

CLEAR THE AIR: Burning Issues Confronting Christians Today

Sermon #9: Can we really trust the Bible? (How we got our Bible and why we should trust it) 2 Timothy 3:14-17

This closing message in our Clear the Air series is about the Bible. The number one core value of our church is the centrality of the Word. We have always assumed it to be true. How do we know that it is true? To answer that, we will answer two other questions. We will also look at the implications for us as we answer each:

How did we get our Bible?

1) The Canon of Scripture:

a) How we got the Old Testament:

What about the Apocrypha?

b) How we got the NT:

2) The Transmission of Scripture: The issue of Translations.

The Bible is an ancient document that has withstood thousands of years of transmission with remarkable accuracy and clarity. We can trust it to be what it says it is: the Word of God.

Implications:

1.

2.

How can we trust our Bible? How do we know it is true?

We will tackle only five out of many proofs:

- 1) Archaeology.
- 2) The Dead Sea Scrolls.
- 3) Secular history.
- 4) Fulfilled prophecy.
- 5) The consistency of the text itself.

Implications:

- 1.
- 2.

Final Thoughts:

The battle over the Bible is a struggle worth fighting. Harold Lindsell, former Vice-President of Fuller, and champion of inerrancy, warns us, "Down the road, whether it takes five or fifty years, any institution that departs from belief in an inerrant Scripture will likewise depart from other fundamentals of the faith and at last cease to be evangelical in the historical meaning of that term." Former President of Fuller Seminary, Harold Ockenga, adds, "The evidence that those who surrender the doctrine of inerrancy inevitably move away from orthodoxy is indisputable." If God has exalted His Word to the extent of His name (Ps 137:2), then defending the truthfulness of Scripture is an extension of defending the honor of God. May the church continue to defend the truthfulness of Scripture as it has been passed down to her by a long line of godly men and women throughout history.