

When unbelievers ask how we know the Bible is true, we may be tempted to use archaeological findings, scientific proofs or personal experiences to try to “prove” to them that the Bible is true. But these unbelievers will still be not convinced. This is because of their heart condition, not because of a lack of evidence. Their hearts refuse to submit to God.

1. Evidence Jesus is God (John 5:31-39): Jesus went to great lengths to bring evidence from other witnesses to make sure the unbelievers did not have any excuse not to believe in Him. And so that they could be saved.

Jesus mentioned John the Baptist (John 5:32-35) as “*another*” (John 5:32, i.e. another of the same kind) witness, since he testified of the same truth as Jesus. John declared Jesus as “*the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” (John 1:29), bearing witness to the truth that Jesus is the Messiah. In addition, Jesus mentioned John because John was a prominent witness. The people were very happy with John as he was one sent by God to teach them.

The witness of Jesus’ works is far greater than the witness of John, since the people knew that Jesus’ works could only come from God. And God will verify Jesus’ testimony, since Jesus is both man and God. He earned for us the perfect righteousness we need in order that we can stand before God. This can be seen during Jesus’ baptism when God the Father testified that Jesus was the Son of God, i.e. that Jesus was of the same essence as God. It was the only time the Jews had the privilege to hear God the Father speaking. However, they still refused to believe in Jesus, because they did not hear with their hearts the voice of God.

The scripture is another witness for Jesus. The Jews prided themselves in having God’s Word, and appeared to hold it in very high regard. Unfortunately, these were mostly just external acts of reverence. Even in Genesis the Bible speaks of a Messiah. If the Jews had studied the Bible with eyes of faith, they would have believed. They thought they were going to heaven, but they deceived themselves. A person who truly believes in God will treasure the Message, not just the words. They would understand it, and obey it.

2. Issue of the Heart (John 5:40-47): The Jews did not believe in Christ because of their self-will, their lack of love and their faithlessness. They actively decided to turn away from Jesus. The offer of eternal life was offered to them, but they deliberately rejected it. They did not bow to Jesus’ authority because they hated Him. They loved themselves, their sins and the world. However, Jesus’ authority is not based on man. Jesus’ authority is absolute, and He is powerful, even when the people do not acknowledge Him.

Jesus came in the authority of God the Father, but they refused to receive Him. They followed those who came in their own authority, for their own purposes and pride. Even when they trusted in the right persons, the quality of their faith was questionable. They trusted in Moses, and hoped Moses would side with them. Yet, Moses disapproved of what they were doing.

Do you doubt the Bible? Do you question the truths in the Bible? We have no right to question the authority of God. When witnessing to unbelievers, do not focus on external evidence. Just declare the truth to them, and pray that God will touch and change their hearts. Do not mix God’s Word with the principles of man.

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