

What We Believe

ABOUT THE BIBLE

1. The Bible is _____.

a. It means the _____ moved men to write what they wrote in the Bible.

- 2 Peter 1:21. Scripture came about by men speaking from God as they were _____ by the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 1:15. The Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David.

b. It means God _____ truths to us through the written word.

- This is the reason we believe the Bible is the _____ of God.
- John 16:13. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all truth.
- Ephesians 3:2-4. The mystery about Jesus was made known to Paul by _____. He wrote it down. By _____ what he wrote, we can _____ his insight into the mystery of Christ. ('Mystery' *in the Bible means something that was hidden but now is revealed.*)
- 2 Timothy 3:14-16. Holy Scripture is "God-breathed".

2. The Bible is _____.

- a. 2 Timothy 3:15. From an infant Timothy has known the _____.
- b. Romans 1:2. The gospel was promised by the prophets in the *Holy Scriptures*.
- c. The word *scripture* is from the original Greek word *graphe* (*graphics*).
- d. The word *holy* means that which is 'sacred' and 'set apart from what is impure.'

So, the Biblical description of the Bible as **Holy Scriptures** means that the writings written by men carried along (*inspired*) by the Holy Spirit which make up the 66 books of the Bible are themselves holy and should be honored as sacred.

- How should people we to the Bible, knowing it is holy?

- From Psalms 119:13-16:

- a. They should be _____ to follow it.
- b. They should _____ on it.
- c. They should not _____ it.

3. The Bible has _____ over Our Beliefs and Behavior.

- a. Robert McQuilkin: *Since God is the author of the Bible, the Bible is authoritative.*
- b. Matthew 7:28-29. Jesus amazed the crowds because he taught as one who had _____ and not as the teachers of the Old Testament law of his day.
- c. 1 Corinthians 14:37. Paul told the Corinthian Christians that they should acknowledge that what Paul wrote to them was the Lord's _____.
- d. Acts 17:11. You are noble when you respect the authority of the Bible above the authority of men.

4. The Bible is _____.

a. The original writings (called *autographs*) are without errors, though translations and copies may have minor mistakes.

- We know how easy it is to leave a word out or write the same word twice by mistake. Most errors in the Bible are simple human errors in translation and copies. *Those who wish to undermine the Bible willingly disregard this truth.*

b. We believe from many proofs that the Bible we have today is the complete Word of God without serious mistakes or errors. God is capable of safeguarding his Word for us.

c. Martin Luther: *The scriptures have never erred...the scriptures cannot err...It is certain that scripture would not contradict itself; it only appears so to the senseless and obdurate hypocrites.* (Obdurate means stubborn, inflexible, pig-headed)

5. The Bible is _____.

a. Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is _____ and _____.
Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

b. Isaiah 55:10-11. "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: **it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.**"