TRUTHS WE LIVE BY (1)

About the Bible
Bruce Stabbert • Fellowship Bible Church

“We believe the scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the verbally inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of people, and the only ultimate authority for all Christian belief and practice.”

♦ What we believe

1. “We believe the scriptures”

Revelation: God has chosen to _______ truth to His creation that we ___________ have known without His speaking.

Natural Special

| C._____________ & P.______ & S.______ (both attested in the B__) |
|C._____________ Necessary for |
|A.__________________ Necessary for |
|S.__________________ |

Ps 19 / Rom 1,2 / Heb 1:1,2

2. “both Old and New Testaments”

Canonicity: a _______ of the 66 books that are a _______ as the true word of God. A canon was necessitated by h________ writings and by P__________

2Pet 3:15,16

3. “to be the verbally inspired Word of God”

Inspiration: how God used h________ writers to produce something that can be called G________ word.

Theories

| D.__________ of every word through passive secretaries |
|S.__________ of the very words in a divine-human cooperation |
|C.__________ with writers free to make errors in words |

Too much God

Too much man

2Pet 1:20,21 / 2Tim 3:16 / Mt 5:18 / Mt 4:4

4. “without error in the original writings”

Inerrancy: the Bible has no l _______ or m_______, and therefore is worthy of our full c__________.

Prov 30:5,6 / Jo 10:35

F.F. Bruce, The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?

5. “the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of people”

Sufficiency: the Bible is a______ to bring you to salvation.

2Tim 3:15 / Ja 1:18 / Heb 4:12 / 2Tim 3:17 / 2Pet 1:3,4

6. “and the only ultimate authority for all Christian belief and practice.”

Authority: (the doctrine of s____ s________, or scripture only) wherever the Bible speaks, its word is f_______; where it does not speak, we must not dare to be a_________ and make a weighty law.

Levels of authority

| Indisputable, direct statements | More than one interpretation is feasible | Speculation when the Bible is unclear or silent |
|Complete authority | Limited authority | No authority |

Requires: careful i________ (sane hermeneutics), humble r_______ for differing views, and the i__________ by the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26
Why we believe

1. Were the writers themselves considered to be truthful witnesses? Eye-witnesses? Thoughtful researchers? Is there any evidence that they told the truth?

2. Does the Bible contain objective truth when it comes to verifiable facts of history, geography, customs, and language?

3. Do the promises of the Bible actually take place as prophesied?

(See More Evidence That Demands a Verdict, by Josh McDowell)

Why we behave

1. The Bible gives you great encouragement.

   Romans 15:4

   2Tim 3:16,17 “equipped for every good work”

2. Becoming Part of the Body.