary work). In the end, God didn't see the book's authorship as important for us to Know (if He had, He would have identified the person that He used in writing the book of Hebrews), so anyone's guess as to the identity of the author is mere a guess—full speculation—and should have no bearing upon our interpretation of the passages found within.

Have you accepted Christ? Do you have more questions? Have these fishing articles helped you? Click on the "Contact" button and let Kurt know!