

# EVIDENCE

## TRUTH REVEALED

IS THE BIBLE GOD'S INSPIRED WORD?  
PASTOR CRAIG ALTMAN • AUGUST 5-6, 2017

**Is it just a helpful collection of nice thoughts and good advice? Is it just another version of the truth?**

<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup>God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.  
2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 NLT

**It's easier to not believe the bible is inspired by God because it allows us to live our way according to what suits our lifestyle and we can choose our version of the truth.**

### 1. IN SPITE OF ITS DIVERSITY, IT ACHIEVES A MIRACULOUS CONTINUITY OF THEME.

- Written over a 1,500 year span
- Written on three continents (Asia, Europe, and Africa)
- 40 different writers, including kings, military leaders, philosophers, shepherds, peasants, musicians, fisherman, and tax collectors
- The Bible addresses hundreds of subjects, some very controversial that create opposing opinions when discussed. Yet from Genesis to Revelation, there is an amazing degree of harmony in spite of the length of time and the diversity of the writers' vocations. One unfolding story continues throughout: God's redemption of mankind with one leading character—a living God known through Jesus Christ.

### 2. HAS THE ORIGINAL MEANING OF THE TEXT BEEN LOST?

**"The Masoretic guidelines for copying manuscripts also required the following:**

- The scroll must be written on the skin of a clean animal.
- Each skin must contain a specified number of columns, equal throughout the entire book.
- The length of each column must extend no less than 48 lines or more than 60 lines.
- The column breadth must consist of exactly 30 letters.
- The space of a thread must appear between every consonant.
- The breadth of nine consonants had to be inserted between each section.
- A space of three lines had to appear between each book.
- The fifth book of Moses (Deuteronomy) had to conclude exactly with a full line.

- Nothing – not even the shortest word – could be copied from memory; it had to be copied letter by letter.
- The scribe must count the number of times each letter of the alphabet occurred in each book and compare it to the original.
- If a manuscript was found to contain even one mistake, it was discarded."  
*Josh McDowell & Sean McDowell, (2010) The Unshakable Truth pp. 95-96*

### WHAT ARE THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS?

The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. The significance of these scrolls is they were dated 150 B.C. Previous known copies were 1000 years later. On the 850 scrolls were 184,540 words. Even though there was 1000 year gap between the two copies, the accuracy rate was 99.5%.

<sup>20</sup>Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, <sup>21</sup>or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.  
2 PETER 1:20-21 NLT

**What we have today is a well preserved, fully reliable copy.**

### 3. WHAT ABOUT THE CONTRADICTIONS IN THE BIBLE?

- Christianity is a historical faith, based on actual events recorded in the Bible. There are 24,000 archaeological discoveries that have confirmed the historical accuracy of the Bible.
- Nelson Glueck, a well-known archaeologist stated: "As a matter of fact, it may be clearly stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a single biblical reference."

Gaius says hello to you. He is my host and also serves as host to the whole church. Erastus, the city treasurer, sends you his greetings, and so does our brother Quartus  
ROMANS 16:23 NLT

- Erastus – they found a Latin inscription dated 50 A.D. carved into the sidewalk.
- The Hittite nation is mentioned in Genesis 15:20 and in 1 Kings 10:29. Prior to the late 1800's, nothing was known of the Hittites. In 1906, they discovered the Hittite nation in an archaeological dig.
- Sodom and Gomorrah (Deuteronomy 29:23, Isaiah 13:19) – in 1965, there was an excavation of a huge grave site; it was discovered to be the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Both cities were covered with six feet of ash.

<sup>30</sup>As for God, his way is perfect: The LORD's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him. <sup>31</sup>For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God?  
PSALM 18:30-31 NIV

## The evidence is there for those with an open mind and open heart.

<sup>2</sup>Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. <sup>3</sup>For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup>They will reject the truth and chase after myths.  
2 TIMOTHY 4:2-4 NLT

<sup>1</sup>But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. <sup>2</sup>Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.  
2 PETER 2:1-2 NIV

### RECOMMEND RESOURCES

*The Unshakable Truth* • Josh and Sean McDowell  
*The Case for Christ* • Lee Strobel

## Family Ministries Presents **KICKSTART**

Six Things Every Child Needs to Hear at Home and at Church  
with Jim Wideman

### A special training for parents and volunteers

Jim Wideman has led the largest children's ministry in the nation and has been helping parents and churches for over 40 years. Jim, in his unique humorous style, will help you find focus at home and assurance that your child is hearing the very things they need to hear most. And it's free.

### THIS SUNDAY - AUGUST 6

6:00-8:00 PM • Van Dyke Campus  
Childcare will not be provided

[GFCOnline.com/events](http://GFCOnline.com/events)

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

### New Semester Starts August 16

**South Tampa - 7:00 PM**  
with Pastor Mike Ash  
*Book of Acts*

**Van Dyke - 7:15 PM**  
with Tony Dungy and Byron Howell  
*The Life of Jesus Christ*

\*Summer Semester continues through August 9

**Ybor - 7:00 PM**  
with Pastor Ralph Johnson  
*Book of Galatians*

### Serve Saturday

August 12 • Van Dyke  
August 19 • Temple Terrace  
[GFCOnline.com/serve](http://GFCOnline.com/serve)

### Girl's Night Out

Monday, August 28 • 7:00 PM • Van Dyke  
Women 18+ • Mother's and Daughters 15+  
[GFCOnline.com/events](http://GFCOnline.com/events)

### Men's Night

Tuesday, August 29 • 6:00 PM • Van Dyke  
Men 18+  
[GFCOnline.com/events](http://GFCOnline.com/events)

## Family Ministries

We offer ministry to your children every weekend.

Infants-Kindergarten  
*Clubhouse*

1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades  
*The Zone*

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades  
*United*



We offer ministry to 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders each week.

Visit [GFCOnline.com/united](http://GFCOnline.com/united) for times and locations.

## Ways To Give At Grace



### Online

At [GFCOnline.com/give](http://GFCOnline.com/give)



### GFCFlorida App

Click on "GIVE"



### Text

The word "GIVE" and any dollar amount to 813.321.3430



### Offering Envelopes

During weekend services or by mail