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Hot Button: Can I Trust the Bible?

Cal Rychener

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

Six Strands of Evidence for Trusting the Bible

Strand #1: You Can Trust the Bible Because of Its Apostolic Seal of Approval!

Rare **AIR** Test

Test #1: A: Apostolic Authority! The document was considered authoritative if it was connected to the apostles—either written by an apostle or by a student or associate of an apostle.

Test #2: I: Internal Integrity! The contents of the book had to be consistent with what Jesus taught.

Test #3: R: Recognized Influence and Acceptance by the Church at Large.

Strand #2: You Can Trust the Bible Because of Its Textual Credibility!

The N.T. has vastly superior evidence to that of any other book from the ancient world.

1. The Bible stands #1 in the amount of documents!
2. The Bible stands #1 with regard to textual integrity!

Textual integrity refers to how close the end result is to what was actually said in the beginning.

John Warwick Montgomery has said, "To be skeptical of the...New Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well attested as the New Testament."

Strand #3: You Can Trust the Bible Because of Its Prophetic Accuracy!

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV 1984): ...No prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Strand #4: You Can Trust the Bible Because of Its Historical Reliability!

Paul Johnson has said, "It is no longer men and women of faith but rather the skeptics who should fear the course of further discovery."

Strand #5: You Can Trust the Bible Because of Jesus' Divine Authority!

Strand #6: You Can Trust the Bible Because of Its Experiential Validity!

John 7:17 (NIV 1984): "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own."

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV 1984): "...If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

"A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't."