

Crucial Questions

Can We Trust the Bible? Part 2

NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

- Last week, we covered the first two questions:
 1. Are the translations of the Bible that we have today reliable?
 2. How do we know that the books of the Bible are the right books?
- This week we continue in biblical apologetics with the following questions:
 1. Are the authors of these books reliable as truthful historical and biblical writers?
 2. Did the events that are recorded in the Gospels really happen, especially the miracles and resurrection account?
 3. Can we trust that Jesus is who the Bible records him to be?
- Read Luke 1:1-4. Was Luke trying to record history?
- How did Luke give invitation to check his facts and claims?

- Read John 21:25 and 1 John 1:1-3. What are the 2 unlikely reasons that John's words were written to create a hoax or invent an untrue story? The 1 John passage was the last written account in about 95 AD. Peter and Paul had been killed about 30 years earlier under Nero.
- Read the following quote. How does this impact the reliability of Scripture for you?

“Nobody dies for a fiction, and nobody dies for a hoax. If your goal in writing something was simply to write a novel or to perpetrate a deception, you don't stick to the story once the jig is up and your head is about to come off. The only way you stick to the story under those circumstances is if you really believe that what you wrote actually happened. And that's exactly what we have in the people who wrote the New Testament. Even as they wrote and taught, they knew they could be killed for what they were saying. And yet through all the threats and all the promises, even up to the moment of their own deaths, they kept on saying it.” - Greg Gilbert

- Read John 14:25-26. What is John claiming about his writings?
- Both of the following passages are Jesus' words **after** his resurrection. Read John 20:21-22 and Matthew 28:19-20. What authority does this have on the writings of the apostles?
- Read Galatians 1:6-9 and Galatians 1:11-12. Why is Paul so adamant about his apostleship status?

- Miracles are the hardest for skeptics to accept. Why is it that science cannot prove or disprove miracles?
- What are the two key proofs the disciples had regarding the resurrection of Jesus?
- Were the disciples more skeptics and doubters, or believers willing to die for their testimonies?
- Read John 20:19 and then John 20:29. Why do you think Jesus said what he did in verse 29?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-7. Why is the truth of who Jesus is and what is claimed in the Bible summed up in this one event?

RESPONSE:

- It's one thing to believe the Bible to be true. It's another to believe the gospel because we have to believe something about ourselves. What is the truth about ourselves and the gospel that are so important to our salvation?