♦SERMON NOTES **♦**

Sunday, October 27, 2019

"CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE?" (2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrew 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

Over the next few Sundays we'll address some of the questions that commonly arise about God and the Christian faith. You can know that your faith need not be a blind faith. You have a wealth of support for your biblical beliefs and worldview. Today, know you can trust the Bible, the word of God.

1. Isn't the Bible full of contradictions?

2. Weren't there other authentic sources or gospels that were discarded as the Bible was assembled in AD 325?

Church leaders developed essentially three criteria to evaluate these different documents:

First criterion: Does this document have roots connected to one of the apostles? Was it written by an apostle or by a student or associate of one of the apostles?

Second criterion: The contents of the book had to be consistent with the kind of teaching that Jesus did.

Third criterion: It had to have widespread influence in churches in Israel, in Asia Minor, in Rome, and so on, and had to have continuous acceptance and use by the church at large.

3. Hasn't archaeology disproven the Bible?

"What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have observed and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—that life was revealed, and we have seen it and we testify and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us" (1 John 1:1-2, CSB).

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