

Bibliology

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[0:00] Bibliology, the doctrine of the Bible, that's what it stands for. Bible means books. It's really a library of books. A rich library of 66 books.

And over 40 divinely inspired authors. And across a 1500 year time span. It's an amazing book. More than just a book, a library of books, of 66 books.

And it was written by writers from all kinds of backgrounds. Shepherds, fishermen, politicians, tax collectors, prophets. And many more.

From three different continents. Yet in spite of their different backgrounds and cultures, this one book dovetails together without contradiction.

It validates its divine authorship. The Bible is the Word of God. The Word of God. And friends today, you can trust the Bible.

[0:59] Now you might be asking this question today. You might say, why should I believe it? Why should I believe the Bible? You might look a bit like this fellow here. You might be scratching your head and thinking, can I believe the Bible?

Can I trust the Bible? You might be doubting a bit like this chap here. You might be scratching your head and wondering, can I believe it? Can I trust it? Well, I want to tell you this morning, you can trust the Bible.

I want to go through some different evidences that should demand a verdict. And firstly, the testimony of science. The testimony of science should make you believe the Bible.

We see the heavens declare the glory of God, don't they? As the Word of God tells us. And we see in physics and chemistry. The Bible is true to physics and chemistry.

For example, it says in the Psalms that the universe is running down. Science at first thought that things are improving, that people are evolving and getting better. Well, you know, we know that that's not so.

[2:01] And the human body is made out of the dust of the earth. And science tells us that is true. That the elements that are in the earth are in our body. The earth's basic elements form our human body.

And water returns to its source. There's that scientific principle of evaporation and then of precipitation of rain. And it's a cycle. Ecclesiastes tells us that.

There's many references we could cite how the Bible agrees with modern science in those truths. And secondly, in biology. In biology itself.

Life does not emerge from non-life. In times past, scientists thought that certain diseases or diseases certain life forms just kind of materialised out of the ether.

But we know that is not true. Life can only come from life. And life is incredibly complex. Life is in the blood. And sanitation or cleanliness avoids the spread of disease.

[3:05] These are truths that the Bible has declared for many centuries. And yet science is just waking up to these things of late. In comparatively recent terms.

In terms of the testimony of science, in terms of geology too. Geology shows a congruence with the Bible. It agrees with the Bible. In terms of the basic forms of animal life begin all at once.

It actually shows life forms remain basically the same. And don't change much. Of course we know as with dogs for example. Through breeding you've got different breeds of dogs. But that's only they've come from the same dog.

There's one kind and another kind. One kind of animal continues to be that same kind of animal. And all types of life begin fully formed. These are all truths that are in the Bible.

In the Word of God. So we see the testimony of science should make us believe the Bible. And trust the Bible. Then we can consider the testimony of the scribes. Of the writers themselves.

[4:05] The writers of the Bible. We know that some of them ended up getting persecuted. Here you've got the Colosseum at Rome. When many believers, many Christians sacrificed themselves.

For their faith in Christ. They weren't willing to deny Christ. We know the Roman emperors would come to them and say. Just cast a little bit of ash on this altar.

To say that you're paying allegiance to Caesar as Lord. But they said no. Jesus is Lord. Jesus is Lord. Not Caesar is Lord. And for that they paid the highest price.

Of dying for their faith. It's true that many of the writers of the Bible themselves. Actually sacrificed themselves for their faith. They claimed that the Bible came from God.

And they taught and lived by its highest ethic. And they were willing to die for what they claimed. As we know. One of the writers of the New Testament. Paul. Who wrote much of the New Testament.

[5:03] He died for his faith in Christ. For his faith in the Word of God. Now if it wasn't true. Why would they die for it? If you were believing something that wasn't true. You wouldn't die for it.

And that's when the rubber hits the road isn't it? And there is historical confirmation. For what they claimed. The testimony of the scribes. Then we see another testimony. It's the testimony of supernatural predictions.

Supernatural predictions. They were made many hundreds of years in advance. Hundreds of years in advance. For example. The book of Isaiah. Tells us of our Saviour's coming.

And this was some 800 years before he was born. They were often clear and specific. And they all came to pass as predicted. The supernatural predictions were on target.

You can see here. For example. How these predictions came about. He was firstly. The Lord Jesus was predicted as coming as born of the human race.

[6:03] Born of a woman. In Genesis chapter 3. It says that he would come from a woman. So that's number one. Next one. He came from Abraham.

From the ethnic group of the Jews. He was going to be a seed of Abraham. The next one. He was going to. More specifically than that. He was going to come from the tribe of Judah.

It tells us that he was prophesied. That the Lord Jesus would be of Judah. That tribe of the twelve. And he would come from. Not just from Judah.

But that he would be the son of David. He would come from David. From that dynasty. From that line. How would he be born? He would be born. Of a virgin.

And where would he be born? He would be born. In Bethlehem. And it even tells us. When he would be born. The prophecies. Show us. The actual time frame.

[7:02] Of his birth. Daniel spoke of that. That it would be 33 AD. So see how. It's all on target. Each of those prophecies. More general. To the very specifics.

The Lord Jesus is shown. To be. Prophesied to come. And just the prophecies. About the Lord Jesus is coming. Are just one of many kinds of prophecies. In the Bible.

There's lots more. So we've got the testimony. Of the supernatural predictions. This was not just a. Collection of stories. And mythical. Ideas. Was a prophetic book.

That is a miracle book. And we see also. The testimony. Of the stones themselves. The very stones. Of Jerusalem. Of Israel. The archeology.

Of. The nation of Israel. Proves the Bible. We see. Many references. To places and. Occasions in the Bible. And all the archeologists evidence.

[7:59] Proves the truth. Of the Bible's claims. No evidence has ever. Refuted the Bible. And thousands of. The finds support the Bible. Another testimony.

To me. It's very testimony. Of the structure. Of the Bible itself. Of the makeup. Of the unity. Of the Bible. The Bible has great diversity. Yet it has amazing unity.

And this is. Accounted for by. Really the. One mind. That was behind it all. Whilst it had the various. Different writers. It has one theme.

Salvation. One person. Christ. It's been said. That Christ. Is in every book. Of the Bible. If you look. You can see. Evidence there.

Right from. Genesis. To Revelation. Is there. Behind the scenes. And. The Bible states. That we have. One problem. Sin. One cure.

[8:54] Salvation. Through one person. The Lord Jesus Christ. And for one purpose. To glorify God. The Lord. Of God. As a consistent theme. Weaved through. The whole book.

Interlocking. Interleaved. Through the whole book. The testimony. Of the structure. Of the Bible. And we see also. The testimony. Of the Holy Spirit. Who speaks. Through the Bible. The testimony. Of the Holy Spirit. He speaks. Through the Bible. And he bears witness. With us. The Bible says. That he bears witness. With our spirit. That we are the children. Of God. He bears witness. That the Bible. We can rely upon it. He gives us. Inside of us. That assurance. That confidence. That we are not relying. In a book. That is a mere book.

Of men. But that it is very. Much in truth. The word of God. The testimony. Of the spirit. Another testimony. Is the testimony. Of the saved. People who are saved. Who are transformed.

[9:50] By this book. People who love. The Lord Jesus. Who love his word. They are transformed. By it. This book has power. To deliver from sin. In Romans 1. Verse 16. It says.

That the gospel. Is the power of God. Unto salvation. To everyone. Who believes. It has power. To deliver. From sin. And it has power.

To purify us. To clean us. For his service. It is truly. An amazing book. An amazing book. And. We know. That it is. Seen to be.

The number one. World's best seller. And it's also. The world's best. Life changer. Through history. Through. The influence. Of the bible. It's brought civilization.

It's brought. Well being. And. Much advances. In. In knowledge. And. Wherever it has gone. It has changed lives. It has changed nations. It has changed people.

[10:45] And this is evidence. Truly. That demands a verdict. It demands a verdict. The bible is. A miracle. It's a miracle. In. It's unity.

In terms of. The different styles. And the writers. They have had a united theme. And message. As I said. 40 different writers. 1500 years. Three different continents. From all different cultures.

And walks of life. Yet. It's interlocking. It's. Got that common. One theme. That one message. That united theme. And message. It's also got an accuracy.

As a historical book. It's a book that's. Confirmed by the evidence. Of archeology. It's a book that's accurate. In it's historical details.

As well as it's spiritual teachings. And it's also accurate. In terms of the prophecy. There's an astonishing. 668 prophecies. That have been fulfilled.

[11:41] And some are still future. They're still yet to be fulfilled. As we know. Of the end of the world. The Bible. Has lived up to all of its claims. Thus far. You can rely.

Upon the accuracy. Of the Bible. Of the prophecy. And. We see lastly. There. The preservation of the Bible. It shows. It's a miracle book. It's survived for thousands of years.

And we see that. Even when the church of the day. So called. The Catholic church of its day. Would. Deny the people. The writings of the word of God.

In the common language. Yet. It survived all of that. Where they burnt the Bible. As well as the believers. The church of the day. So called. The Bible.

We know that. The Bible has been preserved. It has survived. The test of time. Even. The very manuscripts. Survived. Despite the weather. The persecution. The time.

[12:37] Printing presses. As we know. The printing presses. Did not exist. Till. 1455. And yet. For all of those. Hundreds and hundreds. And hundreds.

Of years. The Bible was kept. Maintained. In those. Papyri. The different. Manuscripts. That. It was written on. Most ancient writings.

Written on weak. Materials. Like papyrus. Have vanished. All together. Many copies. Of the Old Testament. Survive. Today. The scriptures. Survive.

After thousands. Years. The Dead Sea Scrolls. Containing. All of the books. Of the Old Testament. Except Esther. Have been dated to. Before. The time of Christ.

It's a wonderful preservation. By the Lord. In contrast to that. You could think of. For example. Writings. Concerning. Julius Caesar. There's only 10 copies.

[13:33] Written. About 1000 years. After the event. In existence. Today. In comparison. There are over 24,000. New Testament. New Testament. Manuscripts. The earliest one.

Dating to within. 24 years. After Christ. God has preserved. His word. As someone has said. For example. Of the King James.

Bible. It is from a superior text. Translated by superior. Translators. Into a superior. English. This is a. The Bible is something. You can rely on. It's.

It's preserved it. His eternal word. For us today. As we hold it. In our hands. In the authorised version. Also known as. The King James version. We have the. Assurance.

That this is a true. And accurate. Faithful. Translation. Translation. And we see that. For example. Of the. 5,332. Complete. New Testament.

[14:28] Manuscripts. In the original. Greek. Still in existence. Today. Only ten of them. Leave out portions. Or all. Of Acts. 8. 37.

The account. Of the eunuch. And Paul. Saying that if he believes. He can be baptized. Yet the new. International version. Deletes this. Manuscripts. As a guy. It's 5,320 on.

Telling us. That it's in there. And so. We can. Believe. The faithfulness. Of this. Translation. There were 54. Translators. Of the KJV.

And each. Was commissioned. By King James. And knew how to fluently. Speak. Between three. And ten. Languages. These were. Qualified people. They were linguists.

I know there's some people here. Who speak. A number of languages. I have trouble with English. But. These people. They were not. Religious. They were linguists. And they loved the word of God.

[15:24] They were. Qualified people. Thousands of martyrs. Have given. Their lives. For the word of God. They bled. And died. They've been burnt. At the stake.

They've been. Persecuted. And tortured. Because they love. The word of God. Friends. We need to take it seriously. It's a unique book. It's a unique book. It's more than a book. It is God's book.

It is God's book. It is God's book. And it deserves our serious investigation. And our serious response. It's God's letter. To humanity. That he's written to us. And it's seen throughout.

Is that man is sinful. And needs a savior. Christ is that eternal person. And theme. Of the whole book. And for us as believers. As a Bible believing church.

We stand on the Bible. The word of God. That it is the only rule. Of faith. And practice. The only rule. Of faith. And practice. That's something that we.

[16:19] Declare. You know. For some today. They're getting away from that truth. Of the Bible being the source. Of faith. And practice. Julie and I have seen some alarming things.

Of some recent trends. There's some extreme things going on today. Brothers and sisters. In the church world. In Christianity. So called today. There is much to be desired. They're getting away from the word of God.

Into all kinds of. Kooky. Freaky things. And it's no wonder. Because they're not basing. Their teachings. And their. Their practice. On the Bible. The word of God.

The Bible is our only rule. Of faith and practice. It rules our experience. All the. Warm and fuzzy. Goose bumpy stuff. We might get that too. But we've got to be on the Bible. It's.

When we're lies. Are based on the Bible. And when we're founded on that. Friends. Today. There's. Varieties of churches. And varieties of beliefs. And some of them. Are really into some very strange things.

[17:17] And they're getting away. From the foundation. That's the problem. We as a church. We believe that the Bible. Is inspired. It's inspired. It's breathed by God. As it tells us. And 2 Timothy chapter 3.

From verse 15. It says. And then in verse 16. Is given by inspiration of God. And is profitable. For doctrine. For reproof. For correction. For instruction in righteousness. It's inspired. All scripture. Is inspired. It's been breathed by God. It's very breathed. The Bible has authority. It's got a great authority. As Christians. We believe in the Bible. Amen. But it is the word of God. The very word of God.

The Bible, really and truly, is your guide. It's your guide from earth to heaven. It's your guide from earthly life to heavenly life. It's your guide to have eternal life.

[21:48] And so, we've seen the testimony. We've seen those testimonies. A science of the stones, of the scribes, the writers, of the supernatural predictions, of the structure of the word, of the spirit, confirming the word, of the lives of the saved, as it transforms people, as it saves people.

And so, let's look now at some of the benefits. What are the benefits that you can gain from the Bible, the word of God? Well, there's many, many benefits. There's many, many reasons why you should take it seriously and benefit from the Bible.

Don't just put it on the shelf and store it away and let it gather dust. Take it and apply it. Use it. The Bible, really and truly, brings life.

It brings life. It brings eternal life. As it says in Hebrews 4, verse 12, that the word of God is quick and powerful. It's sharper than any two-edged sword. It's piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and it's a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

It's alive. It's quick. That word quick means alive. The Bible is alive. It's a living book. And saving faith comes from it. As the Holy Spirit quickens the Bible, makes it alive to us, and helps us to understand and properly interpret the Bible.

[23:10] As it says that the Holy Scriptures are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. The Bible brings life, eternal life, saving faith, life in Christ, and it enables you to be saved.

That's really the first step. As we believe the message of the Bible, we believe the Saviour. And secondly, it equips you. It's like a toolkit that God gives to us.

As it says, that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God is profitable. It's going to profit you. It's going to benefit you in terms of doctrine, teaching, in terms of reproof like correction, instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

It's going to help you achieve spiritual maturity. We need that toolkit of the Bible to live our lives. It's God's love letter to us and it's God's guidebook for life.

I know some have called it B-I-B-L-E, Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth. These are the basic instructions before leaving earth. We need this message.

[24:18] We need these instructions. If all else fails, read the Maker's instructions. The one who made you, the Maker of Life, has written you this love letter.

And that's why I count it so valuable, so precious. I know I've been sharing in software form, in electronic form, with some of my friends, the Bible in English and in Chinese.

And we've given the Bible to our friends from Africa. I've got a Swahili Bible. And we were able to put it on their Bible. because I count it the most precious thing that you can have, the most precious thing that you can own, the most precious thing that you can receive is the Word of God.

It's so valuable. It's so precious. It's such a precious thing. It's such a perfect thing. And it's able to furnish you, to equip you unto all good works, to help you achieve spiritual maturity.

We can't get enough of the Bible. and it's able to help you to serve. The Bible's going to give you that toolkit, that information, so you can be a useful Christian and serve Him and achieve spiritual maturity.

[25:28] Another benefit is it's going to build you. It's going to build you like a picture of a wall being built. It says, Paul told the people in Acts 20, Brethren, I commend you to God.

I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace. I commend you to the Bible, he says, it's able to build you up. It's able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

It's going to build you and also, it's going to grow you. The Bible is a beautiful source of nutrition, of nourishment for spiritual life as we see here, picture of a baby and a baby taking milk.

And Peter told the people in 1 Peter 2, as newborn babes, as little babies, newly born, he says, desire this milk this perfect, this sincere, this precious milk, this pure milk of the Word that you may

grow thereby.

Just as we know, a baby needs milk. Friends, we all need the Bible. You need the Bible. I need the Bible. Take it and be nourished and nurtured by it and so it will grow you.

[26:33] You can come to a more mature faith and mature life in Christ. And also, another benefit of the Bible is the Bible brings joy. These things write we unto you that your joy may befall.

There's a joyfulness and there's a rejoicing that he gives to us, the joy of salvation. And also, another benefit of the Scriptures is the Bible brings comfort and hope to us.

It says, This is a book full of hope, a book full of promises, of blessings, of truth, of precious promises that we can claim and apply to our lives.

It gives comfort for the hurting soul and heal the heart that is hurting. The Bible gives guidance to the lost soul. The Bible guides us in our journey through life to eternity and leads us to a relationship with the God of the universe.

The evidence demands a verdict. The Bible has got many benefits if we just receive it and take it to our hearts. And the question is, How? How can I have this?

[27:43] How can I have these benefits? How can I experience this? It starts with understanding that man's understanding has been darkened by sin. The Bible talks about the devil has blinded the eyes of those who believe not.

And yet God's Spirit can enlighten. God's Spirit can bring light. God's Spirit can bring understanding and help us to understand the Bible. The Bible is written for the heart of man.

These are more than just words on paper. These are God's precious promises. This is God's love letter to you, to your heart, from His heart. And it's written for your heart.

And so we need to open our heart to the Lord. It tells us of Lydia that the Lord opened her heart.

The Lord opened her heart. We need to open our heart, open our, our heart to receive the truth.

And Acts 17, 11, it talks to some that there were more noble than those in Thessalonica in that they received the word. They received the word with all readiness of mind.

[28:49] and they searched the scriptures. They searched the scriptures daily. They read it carefully. They searched it. They investigated it daily, whether those things were so.

And it's in the context of what the preacher was saying. Friends, whatever the preacher says, search the scriptures and see whether these things are so. Whatever teachings you receive, the rule of faith, the guide, the measuring stick by what we measure everything by must be the word of God.

This is, as it talks about, line upon line, precept upon precept. Build your life on the word, on the word of God. This is the plumb line.

This is what we go and test everything by. We test everything by the word of and we and we have to to have to have to need to to need need need To study, to study, to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Be a workman, be a student, study, study the word of God and rightly divide it. There's times, of course, when we know the divisions, of course, between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

[30:58] It's a division. There's a dividing. There's some things that are speaking to the Jews, some things that are speaking to believers of our day, as well as there's dispensations, there's various dealings with God through the record of the pages of the Bible where he changes his dealings with man and works in differing ways.

And so, of course, there's some scriptures that apply to the Old Testament law to do with foods and diets and so on that are not applicable to believers of the New Testament era of our day.

So there's a dividing. There's a studying. There's a discerning. And just lastly, we come to this question for everyone here today. Your response. What is your response? We've heard these things. We've heard of the testimony.

We can believe this book. We've heard about the benefits, what we can receive from this book. And lastly, what are you going to do with this book? What is your verdict? What is your response?

Peter said to the Lord, Lord, to whom shall we go? There's the words of eternal life. There's really no alternative. There's no alternative to this book. There's many religious teachings, philosophies. [32:07] Many philosophers have written things. Many religious writings through history. But this book stands alone. It stands above. It stands superior. It stands far and above of any alternative.

And Peter cried out, You have the word of eternal life. Who else can we go to? And he really is the only one that we can cry out and turn to. James 1, it says, That we should be doers of the word. Doers of the word. Not just hearers only, But doers of the word. In other words, people, That we don't just hear it and hear it. We come and hear it. Then go home and hear it again. But we actually hear it, And it works on the inside of us. We hear it and we apply it. We put it into practice. We put it into the actions of our lives. So that we're a 24 by 7 Christian. A 365 day a week Christian. Not just a Sunday Christian. It's something we put into our lives. We put into practice. And just lastly, The key thing for all of us Is to believe.

[33:05] To believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. And thou shalt be saved. To be a believer. If you're not a believer, Do what it says and believe. That's the key message. Is have faith in Christ.

Believe in Him. Put your trust in Him. Follow Him. And if you are a believer, Do what it says. As it says in Luke 6, The Lord told us, Why call you me Lord, Lord?

And do not the things which I say. Some, they say Lord, Lord. They say Lord Jesus or Lord God. But He's just a token. He's not their Lord. He's not their Master.

There's many that you look, And you can consider, They call themselves a Christian, But they're not really living the life. They're not doing the things, That He tells us to do. And friends, We must do that.

We must not be, Just hear us only, But do us. Putting it into action, In our lives. Let us just pray together, At this time. Heavenly Father, We thank you for this precious book, That you've written unto us.

[34:00] You've written it, Down through history, And put it into our hands today. We thank you Lord, Help us to treasure this book. Help us to treasure the message of it. To be obedient to the message of it.

To put our trust in you, In your work in Christ, In dying, And reconciling the world to yourself, In the person of your Son. That you would come, And take that punishment, That pain, But most of all that sin, And pay the price for it there.

Lord, We thank you for that great gift. Help us Lord, To be obedient, To be believing. Lord, To take this word, And put it into our lives, Into practice, Into action. Any here Lord, Who have yet to make that step, That today might be the day, They put their trust in you.

That today might be the day, They bow their knee to you, And say, Jesus Christ, Is the Lord, Of my life. Lord, We thank you that we can do that, By faith, By your working in our hearts, To draw us to yourself.

Help us Lord, We pray, Help us to grow, To learn, To realise those great benefits, Of the Bible, And to trust it, And to take it more, Into each day, Ahead we pray, In Jesus name, Amen.