

“The Authority of God’s Word”
Psalm 119:1-16 * October 22, 2006

I. *Why understanding the Bible’s authority is important*
The strength of our spiritual walk is dependant on our closeness to God’s Word. The Bible is our spiritual “food” – it is our very lifeline to God.

II. *What does the Bible claim about itself?*

A. *It claims that it is inspired by God.*

2 Timothy 3:16

2 Peter 1:20

B. *It claims that it is true.*

Proverbs 30:5

Psalm 119:160

C. *It claims that it is eternal.*

Matthew 24:35

Isaiah 40:8

Psalm 119:89

D. *It claims that it can cleanse and heal us.*

John 17:17

Psalm 119:9

E. *It claims that it is powerful.*

Isaiah 55:10-11

F. *It claims that it can work within us to convict us of sin and help us escape it.*

1 Thess.2:13

Hebrews 4:12

2 Peter 1:4

III. *What evidence is there to convince me that this is God’s Word and not just man’s?*

A. *The Bible is historically accurate.*

The Bible has been used as a guidebook for archaeologists. (The Book of Mormon can’t claim this.) Over the years, more and more findings only serve to verify the Bible’s accounts of events and nations.

B. *The Bible is scientifically inoffensive.*

While not a science textbook, the Bible presents no data which offends against science. The ancients surely believed false things about nature (e.g. the earth was the center of the universe) but none of these things made it to the pages of the Bible.

C. *The Bible is textually unified.*

Though written by over 40 authors in three different languages over a 1,500 year period the Bible tells one story (focused on the Messiah Jesus Christ), and the writers speak with unanimity on a great number of complex subjects.

D. *The Bible is prophetically astounding.*

The Bible contains 4 types of prophecy (which God put in Scripture because he knows that we are stubborn and will look for any reason not to believe in Him – Isaiah 48:4-5):

- a. Prophecies about nations around Israel
- b. Prophecies about Israel
- c. Prophecies about the coming Messiah
- d. Prophecies about the end times.

IV. *How Do I Approach The Bible and Make It A Part of My Life?*

A. **Read**

B. **Reflect**

C. **Record**

D. **Recite**

E. **Respond**