

UNCOMPROMISING BELIEF IN SCRIPTURE

October 10, 2021
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- **55% of Americans believe the Bible is the Word of God and without error.**
- **54% of Americans believe the Bible contains everything needed to live a meaningful life.**
- **58% of Americans say it is up to the individual to decide what is true or moral.**
- **48% of Evangelical Christians say they believe in Absolute Moral Truth.**
- **54% of Christians identify God as the source of Absolute Moral Truth.**

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (NLT) [3] 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. [4] They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

FOUR TRUTHS ABOUT THE BIBLE:

1) We need to believe the Bible is the _____.

2 Peter 1:20–21 (NLT) [20] Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, [21] or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NLT) [16] 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. [17] God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

John 14:6 (NLT) [6] Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

2) God provided the Bible to help us know what is _____ and teach us how to experience the best life possible on this earth.

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT) [12] For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

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Psalms 19:7–11 (NLT) [7] The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. [8] The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living. [9] Reverence for the LORD is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the LORD are true; each one is fair. [10] They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb. [11] They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them.

3) We can _____ the Bible's teachings about God and life.

For more information about this point, watch Pastor Mike's message from February 12, 2017 available at www.otterbeinchurch.org/oc-online/past-messages

SIX REASONS YOU CAN TRUST THE BIBLE

- a) The message found in the Bible is consistent even though it was written over 1500 years by 40 different authors.**
- b) The fulfillment of the prophecies found in the Bible demonstrate God's direction of human authors.**

- c) **Jesus affirmed the authority of the Bible and often quoted it's teachings.**
- d) **Archeological discoveries affirm the historical accuracy of the Bible.**
- e) **There are reasonable explanations for apparent discrepancies in the Bible.**
- f) **The teachings in the Bible are transformational and help us to experience a better life when we put them into practice.**

4) **We need to have an _____ in the teachings of the Bible regardless of our feelings and even when it doesn't make sense.**

Judges 17:6 (NLT) [6] In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

Romans 1:18–32 (NLT) [18] But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. [19] They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. [20] For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. [21] Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. [22] Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. [23] And instead of worshipping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. [24] So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. [25] They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. [26] That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. [27] And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved. [28] Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. [29] Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. [30] They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. [31] They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. [32] They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

Proverbs 14:12 (NLT) [12] There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.

Isaiah 55:8–9 (NLT) [8] "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. [9] For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

FOLLOWERS OF JESUS REALLY HAVE NO OTHER OPTION THAN TO BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD AND IS THE AUTHORITY FOR HOW A PERSON SHOULD LIVE THEIR LIFE ON A DAILY BASIS.

Two Final Thoughts:

- 1) **Commit yourself to know the _____ of the teachings of Scripture.**
- 2) **Commit yourself to be a _____ of the Word of God.**

James 1:22–25 (NLT) [22] But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. [23] For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. [24] You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. [25] But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

*For more information about what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus or what to do after making a decision to follow Him, stop at Guest Central in the lobby following the service, email us at info@otterbeinchurch.org, or call the church office at 717.762.7147 to set up an appointment. You may also learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and/or request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey by clicking "**Next Steps > Jesus**" on our website at www.otterbeinchurch.org.*