

The Law, Grace & Passion



You're eating lunch in your favorite restaurant when a clean-cut man in a suit sits beside you and asks your name. Opening his jacket a little to reveal a gun and a badge, he asks you to come peacefully- unless you want to make a scene.

What do you do? What are the charges? Your mind races to anything remotely illegal that you may have done that could justify this.

Do you go with him quietly? What if he's a kidnapper, or worse? Maybe you should make a scene and let the staff and regulars know what's going on- so they can help... What do you do?

What dark secrets lie in your past? Nothing illegal you say? Certainly nothing worthy of this scenario?

If I may ask though, What if we were to include the laws of almighty God?

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*This homemade booklet is a free gift
A labor of love from our house to yours*

*It's not from any particular church, we're just some
neighbors that care about you.*

The arrest scenario gets you thinking, doesn't it?

A few of the questions this booklet attempts to answer:

- "How did we get here?" Has science disproved God?
- "Will there be an ultimate lawgiver and judge waiting at the end of our lives?"
- "How would we know, or can we know for sure?"
- "What are his standards, can we know them?"
- "Once we know them, can we follow them?"
- "How do we follow them?"

These are a lot of BIG questions for such a little booklet. But this plain little plate is piled high with some solid food, a buffet for the seeker, skeptic or follower of Christ- to help you find the truth or to help you strengthen the foundation and the defense of your faith.

"A great read, far worth the time."

Justin Kidding, New York Times

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Laws of “What God?”

Some might ask “Hasn’t science disproved God?” On the contrary, the more molecular biology and other sciences advance, the more we understand the infinitely intelligent design of all living things. The observational, or operational science that builds our technologies and medical advancements was started and developed by men like Isaac Newton, who were inspired by the uniform logical order that exists in our universe and were able to decipher its laws because they knew our wise Creator held those laws in place- so they could be trusted, observed, tested and utilized.

To start us off on the right foot, Isaac Newton, whom many believe to be the greatest scientist who ever lived, said this about the true, supreme lord of all spiritual beings: “And from true lordship it follows that the true God is living, intelligent, and powerful; from the other perfections, that he is supreme, or supremely perfect.

The Occult

Acts 19:18-19 NLT - 18 Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. 19 A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars.

No matter your culture, if you have been involved in the occult or paranormal activities, you do need to cut your ties and learn what the Bible says about these practices (not Wikipedia). They are not harmless. Even if they are a part of your cultural identity, this is an area that the Bible does say needs to change, to be given up. If you are to come to the light of Christ you must leave the darkness of the kingdom that fights against Christ.

There is no need to fear, for if you have come to Christ: (1 John 4:4) You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Luke 10:17-20 NKJV - 17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

To Everyone:

You are accountable to your Creator and your conscience confirms that your thoughts and actions in life have condemned you before the ultimate Judge. Ignoring that truth by denying sin, God’s existence, or any other mental trick, does not change the facts. Whether you are a professed atheist or a professed Christian, please do not risk your eternity but give yourself fully to Him who gave Himself fully for you. The ultimate humility is to lose your own life, your own ambitions and dreams and trade them for His. It’s the best plea bargain going in the universe.

For more articles on following and sharing Christ; and this & other printable tracts- see: www.theJudgment.us

ment, the majority of voters and the leaders have left God already, we can only hope and pray that one day we will also be able to repent as a nation.

Culture & identity... Diversity & Freedom

The Lord made us all, and it is He that scattered us over all the earth (at Babel). He made us who we are. But before I tell you about the freedom to be yourself, to be “Indian”, African or whatever culture you come from, I must first emphasize that our identity, who we are and where we belong, is primarily meant to come from being a part of God’s heavenly family; as we have said in this booklet, because we have broken His laws and are contaminated by sin, it takes the blood of Christ to cleanse us- so we can be “adopted” into His holy, heavenly family. But this is an inward, spiritual thing; yes, it affects our behavior and changes, sanctifies our actions as well, but outwardly: God’s is a diverse family of many cultures.

The trappings of language, dress, dance and family history are unique to each of us and our culture. The way we live before God culturally should not be determined by the most powerful group (European expansionists or any other). The Bible teaches that each person and nationality is free to worship God within the culture they grew up in, of course they are to worship the true and living God and not false gods, demons, knowledge, the earth, man or animals. But the style of music, language, dress and the way of life, so-called “primitive” or modern, is not a moral or spiritual issue! You are free to appreciate and practice your tribal heritage!

What matters is a new creation in Christ and the power of His indwelling Spirit to live a moral life- something we can never do without Jesus. Christ will redeem the aspects of our culture that need to be changed, as in the next section “The Occult”.

White “Christianity” also owes an apology to those of other cultures, especially blacks and First Nations people, for taking away their cultural identity, even in the process of telling them about Christ, we stole and prohibited their language, dress and even hair style, killed their buffalo and then said come follow Christ. But God says. let the Jew be a Jew, the Greek a Greek, the Aboriginal and Native American- let them keep their culture, Christ calls them and empowers them to love God with all their heart and their neighbor as themselves; not to look, dress and sing as we do.

He is eternal and infinite, omnipotent and omniscient; that is, he endures from eternity to eternity; and he is present from infinity to infinity; he rules all things, and he knows all things that happen or can happen. “

— Sir Isaac Newton

The Principia: Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy (1687), 3rd edition (1726), trans. I. B. Cohen and Anne Whitman (1999), General Scholium, 941



Some folks try to secularize Sir Isaac Newton and claim that he was too naturalistic and rational to believe the Bible or to believe Jesus was God in the flesh, but nothing could be further from the truth! For your reading pleasure and edification we have included some quotes from Sir Isaac Newton and other well known people throughout this book that will make it clear where these great men of science & history stand on the veracity of God’s existence and other important truths.

Two kinds of Science

The science that some people claim disproves God is **very** different from operational science, it is called historical or origin science. Rather than testing and observing facts, since none of us were there, historical scientists can only deduce or guess what happened in the past. But the evidence can be interpreted in many ways and the conclusions are entirely dependent on the researcher’s world view. Since most evolutionists are naturalists or humanists by choice, no amount of evidence will convince them that God could possibly exist. Their belief system causes them to intentionally interpret the historical data to exclude an intelligent designer but since observable science keeps finding more solid evidence for an intelligent creator, evolutionary theory just keeps evolving and getting more ridiculous as they try to wrangle around the obvious truth...

Could a house exist without a builder- no matter how many millions of years you give it? It's absurd, it has to be intentionally designed, the raw materials gathered and processed and then assembled with great care and intention. How much more so, a vast orderly universe perfectly suited to support a biosphere of living creatures that are infinitely more complex than buildings? Even the very laws of nature that make our world function, that hold every molecule together, from the cosmos to the individual atom, everything has a purpose; everything fits together perfectly and stays together in a magical orchestra of energy and life. Why, how can that be?

It's obvious to any reasonable person that any complex creation was intentionally created by an intelligent being, and it was designed for a particular purpose. Naturally, many honest and free thinking scientists recognize the fallacies of evolution; but sadly, there's an atheistic political financial climate in our universities that stifles free academic expression and keeps this failed theory alive. This makes it more difficult to find the truth about evolution in many academic arenas, but the truth is out there, you just have to dig and find the right sources.

But what is the best way to know the truth about our origins, our purpose.... and more importantly, our future? What if someone was there who witnessed it?

“Communication with Extraterrestrial Intelligence”

Some men search for signals from aliens to help explain our existence and origins. In league with some evolutionists, they recognize the complexity of our world and that it could not accidentally arise out of disorder, so they surmise that perhaps aliens “seeded” our planet with early life. Though that would also mean either:

1. If able to “seed” life, they are also capable of understanding and sustaining the perfect conditions for life that are here on earth, which would make them pretty near all powerful, like God, or...
2. If you can believe that all physical laws and every atom can hold together by themselves (without God), then the “alien seeding idea” would mean they traveled untold millions of light years looking for such a place which accidentally held the perfect conditions.... and then they left it, in-

And to consider the red man's plight is heart wrenching, he has seen little to know repentance from the white man, the way of Jesus has been maligned by historical christian hypocrisy and bad missionary methodology; and restitution seems impossible for all that has been done to them.

So what can we do? Just like King David and the Gibeonites, if we are to be reconciled with each other, we must first recognize that the past does effect the present and confess it as sin. Instead of white men and women telling those of black and red peoples to “get over it.”; that it was not “I” who enslaved you nor attempted genocide against your people; we must recognize that it was our ancestors, our fathers, and we are connected with them, so we must confess our sins and ask forgiveness from them.

This very act is the most important step, it is the spiritual power behind outward reconciliation. Our (white man's) confession is a statement of truth that confirms and validates their identity as a people group with intrinsic value and that they were indeed wronged by our ancestors. Most importantly it separates what was done to them from the name of Christ, it is a recognition that it was not right, not a Christian thing to do, not manifest destiny for whites to trample other nations in the name of Christ.

Integrated with this confession is the reality that the only thing that can bring forgiveness from God is the shed blood of Christ, we need His forgiveness. And we must forgive others even as God in Christ has forgiven us. Reconciliation can only come as each group confesses their sin before God and each other. The white man for his murder and oppression, and the black and red man for their hatred, anger and bitterness that they have clung to over the generations.

Like David, the white man can individually ask what he can do to bring restitution and reconciliation, though we may not be government officials, to speak for them, we can stand for the Christian Church and repent for our sin in that capacity. We can make restitution as individuals and churches according to what they propose (as David did) when we ask what we can do, within our power, to make it right.

I do not know if we can repent and ask in behalf of the U.S. government and people. The U.S. will stand or fall for its sin. As a democratic govern-

more closely tied to the community and to the past than is the individualistic mindset of the typical westerner.

Our Sins

The white men of the United States have broken nearly every treaty ever made with First Nations People (American Indians) as well as attempted an intentional genocide that would have made Adolf Hitler proud.

The enslavement of Africans (as well as some First Nations people) is an often visited blemish on our nations history. Though all slavery conditions were not as wretched as the over-zealous abolitionists made it out to be, and the true story there is often not told, there is still plenty of guilt to go around for the white descendants of those slave owners.

So what are we to do? Let's go to the Bible for an answer. From 2 Samuel 21: There was a famine in the land of Israel for 3 years straight and after King David sought God, God revealed it was for their sin against the Gibeonites, for breaking a treaty. Previously, King Saul broke a 400 year old treaty with the Gibeonites, not to kill them nor to take their land. Even though the treaty was not "God ordained", it was established through underhanded means and Joshua did not consult with God as to whether he should make the treaty; but because they did swear before the Lord, this treaty between nations was valid before God. In Saul's bloodthirsty zeal for Israel, he killed many Gibeonites, the details of which are not in the inspired record.

When David found out the reason from the famine he asked forgiveness from the Gibeonites for breaking Israel's treaty with them, even though David did not break it personally, he recognized his people sinned against them and he asked forgiveness for the sins of those that lived before him and asked them what he could do to make it better.

Our history

The laws have been changed for the black man. Restitution has somewhat been given to the black man for he was a slave and now he is free, at least on paper. Though it took much work and years to change the laws, and we are thankful for the changes, there is still much division in so many aspects of our society, including and especially in the church.

stead of inhabiting it themselves! Or perhaps they lived here and became extinct- smart enough to build a planet but not to stay alive themselves. Of course there is no evidence for any of this nonsense. Frankly, the alien gig is a pretty lame construct for a scientific theory.

Ironically, those that search the skies for an intelligent signal ignore the clear message right in front of them; a message from Him who did "seed" the planet with a beautiful balanced community of life; they ignore the message from Him who made us in His own image.

Obviously, if we could know for sure that a signal, message or book was from God, our Creator, we would know, or at least surely hope that message could be trusted. (If we cannot trust that our Creator gave us logic, reality, truth and consistency, we'd go insane trying to know anything! Sadly, some do just that.) Thankfully though, the world He made makes it clear that God can be trusted and the wonderful news is that He has indeed communicated with us, as might be expected of a loving Creator.

"We account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatever." Sir Isaac Newton

The Bible's Message is miraculously consistent throughout its 66 different books, despite having been written by at least 39 authors from three continents over nearly two thousand years. No other religious book presents such obvious evidence for supernatural inspiration. The Bible has proven to be this "communication from God".

You can trust God's Word more than man's limited knowledge. For example, the Bible says that living things only reproduce "after their own kind". They may adapt and change within a certain kind of plant or animal but it never changes from one kind to another. The small changes that do occur within a kind already had the info for that change in the original genetic code of that kind. New genetic information cannot just appear out of nothing. The modern genetic science we observe is in complete accordance with Genesis in the Bible and against the theory of evolution. Evolutionists imagine a continuous stream of changing kinds all originating from the first "accidental" living organisms. But instead of finding millions of living and dead life forms transitioning from one kind to another kind- not even one transitional form from one kind to another has ever

been observed or found in the fossil record! After 150 years of looking under every rock for evidence of those changes, they still find only various genetically grouped kinds, just as God said they'd be.

There are plausible scientific explanations for rock layers, fossils and dinosaurs that perfectly fit the Genesis account of Creation and the catastrophic flood of Noah's time. In fact they fit the Genesis account far better than they fit evolutionary theory. Naturally, the facts would agree with the Bible, if it is true. We've only scratched the surface of the science of origins and the reliability of God's Word. For more technical information on these topics please visit www.AnswersInGenesis.org, www.icr.org and www.creation.com.

For clarification sake. Unfortunately, many Christians who did, or do not, know the differences and limitations of historical science and the failures of evolutionary theory have tried to make the Biblical narrative "fit" the theory of evolution and "billions of years". Many have come up with all sorts of strained theories and maneuverings, but it can't fit. The heart of the Bible's history and message totally oppose the theory of evolution on many fronts. Those Christians should have remained silent or studied more and found out the truth rather than causing people to question the accuracy of the Bible or, like some, claiming that Genesis chapters 1-11 are a myth; essentially trusting man's word over God's. [Mark 9:42](#)

"No sciences are better attested than the religion of the Bible" -- Isaac Newton

In Genesis 3, Satan tempted Eve by questioning the authority of God's Word. Satan asked her "Did God say" not to eat of this fruit? Eve listened, and it started the fall of man. In [Romans 1:18-32](#) we read a description of godless men who continue to question and deny the authority of God and His Word. This passage describes the price they pay for it. We do not want to continue to make the same mistake. What has God really said? Can we obey it?

The Law of almighty God

This is not just an "academic" subject with no relevance to our lives. If there is a God, a message, and a law, then we are responsible to obey it. Consciously or subconsciously, this is really at the heart of the naturalists'

There have been many that have named Christ but were not His followers. God will be their judge. History is full of cruelties and injustices that were perpetrated by those who claim to know God best, allegedly adopted into his family, alleged "Christians".

Tribal minority people that are Christians today are a testimony to God's grace, the loving- drawing power of His Spirit and the truth of His gospel; especially considering the hypocrisy and lies that have often been presented by "Christian" nations.

Though without a doubt there were many good Christian men and groups living and working for truth in the midst of these eras of tragedy, and surely the vast majority of those who perpetrated the lies and genocide were only cultural Christians, if even that. But we still have a responsibility for the past, as we will look at.

We don't have time to analyze the past too deeply in this little booklet, but what we can do is challenge you to live today with the love and integrity of Jesus Christ. Let me explain.

There's a biblical principle that definitely held in the Old Testament and is likely binding today as well, that is: that the sins of the fathers are passed on to the children for generations. We may not commit them, but we are responsible; there's guilt- even for the sins of our fathers, our ancestors, our people.

As Westerners, we miss the point of community and connectedness that many tribes people and other cultures understand better. Western individualists think that only what we do personally is what matters, but that is not true, we are connected to our families and our past.

Not only are our families and communities affected by the actions of one person, but the repercussions of those actions travel for generations. This is why native and African Americans still feel a deep rooted resentment against whites for the injustices of the past.

Not only is there a general principle at work that is biblically supported (that the guilt of sins are passed down through generations) but these groups also have a greater sense of community and they subconsciously understand the impact of sins against an entire people. Their identity is

The Power to Obey.

Living a holy life is not just “trying hard” to obey God’s laws but it is God’s grace supernaturally producing holiness and good works in your life through the new birth. It is a revelation of the reality of this new heart-made one with Christ, that causes you to grow in your faith. God’s Spirit will teach & strengthen you as you read the Bible daily, especially the New Testament.

When you read the Bible, remember it is literally God’s message to you. Believe what God says and set your mind on the grace and goodness He has shown to you in Christ; that attitude of gratitude is a big part of the power to obey your heavenly Father. A good way to start your studies in the Word would be to carefully study all the verses in this paper. And here are a few more important ones about the life changing power of the new birth. 2 Cor. 5:17, 2 Cor. 6:1, Gal 6:15 & Rom.8:4.

As part of our obedience, you should be baptized (immersed in water) to declare your faith and to testify that you have died with Christ to your old life (as you go under the water as in burial) and are risen with Him (as you rise up from the water) to a new resurrected life in Christ, that new life is indeed our hope of glory and the power to obey.

God wants you to look in the mirror and see Jesus Christ in you and to remember that through faith HE has made you free from the penalty of disobedience to the law, and through a new life in Him, you are also free from the power and bondage of sin. Look into the perfect law of liberty and see who He has made you to be in Him. James 1:25

One Blood, One Race: the power to reconcile

“I can calculate the motion of heavenly bodies, but not the madness of people.” Isaac Newton

Dear Christian, before we close, there is something we owe society that we need to pay back....

“The world will know we’re his disciples because of our love for one another.” God created all of us from one man, Adam; and He preserved us from His wrath through Noah and his family. We are all one race and one family of humans, just with different shades, the same genetically, just with different levels of melatonin in the skin.

fervor to deny God’s existence... so they will not have to be accountable to Him.

True and false religion

Some atheists blame religion in general for many of the social problems in the world, and yes, surely, many false religions have caused tremendous problems and killed thousands of innocent people throughout the millenia. But it has been “man made” religions that have done these atrocities; false religions and hypocritical variants of the truth that were not inspired or instituted by the true God of creation nor were their acts in line with the teachings of the Bible.

The effects of no religion: The blood-stained ‘century of evolution’

Editorial by Carl Wieland

Those attacking Christianity sometimes point to the many religious wars and atrocities perpetrated in the name of Christ and the Church. They forget that not everyone self-labeled ‘Christian’ truly follows Christ. Also, that many times more people have been killed this century, most by their own governments, than in all religious conflicts, ever.¹ And this slaughter happened because of philosophies openly hostile to biblical Christianity, and flowing directly from evolutionary belief.

Nazism openly proclaimed its dependence on Darwin.² It was right and moral for the strongest race to survive; to have pity for the weak was to defy nature’s laws. It is doubtful whether this brutal ideology would have so captivated the nation that gave us Bach and Luther if not for the ‘scientific’ underpinning of evolution.

Communism also took evolution to its logical conclusion. If everything just evolved from ‘natural law,’ then man’s opinion, not God’s Word, determines what is right and wrong. If the working class can take power by armed struggle, then this is ‘right,’ regardless of how many must die to bring in the socialist paradise. Communism’s death toll far outranks the Nazis’—probably more than 90 million worldwide.³

Some have suggested that the bloodthirsty deeds of Stalin were an ‘aberration’ from the revolution’s ideals. However, it was Lenin, the ‘father’ of the Russian revolution, who ‘perfected the science of mass killings,’ and total, merciless brutality as the ultimate method of political control.⁴ Evolution was the chief tool

used to brainwash communism's masses into 'scientific atheism.' If everything just evolved, then everything is at the whim of the most powerful, and there is no Maker to whom to be answerable. Hence Stalin's belief that killing millions of people was no worse than mowing your lawn (grass is our cousin in evolutionary doctrine). [Author's note added May 2012: while Stalin undoubtedly believed this, the notion that he said something like this appears to be a miscitation--CW]

Mao's reign of terror and lies resulted in the deaths of tens of millions. It is no coincidence that his two favorite books were by the evolutionists Darwin and Huxley. With millions dying from his forced famine, his physician records that Mao said, 'We have so many people we can afford to lose a few.'⁵ His successors have since persecuted and killed hundreds of thousands more.

Such overt 'state' evil makes it easy to forget what the Bible teaches about the evil within all of fallen mankind. Despite communism's decline, the basic philosophy of evolutionism (i.e. man's opinion, not God's, is the ultimate authority) remains securely in control. They're not shooting people scrambling over the Berlin Wall anymore, but millions of people are being torn apart in their mother's womb in 'democratic' countries....

Thus, the creation/evolution issue is not just about origins; it is the key to which "authority source" will be seen as foundational in human affairs—God, through His revealed Word, or man's opinion.

References and notes for The blood-stained 'century of evolution'

1. About 130 million (not including the hundreds of millions killed by abortion) were slaughtered this century in the name of atheism, whereas all those killed in 'the name of Christ' in all of recorded history was *at most* around 17 million. See James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe, *What if Jesus had never been born?*, Thomas Nelson, Nashville, 1994. [Return to text.](#)
2. Evolutionist Sir Arthur Keith wrote: 'The German Führer, as I have consistently maintained, is an evolutionist; he has consciously sought to make the practice of Germany conform to the theory of evolution.' *Evolution and Ethics*, Putnam, New York, p. 230, 1947. [Return to text.](#)
3. Black Book of Communism, *The Courier-Mail Weekend*, Brisbane, p. 8, 13 December 1997. [Return to text.](#)
4. Men who taught the world to hate, *The Sunday Mail*, Brisbane, p. 67, 6 July 1997. [Return to text.](#)
5. The Great Dying, *The Sunday Mail*, Brisbane, pp. 59–60, 2 February 1997. [Return to text.](#)

spond or possibly may never respond. Reconciliation only happens when we respond to His love, and likewise in marriage. Christ sacrificed his life to bring us back to God, we too must sacrifice for our marriage, though it is with a view and dialog towards reconciliation, not an apathetic "sacrifice" of grudging, drudging hopelessness.

The future of our marriage relies on that passion, patience and mutual response from each other. Our eternities rely on our passionate response to a patient loving redeemer.

To love God is to obey Him.

The whole world can quote Matthew 7:1 "Judge not" but read the whole chapter; it says to get your life right with God, then help others to get theirs right; Matthew chapter 7 does not teach us to accept or ignore sinner to defend it! In verses 21-23, Jesus said that many will call Him Lord on judgment day and say they have done wonderful, miraculous things, even **in his name**, and He will say to them, "I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws."

In Romans 6:1 Paul asks "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?" God forbids it! Is this "grace plus works?" No, it is grace plus fruit. "A good tree bears good fruit"-Matthew 7:15-20.

Are you lying to yourself and to everyone else? "God is not mocked."-Galatians 6:7. "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."-1 John 3:18-24. Only a new heart can change the behavior, Ezekiel 36:26. Good works demonstrate that the heart is changed, that a new birth has occurred. Show your faith through your works, not to earn salvation, but to demonstrate that God's grace works in you. James 2

There are many who look like Christians who grow up right alongside those that truly have faith and good fruit, but one day judgment will come and that which is hidden will be revealed- Matthew 13:24–43. If your heart condemns you, repent and turn to God; "Confess your sins and He is faithful and just to forgive you"-1 John 1:6-10, but only if you confess them; please don't ignore Him, be lukewarm & get spewed out! "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Luke 14:33-35

A lesson from Marriage

God says to Christians in Rev. 2:1-7 and 3:14-22, “Return to your first love” and do the things you did at first; don’t be lukewarm! God wants us to be on fire for Him, like newlyweds for each other. But our relationship with God is often more like a spouse who has lost passion for the intimacy of marriage and yet is happy and content to blindly drift along in his or her lukewarm state while the other spouse still longs for the affection of their first love. God also sees our hearts and knows if we want Him and love Him with all of our heart or if we are just doing our “weekly duty!” Outward religion with no passion.

But God is not just frustrated, shy or angry and He is not negligent; instead He is speaking the truth in love to us. He is calling us out of our lukewarmness; with firm gentleness, love and kindness; He is leading us to turn back to our first love, to Him.

He does warn us though that there is a limit to His patience with us. He said “come back to your first love” and He even said that He’d rather you be hot or cold toward Him, because like lukewarm water, if you remain half-hearted towards Him He’ll have to spit you out! Could it be that like the many marriages that end in divorce because the love grows cold, might God sever His relationship to us in some way, if we are lukewarm? We do not want to try His patience and find out what that means. Turn to Him with all your heart!

And a lesson for marriage

By the way, this message of passion applies in marriage as well. If your spouse is “always after you” and you’re usually not as “interested”, look at it from another perspective; consider that they still have their “first love” passion towards you- and be grateful! They are still in love with the “great catch” they got years ago. Maybe they can’t express it in those terms, but please stop leaping and running away, turn around and embrace them, be a “want to” lover, not a “have to” spouse... it’ll change your marriage.

If you are the “pursuer” in your marriage: if you abide in Christ, He can help you “love your spouse as Christ loves the Church”. As God does to us, you can call back your spouse’s dying love as well. He is patient with us, and so we must be in marriage. Just as with God’s call to us, we are free to make our own decisions; and your spouse may be slow to re-

Why the God of the Bible?

We will cover the authenticity of the Bible and its application to our lives later but first, here’s a quick contrast between true Biblical Christianity and other religions.

The Message of the Bible

mostly from www.icr.org

There are over 3,000 different religions in the world, all of which claim to teach the way to eternal happiness. It has often been said that each of them provides a different path to the same end, and that men are free to choose the path that best suits their own disposition and culture.

The Word of God is insistent that this is not so!

The Bible insists that the God of the Bible is the only true God ([Isaiah 44:6; 45:5-6](#)) and that Jesus Christ is the only way to God ([John 14:6](#)). Most other religions, while stressing their “paths,” allow for some other contingency of faith. Some, like Islam (according to the most popular Hadiths), promote forced conversions.

The Bible insists that it is the only true revelation, that its words are not to be changed (Proverbs 30:5-6; Revelation 22:18-19), and that its words are the basis of all judgment ([John 12:47-50](#)).

The Bible has a unique historical basis. Other religions are based on the subjective teachings of their founders. Biblical teachings are based on objective and demonstrable facts: creation, the fall, the flood, the life and work of redemption of Christ.

The Bible teaches a unique plan of redemption. It reveals a unique Savior.

He was born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25).

He lived a sinless life ([Hebrews 4:14-16](#)).

He taught as no other man taught (John 7:46; Matthew 7:28-29).

He died a unique, volitional death (John 10:17-18; Luke 23:46).

He had unique victory over death (Acts 17:31; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

The Bible demands a unique salvation.

Perfect holiness is required ([Romans 3:10-18, 23; 6:23](#)).

Substitutionary atonement is the only means of reconciliation (Hebrews 10:4-14; Romans 3:24-26).

Grace is the only measurement (Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 11:5-6).

Other religions require some form of works or participation* to achieve forgiveness and salvation: that is a right relationship with God, or to make it to whatever state of ultimate happiness they believe in (make it to heaven, inner peace, nirvana, etc.). The Bible teaches that it is God's initiative and His salvation that brings our ultimate good, not our meager, insufficient and often sinful efforts

*end of icr.org article

Christian Unity, or lack thereof

Some people claim to want nothing to do with Christianity because of its divisions. If I may, maybe this will help explain it. Well, first of all, ALL religions have internal divisions and numerous sects among themselves; they exist because of differences of opinion and the human pride that wants to be right all the time. Unfortunately this sin permeates Christianity as well, though it is not supposed to (the Bible teaches against it and has the solution for it). And I must say, only Christianity has the potential to be unified. Let me explain.

The above bullet points are some among many core doctrines that all Christians believe; they are clearly taught in the Bible without any controversy or arguing between denominations and Christian groups.

(Say for the sake of argument that the Bible is literally God's Word.) Because the Bible is God's message to the people that He created: it is true, and that is why its claims are so exclusive. If Jesus is God's Son and the Bible is His inspired, written revelation to man, then there really is no need for Muhammad, Buddha, Confucius or any other teacher of other religious ways (since their teachings all greatly conflict with what God says is true in the Bible). They would be man-made religions whereas Jesus is God Himself come to earth, in the flesh, to show us the way! Either Jesus is who He said He is and He created us to worship Him, or He is not. There really is no room for other religions, they would simply not be true, they'd have no basis in reality if Jesus is who He claimed to be and rose from the dead to prove it. The exclusivity of Christianity is due to the reality of what God did on the planet!

"plow of life" easily if we are in the yoke with Him). Life is no longer a race with hurdles, running and leaping away from God, but now a slow and steady marathon, where our endurance comes from the One with whom we are running. (Matthew 7:13,14 and Matt:11:30)

To the Christian:

Whether a new believer or an old salt, God created us to worship Him with all of our heart, and He redeemed us so that we can be forgiven, reconciled to Him and empowered with His Holy Spirit's help and strength to worship Him in spirit and truth. In John 15:5 Jesus said "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." By bearing fruit, the Bible means living righteously by His grace and help, exhibiting love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, faithfulness, kindness and self-control (Galatians 5:21,22). The Bible also talks about the true follower of Jesus having spiritual fruit, in the sense that it is a reproduction of their lives (John 12:24). Are the people around you hearing and seeing God's grace in you and are those you are influencing (those that want God), are they following you as you follow Christ? (Of course there are some who will reject Him, regardless of your fruit and actions)

The challenge I have for you is this: If your daily life, not just your church life, but your private or secret life; if it is not "bearing much fruit" for God and if John 15:5, above is true, then you need to examine yourself to see if you are truly abiding in Him and if you are indeed walking in his "easy yoke".

These are sobering and necessary questions. I'm not talking about perfection, the apostle Paul said he had not attained perfection in this life, but was pressing on (Philippians 3:12), daily dying to himself and letting Christ live in Him and through him (Gal.2:20). Are you at least moving in that direction? Or have the "cares of this world choked the Word" and you no longer bear fruit? (Matthew 13:22)

"Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith" 2 Cor.13:5.

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself... **Do this** and you will live" Luke 10:28.

God the Son came to earth as a man to take the punishment for OUR sins!!! Because Jesus paid our fine on the Cross 2,000 years ago, God can forgive us. The Bible says in 2 Cor. 5:21 “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” Jesus “Himself bore our sins in His own body on the cross, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes (the whip beatings He took for us) you were healed.” He offers this wonderful gift of grace to you.

In light of all this, I plead with you: confess your sins to God, turn away from them and put your faith and trust in the Savior, Jesus Christ- God will forgive your sins and grant you everlasting life. Then, according to Rom 10:9-10– “...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

If your heart is moved by the truth of God’s Words and His Spirit is drawing you to Himself, please don’t delay coming to Him. How do you know you will ever feel this way again? What if this is the only opportunity, the only time you will ever want to repent and turn to God? There are no guarantees for tomorrow, today is all we have, “Today is the day of salvation” the Bible says. Please don’t harden your heart against His great love and gift for you. But receive it now, and follow Christ with your whole life.

Passion

Most of the pages of this booklet have been spent discussing reasonable evidence for a Creator and that He has communicated with us through the Bible. Once that hurdle was leaped, it was easy to see and know that we have broken His laws. After hearing that truth, we can stop running away from Him, turn around and see His grace and forgiveness that He has lavished on us through the substitutionary work of Christ on the cross.

The wonderful news is that once you come to God through the “narrow gate” of Christ, though the way is difficult, in that it requires you to single-mindedly follow Christ, to do so is a life where the burden is light and the yoke is easy. A yoke is a farm implement that two oxen would wear to plow a field together. We can be “in the yoke” with Jesus where He is the lead plow animal with the most strength, and we can pull the

If Christians have such clear guidelines of truth then why are there such apparent divisions among Christians? For some, it may start with an honest desire to be purely communicating what God has said, but it is corrupted by our finite minds trying to understand every point in the Bible. Though there are essentials that we all agree on, many people feel a need to claim complete understanding of every concept, chapter and verse. But the Bible teaches there are some things in life that are a flexible matter of conscience, like what day you worship on, or whether you eat meat or not. There are some things we must be firm on, but on many topics we can “live and let live”. But because of basic selfishness and pride, people feel they need to know everything and convince everyone of every point of their personal belief, so they collect in groups that agree on their pet teachings. The Bible calls that carnality, immaturity.

Since Christians have a solid Word from God upon which we could agree, one main reason Christianity is still divided is because we are not humbly communicating with each other. From the printing press to the internet, there has been an explosion of information and communication- but without personal two way conversation, meanings cannot be clarified, questions cannot be answered and misunderstanding is the norm. Even our western “spectator sport” style of preaching from a pulpit is part to blame for this division. The Bible describes a more personal church meeting where people have 2 way communication and God brings truth “to the table” through all of those who are in the meetings. (1 Cor. 14:26)

Many Christians are working on improving this problem. The Bible says we are to gently correct and instruct others. The simple solution is that when someone disagrees with us, or if we believe God has instructed us in a way that is not being followed by others, and we care about them and want them to know the truth of God’s Word, instead of getting frustrated, discouraged or angry; instead of talking about them and their beliefs to others, we talk to them. We are to be hospitable, invite them over for a meal and find out what they really believe and what in the Bible they are basing that faith on. Then we share what we see from scripture. This type of open dialogue is what the Bible teaches we should be doing.

If we are basing our beliefs on the clear teaching of scripture, this method brings out the truth and brings peace and personal growth. If there is a topic or message that is more obscure and we are not sure what is in-

structed by scripture, we can then agree to operate according to each of our consciences.

If God had not given mankind the Bible there could never be this type of peaceful unity. Fortunately He has communicated with us and given us wise counsel on how to live and cooperate. The Bible says that the world will know we (Christians) are His disciples because of our love for one another. That is one reason we gave you this booklet, to foster unity around, and build faith for, the central message that the Bible says we all need to hear. That is why you are always invited to our home to be able to communicate about these critical truths one on one.

Can we know for sure that the Bible is God's Word?

How do we know that some other traditional holy book isn't God's Word? An honest comparison reveals huge differences on every level. Some "religious" books do not claim to be inspired by a Creator but are just philosophical and moral guidelines. Others that claim divine inspiration have no true internal or external evidences that would make us believe that claim; they clearly could be of human origin (More on that later in the booklet). Time has also proven that no "holy book" except the Bible has a moral code and solution that is fit for the complexities, sensibilities and realities of the world around us. Explaining that point is what this booklet is all about.

Unlike other "holy books", the more we learn about the Bible, the more it is clear that only a supernatural source can explain the historical, archaeological, prophetic and scientific accuracy and consistency of such a broad collection of ancient writings! Indeed, it is because of that factual accuracy and certain divine inspiration that these books were carefully preserved and meticulously copied by ancient scribes; then as time went on, they were recognized as worthy and "canonized"; collected as a whole into what we know as the Bible.

Canonizing and Collecting

From <http://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/canon.cfm>

A distinction needs to be made between canonizing and collecting. No man or council can pronounce a work canonical or scriptural, yet man was responsible for collecting and preserving such works. F. F. Bruce writes:

are weak and have sinned against God; they know they are guilty before Him.

In fact, you may feel there is little hope for you because a Holy God could never forgive all the pain and suffering you have caused. Perhaps this thought torments you as it does many people, it may even allow you to continue in the very habits that have caused so much destruction in your life already. The demons often taunt, albeit in a more subtle and seductive way, "Why not medicate the pain with the momentary relief and pleasure of sin, you are doomed anyway?"

To you I would say, believe it or not, God is not far from you. My hope is that by the end of this short paper, you will understand why that is, believe it, and receive what God has for you. It is for you, for sinners that Christ came to die. He did not come for the righteous. If you know you are guilty, be of good cheer, there is a kind judge on the bench of eternity, and though justice MUST be served; the Judge Himself has a plan to save you from the sentence- and from the guilt!

Listen to your conscience. God's Law leaves us all sinners in His sight. On Judgment Day we will be found guilty and end up in Hell forever... except for one very wonderful fact: God had a plan from the beginning to bring us eternal life, not because we deserve it but as the Bible says, "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." He sent His own Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life John 3:16. How does that work? How can that be? God created all things- He can miraculously redeem us as He sees fit.

Grace

Why did God become a man?

Only a perfect man could become the innocent sacrifice needed to pay our debt of sin. The Holy, eternal God the Son came to earth and "put on flesh" to become that man. Only God can rise from the dead and defeat the power of sin and the grave. Christ came to do that, not for Himself, He has held power over all things from eternity past, but He did it as the God-man, as our representative- the second Adam- so that in Him, you and I can be risen from our sin and death!

- Have you ever used God's holy name in vain? That is called blasphemy.
- Have you always honored your parents in word and deed?
- Have you ever stolen something (no matter how small)? Then you are a thief.
- If you have told just one lie, even if you call it "white", then you are a liar, and cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

Matt. 5:19-48 describes how breaking **God's law is not just what you "do" but it's a matter of the heart...**

- Have you ever hated anyone? Then the Bible says you are a murderer.
- Have you had sex outside of marriage? Then you are a fornicator and cannot enter Heaven. Jesus said, "Whoever looks upon a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her in his heart." Have you ever lusted? Then you are an adulterer at heart.

God is Holy and our sin is terribly selfish, arrogant and more destructive than we know. How dare we breathe the air God has given us and enjoy all the wonderful things He has provided for us and then live our lives as though He and His laws don't matter? Yes, the world is messed up- but God created it "very good". Yes, God gave us our free will and He knew we'd mess it up, but it is we who have all chosen to sin. How dare anyone judge or blame God because of our own, and all of mankind's, destructive sin and evil deeds?

There will come a day when we will all stand before the ultimate Judge, and there will be no secret arrests, no need for trials or to wonder if justice will be served, for the Bible tells us in 1 Timothy 5:24 "Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later." and in Hebrews 4:13 "...there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

A humble man... looks in the mirror and sees what his creator made him to be, though he sees good things and bad, he knows every good thing has come from God and the humble man or woman owns responsibility for the bad choices they have made in life. Sin has affected us all. The proud laugh and scorn and do not care- but the humble know they

One thing must be emphatically stated. The New Testament books did not become authoritative for the Church because they were formally included in a canonical list; on the contrary, the Church included them in her canon because she already regarded them as divinely inspired, recognizing their innate worth and generally apostolic authority, direct or indirect. The first ecclesiastical councils to classify the canonical books were both held in North Africa-at Hippo Regius in 393 and at Carthage in 397-but what these councils did was not to impose something new upon the Christian communities but to codify what was already the general practice of these communities (F. F. Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*, Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1960, p. 27).

Hence the books we have as Scripture were inspired by God and recognized such by man.

The Accuracy and Consistency of the Bible's Content

Some claim there are contradictions in the Bible and therefore it can't be inspired by God. This excerpt is from an online article on the subject which details the answers to 101 different alleged discrepancies. The website is a debate between Islam and Christianity, but this subject is universally relevant for this charge against the Bible is also brought up by atheists and other skeptics as well.

From <http://www.debate.org.uk/debate-topics/apologetic/contrads/>

The Charge of Contradiction

A Definition of Revelation:

In order to respond to this challenge it is important that we begin by recognizing and understanding clearly the presupposition and thinking that underlies such a challenge. The principle of non-contradiction has been elevated to the status of an absolute criterion, capable of being applied by human beings in judging the authenticity of God's word. This is not a proposition to which Christians can or should give assent. The Christian will gladly admit that scripture is ultimately non-self-contradictory. But the Christian cannot agree that the principle of non-contradiction is given to men as a criterion by which they are to judge God's word. It is this criterion which the Muslims have imposed upon the discussion of revelation.

This is a mistake which many of us fall into; measuring that which is unfamiliar to us by a standard which is more familiar; in this case measuring the Bible with the standard which they have borrowed from the Qur'an. Their book, the Qur'an, is believed to have been 'sent down' (Nazil or Tanzil), from heaven unfettered by the hands of men. It is this belief in scripture as a revelation which has been

'sent down' which they then impose upon the Bible as well. But it is wrong for Muslims to assume that the Bible can be measured using the same criteria as that imposed on the Qur'an.

The Bible is not simply one book compiled by one man as the Muslims claim for their Qur'an, but a compilation of 66 books, written by more than 40 authors, over a period of 1500 years! For that reason Christians have always maintained that the entire Bible shows the imprint of human hands. Evidence of this can be found in the variety of human languages used, the varying styles of writing, the differences in the author's intellects and temperaments, as well as the apparent allusions to the author's contemporary concepts of scientific knowledge, without which the scriptures would not have been understood by the people of that time. That does not mean, however, that the Bible is not authoritative, for each of the writers received their revelation by means of inspiration.

A Definition of Inspiration:

In 2 Timothy 3:16, we are told that all Scripture is inspired. The word used for inspiration is *theopneustos* which means "God-breathed," implying that what was written had its origin in God Himself. In 2 Peter 1:21 we read that the writers were "carried along" by God. Thus, God used each writer, including his personality to accomplish a divinely authoritative work, for God cannot inspire error.

The Bible speaks many times of its inspiration: In Luke 24:27,44; John 5:39; and Hebrews 10:7, Jesus says that what was written about him in the Old Testament would come to pass. Romans 3:2 and Hebrews 5:12 refer to the Old Testament as the Word of God. We read in 1 Corinthians 2:13, "*This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit.*" This is corroborated in 2 Timothy 3:16, as we saw above. In 1 Thessalonians 2:13, Paul when referring to that which he had written says, "...you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the Word of God..." Peter speaks of the inspiration of Paul's writings in 2 Peter 3:15-16, where he maintains that, "...Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters..." Earlier, in 2 Peter 1:21 Peter writes, "*For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along [moved] by the Holy Spirit.*" And then finally in Revelation 22:18,19 the writer John, referring to the book of Revelation states, "...if anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life..."

Charles Wesley summarizes this high view of inspiration brilliantly when he says, "*The Bible must be the invention either of good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God. However, it was not written by good men, because good men*

Whether as individuals, tribes or nations we live in a world that is vehemently divided. James chapter 4 tells us why, we are all guilty of the selfishness, pride, bigotry, anger and bitterness that keep us divided. But God does have a plan to make it right in the end. The Bible tells us that one day when Christ returns again, He will show the world how to properly govern with perfect justice as HE takes an earthly throne and rules the nations with a rod of iron!

Yes, God does command and demand obedience...

But God is not selfish or demanding in a human sense. We cannot compare Him to man, He is our Creator. He has the power, authority and perfection to handle "being demanding" because He's not merely human and subject to failure. He has a right to demand our obedience because He created us out of nothing and gives us every breath.

Thankfully, God is also good and loving and has "demanded" only what is good for us. His goodness makes God all the more worthy of our worship. The problem with most modern westerners is that humanism has taught us to worship ourselves; it is the essence of pride. But we dare not accuse God of pride for requiring us to worship Him (as some do!). That very accusation is full of man's own pride.

He is God- you and I are not!

He has a right to be worshipped, we don't.

Now, back to His commands. Because God is love, He calls us, as His created "children", to be selfless even as He is- we are commanded to love God with all that we are and have; and from that heart of love for God is meant to spring forth love for our neighbor...

The problem is- We cannot, and do not do it.

We are weak.

So... Are there any charges against you?

Do you consider yourself "a good person"? By what standard though? What does God's Word reveal about your thoughts and actions? Have you broken God's Law- the 10 Commandments? Here are just six of them:

“God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

James 4:6. The humble man has no problem seeing the design of God’s hand in the intricacies of nature and is willing to hear what God has graciously written and preserved for us to know about Him.

A proud man looks in the mirror and sees only himself, he sees himself and his world through his own standards, be they religious or secular. He does not necessarily have to “boast” to be proud; a private man can also be proud- Whether or not he wants others to see this image of himself can depend on how he sees his accomplishments: If he feels he has done little with his life, he may be depressed; if he thinks he has done well, he is happy with himself and with life. He may boast about it or maybe he won’t. A successful, proud man can also be quiet and not brag about his accomplishments. Pride is more a matter of the heart than what is seen or heard on the outside.

Whether “successful” or an apparent “failure,” anyone can be guilty of pride because he is looking at himself alone in that mirror and he centers his worldview around what he thinks and wants, what he believes he deserves— whether or not he currently “has” all that he believes he deserves. Amazingly, regardless of what they’ve done wrong against man or God, a proud man or woman feels they have lived a pretty good life and done what is right for the most part. Their misbehavior and failures are usually someone else’s fault.

The biggest problem with pride is that we have forgotten that God created us and He deserves to be recognized, honored and worshipped. When we make ourselves the center, it is pure idolatry. God created us to love Him and to love each other—not ourselves. Selfishness is at the heart of pride. Selfishness is the very power of sin. It is that selfish pride that keeps God “at arms length” and causes us to hurt others and disobey God’s laws.

Law and Justice

The laws of man are not always just. Even if a law is good and right in theory, often its enforcement and applications are inept or corrupt. But we need the law, human beings have lied, stolen and killed each other for thousands of years. The Bible says that governments and laws are ordained by God to try to maintain order, even though they are always faulty to some degree or another.

would not tell lies by saying ‘Thus saith the Lord;’ it was not written by bad men because they would not write about doing good duty, while condemning sin, and themselves to hell; thus, it must be written by divine inspiration” (McDowell 1990:178).

How does God inspire the writers? Does He simply move the writers by challenging their heart to reach new heights, much like we find in the works of Shakespeare, Milton, Homer and Dickens, all of which are human literary masterpieces? Or does that which He inspire contain the words of God-along with myths, mistakes and legends, thus creating a book in which portions of the Word of God can be found, along with those of finite and fallible men? Or are the scriptures the infallible Word of God in their entirety? In other words, how, Muslims will ask, is this inspiration carried out? Does God use mechanical dictation, similar to that which we find claimed for the Qur’an, or does He use the writers own minds and experiences?

The simple answer is that God’s control was always with them in their writings, such that the Bible is nothing more than “*The Word of God in the words of men*” (McDowell, Josh, [Christianity: A Ready Defence](#), Harpendon, Scripture Press Foundation, 1990:176). This means that God utilized the culture and conventions of his penman’s milieu, a milieu that God controls in His sovereign providence. Thus history must be treated as history, poetry as poetry, hyperbole and metaphor as hyperbole and metaphor, generalization and approximation as what they are, and so forth. Differences between literary conventions in Bible times and in ours must also be observed: Since, for instance, non-chronological narration and imprecise citation were conventional and acceptable and violated no expectations in those days, we must not regard these things as faults when we find them in Bible writers. When total precision of a particular kind was not expected nor aimed at, it is no error not to have achieved it. Scripture is inerrant, not in the sense of being absolutely precise by modern standards, but in the sense of making good its claims and achieving that measure of focused truth at which its authors aimed.

The truthfulness of Scripture is not negated by the appearance in it of irregularities of grammar or spelling, phenomenal descriptions of nature, reports of false statements (for example, the lies of Satan), or seeming discrepancies between one passage and another. It is not right to set the so-called ‘phenomena’ of Scripture against the teaching of Scripture about itself. Apparent inconsistencies should not be ignored. Solution of them, where this can be convincingly achieved (as we have attempted in this paper), will encourage our faith. However, where for the present no convincing solution is at hand we shall significantly honor God by trusting His assurance that His Word is true, despite these

appearances, and by maintaining our confidence that one day they will be seen to have been illusions.

This is not a blind hope. For instance, a century ago there were about 100 parts of the body whose function were mysterious to doctors, and people would say "This is proof of evolution as these are left over parts which we don't need any-more". However, because of on-going and diligent research we are now left with only one organ in the body which appears to be redundant. In time, perhaps we will find a use for that organ as well. This principle can also be seen with the Bible. So many 'discrepancies' have also been cleared up due to greater research and understanding. Had Shabbir been around a century or even 25 years ago his list could easily have been 1001 contradictions. As new data is uncovered, we are continually finding answers to many of the historical mysteries. Therefore we have every reason to believe that, in God's time, the rest will be solved as well.

We are fully aware that the Christian criteria for revelation is not acceptable to Muslims, as it is in seeming conflict with their own. Yet, by simply measuring the Bible against the *thenazil* or *Tanzil* ('sent down') concept which they claim for their Qur'an, Muslims condemn themselves of duplicity, since they demand of the New Testament that which they do not demand of the previous revelations, the *Taurat* and *Zabuur*, though both are revered as equally inspired revelations by all Muslims. Muslims believe that Moses wrote the *Taurat* and David the *Zabuur*. However, neither claimed to have received their revelations by a means of a *nazil* ('sent down') transmission. So why insist on such for the New Testament, especially since the document makes no such claim itself?

The underlying reason perhaps lies in the belief by Muslims that the Qur'an, because it is the only revelation which came "unfettered" by human intervention, is thus the truest and clearest statement of Allah's word, and therefore supersedes all previous revelations, even annulling those revelations, as they have supposedly been corrupted by the limitations of their human authors.

Left unsaid is the glaring irony that the claim for a *nazil* revelation for the Qur'an comes from one source alone, the man to which it was supposedly revealed, Muhammad. Yet there are no external witnesses both before or at the time who can corroborate Muhammad's testimony. Not even miracles are provided to substantiate his claims, nor are there any known documents of such a Qur'an from the century in which it is claimed to have been revealed (see the paper on the historicity of the Qur'an versus the Bible. <http://www.debate.org.uk/debate-topics/historical/the-bible-and-the-quran/>)

How Will You Respond?

Your response to the Bible determines the course of your life and your eternal destiny. [First Corinthians 2:9](#) says, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" (NIV). Man could never conceive of all that God has to offer on his own!

Every time we pick up the Bible, we pick up the truth. Jesus said, "If you continue in My word . . . you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" ([John 8:31-32](#)). What did He mean by that? Think of the person who is working diligently on a math problem. As soon as he finds the answer--he's free. Or consider the scientist in the lab pouring different solutions into test tubes. He stays with it until he says, "Eureka, I found it!"--then he's free. Man will search and struggle and grapple and grope for the truth until he finds it. Only then is he free. The Bible is our source of truth--about God, man, life, death, men, women, children, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, friends, and enemies. It shows us how to live. The Bible is the source of everything you need to know about life on earth and the life to come. You can trust the Bible. It is God's living Word.

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Whom will you believe?

Will you believe God, who was there in the beginning, who created everything and through the millennia has supernaturally moved on the hearts of men to accurately record the events and truths we need to know about Him, our origins, life and eternity. Or will you believe the skeptics and evolutionists, men who weren't there when the worlds were made, who continue to make up theories about where we came from to validate their sheer faith in naturalism (atheism). This they do despite the obvious truth that we can all see with our eyes and now, glaring genetic evidence against "molecules to man" evolution; evidence that clearly points to an infinitely intelligent designer and Creator. Honestly, the question is almost rhetorical. Your decision should be an easy one, but it is very important to your future. Will you love darkness? Or will you believe the obvious truth?

The Bible Is Authoritative

Since the Bible is perfect and complete, it is the last Word--the final authority. [Isaiah 1:2](#) says, "Listen, Oh heavens, and hear, Oh earth; for the Lord speaks." When God speaks, we should listen, because He is the final authority. The Bible demands obedience.

[John 8:30-31](#) reports that many of the people Jesus preached to came to believe in Him. Jesus said to them, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine." In other words, He demanded a response to His word. It is authoritative. [Galatians 3:10](#) says, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them." That's a tremendous claim to absolute authority. In [James 2:10](#) we read, "Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all." To violate the Bible at one point is to break God's entire law. That's because the Bible is authoritative in every part.

The Bible is sufficient for a number of essentials:

Salvation . Jesus said, "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul?" ([Matthew 16:26](#)). Salvation is the greatest reality in the universe--and the Bible reveals the source of that salvation. [Acts 4:12](#) says regarding Jesus, "There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Instruction . [Second Timothy 3:16](#) says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness." The Bible can take those who don't know God and introduce them to Him. Then it will teach them, reprove them when they do wrong, point them to what is right, and show them how to walk in that right path.

Hope . [Romans 15:4](#) says "Whatever was written in earlier times [a reference to the Old Testament] was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." The Bible is a source of encouragement, giving us hope now and forever.

Happiness . [James 1:25](#) reveals the key to happiness: "One who looks intently at [Scripture], and abides by it . . . this man will be [happy] in what he does." Psalm 119, the longest psalm in the Bible, devotes all 176 verses to describing the Word of God. It begins, "How [happy] are those who walk in the law of the Lord."

Even if we were to disregard the historical problems for early Qur'ans, a further problem concerns the numerous Muslim traditions which speak of the many differing copies of Qur'anic codices which were prevalent during the collating of the Uthmanic recension of the Qur'an in the mid-seventh century, and that the conflicting copies were all destroyed, so that we cannot know today whether the Qur'an in our possession was even similar to that which was first revealed.

What Muslims must understand is that Christians have always maintained that the Word of God, the Bible, was indeed written by men, but that these men were always under the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21).

Whereas the Qur'an is alleged to be free of any human element, God in the Bible deliberately chose to reveal His Word through individuals who were inspired prophets and apostles, so that His Word would not only be conveyed to humanity correctly, and comprehensively but would be communicated to their understanding and powers of comprehension as well. This the Qur'an cannot do if it has no human element, as is generally alleged.

The article continues on to individually refute and explain each of the 101 commonly alleged contradictions and summarizes:

Conclusion:

In conclusion, once we have weighed the evidence, many if not all of the seeming contradictions posed by Shabbir Ally can be adequately explained.

When we look over the 101 supposed contradictions we find that they fall into 15 broad categories or genres of errors. Listed below are those categories, each explaining in one sentence the errors behind Shabbir's contradictions. Alongside each category is a number informing us how many times he could be blamed for each category. You will note that when you add up the totals they are larger than 101. The reason is that, as you may have already noticed, Shabbir many times makes more than one error in a given question.

Categories of the errors evidenced by Shabbir in his pamphlet:

- he misunderstood the historical context – 25 times
- he misread the text – 15 times
- he misunderstood the Hebrew usage – 13 times
- the texts are compatible with a little thought – 13 times
- he misunderstood the author's intent – 12 times
- these were merely copyist error – 9 times
- he misunderstood how God works in history – 6 times
- he misunderstood the Greek usage – 4 times
- he didn't read the entire text – 4 times
- he misquoted the text – 4 times

- he misunderstood the wording – 3 times
- he had too literalistic an interpretation – 3 times
- he imposed his own agenda – 3 times
- he confused an incident with another – 1 time
- we now have discovered an earlier manuscript – 1 time

It must be admitted that we have in certain places followed explanations or interpretations that are not specifically stated in the text. This is entirely permissible, as the explanations must merely be plausible. It is clear that the gospel authors are writing from different points of view, adding and leaving out different details. This is entirely to be expected when four authors write independently. Far from casting doubt on their accounts, it gives added credibility, as those details which at first appear to be in conflict can be resolved with some thought, yet are free from the hallmarks of obvious collusion, either by the original authors or any subsequent editors.

This testifies to the honesty and openness of the scribes and translators (both Jewish and Christian). Although it would be easy to change this recognized error, this has not been done in favour of remaining true to the manuscripts. Although it leaves the passage open to shallow criticism as Shabbir Ally has shown, it is criticism which we are not afraid of.

In Shabbir's booklet, he puts two verses on the bottom of each page. It would seem appropriate that we give an answer to these quotes, which are:

"God is not the author of confusion..." (1 Corinthians 14:33) True, God is not the author of confusion. There is very little that is confusing in the Bible. When we understand all the original readings and the context behind them, the confusion virtually disappears. Of course we need scholarship to understand everything in there, as we are 2,000 – 3,500 years and a translation removed from the original hearers. But this is no different to the Qur'an. On first (and tenth) readings of the Qur'an there are many things which are not apparent. Take the mysterious letters at the beginning of the suras. It seems that after 1,400 years of scholarship, people can only take a good guess at what on earth they might be there for. Or take the many historical Biblical characters whose stories do not parallel the Bible but seem to originate in second century Talmudic apocryphal writings. This is indeed confusing. However, it is because we can go to the historical context of those writings that we now know that they could not have been authored by God, but were created by men, centuries after the authentic revelation of God had been canonized.

"...A house divided against itself falls" (Luke 11:17) The Bible is not divided against itself. Jesus was talking about a major division, i.e. Satan destroying

What Is Truth?

To look at things philosophically, we live in a time-space box we can't get out of. We cannot go into a phone booth and come out Superman--we cannot transcend the natural world. We are locked into a time-space continuum.

And we bounce around in our little box trying to figure out God. We invent religions, but they're self-contained. The only way we'll ever know what is beyond us is if what is on the outside comes in. And that's exactly what the Bible claims. It's a supernatural revelation from God, who has invaded our box. And He invaded it not only through the written word, but also in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Jean-Paul Sartre's novel Nausea lays out an existential view of life. Its main character, Antoine Roquentin, is horrified by his own existence. He tries to find meaning in life through sex, humanitarianism, and other avenues but is left with a nauseating feeling of meaninglessness, never really finding genuine answers.

Where do you find truth that eluded Roquentin? I believe it is in the Word of God, the Bible. Consider its attributes.

The Attributes of the Bible

The Bible Is Infallible and Inerrant

The Bible, in its entirety, has no mistakes. It is flawless because God wrote it--and He is flawless. It is not only infallible in total, but also inerrant in its parts. [Proverbs 30:5-6](#) says, "Every word of God is tested. . . . Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar." Every word of God is pure and true. The Bible is the only book that never makes a mistake--everything it says is the truth.

The Bible Is Complete

Nothing needs to be added to the Bible. It is complete. Some today say the Bible is incomplete and simply a product of its time--a comment on man's spiritual experience in history--and that we now need something else. Some believe that preachers who say, "The Lord told me this or that," are equally inspired, like Isaiah, Jeremiah, or any of the other prophets. That is essentially to say that the Bible is not complete. However, the last book of the Bible, Revelation, warns, "If anyone adds to [the words of this book], God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book" (22: 18-19).

Can you look death in the eye and say, "This is not the end; it is but the beginning for me"? What can you say to someone who loses a child? What can you say to someone who loses a spouse to cancer or heart disease? Are you roaming around in the confusion in which many people find themselves? Where do you go for the dark things to be made clear? I go to the Word of God, and I find clarity there.

The Bible Is "Clean"

Further, [Psalm 19:1](#) says that the Word of God is "clean, enduring forever." The only things that last forever are things untouched by the devastation of evil—another word for sin. The word of God is clean. It describes and uncovers sin, but it is untouched by evil. And even though it is an ancient document, every person in every situation in every society can find timeless truth in this book. Here's a book that never needs another edition because it's never out of date or obsolete. It speaks to us as pointedly and directly as it ever has to anyone in history. It's so pure that it lasts forever.

When I was in college I studied philosophy. Almost every philosophy I studied was long dead. I also studied psychology. Almost every form of psychotherapy I read about is now obsolete or has been replaced by more progressive thinking.

But there's one thing that never changes, and that is the eternal Word of God. It is always relevant.

The Bible Is "True"

Finally, and most pointedly, [Psalm 19:9](#) says that the Word of God is true. Today it seems there's no longer a premium on truth. But that was true even in Jesus' day. Pilate, when he sent Jesus to the cross, said, "What is truth?" ([John 18:38](#)). The context makes clear that he was being cynical.

I remember meeting a young man on drugs who was living in an overturned refrigerator box by a stream in the mountains of northern California. I was hiking through the area and asked if I could introduce myself. We talked a little while. It turned out he was a graduate of Boston University. He said, "I've escaped." I asked, "Have you found the answers?" "No," he said, "but at least I've gotten myself into a situation where I don't ask the questions." That's the despair of not knowing the truth.

Scripture describes some people as "always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" ([2 Timothy 3:7](#)). That's not referring to intellectual truth; it's referring to the truth of life, death, God, man, sin, right, wrong, heaven, hell, hope, joy, and peace. People can't find it on their own.

his own demons. This is far removed from the Bible. A book four times the size of the Qur'an, with the remaining problems able to be counted on your fingers and toes, a 99.999% agreement! That indeed is remarkable!

We conclude with two quotes of our own:

"The first to present his case seems right... till another comes forward and questions him" (Proverbs 18:17)

"...our dear brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him....His letters contain some things that are hard to understand which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:15-16)

Authentic Text

from www.icr.org

Many powerful men over the centuries have tried to discredit or destroy the Bible. All have failed. There is more evidence for the authenticity and accuracy of the Scriptures than for any other ancient book. No one who has studied these issues doubts the genuineness of the Bible. Many, however, reject its message.

The Manuscripts

There is more evidence for the Bible's authenticity than for any literature of antiquity. Textual analysis begins with historical investigation, beginning with the latest documents and working backward. As evidence develops, the data is evaluated against other sources. The record is then checked for consistency of information, and the claims are analyzed as if it were a legal case, looking for credible testimony with cross-examination. There is an enormous amount of evidence for authenticity of the biblical manuscripts. The New Testament was written in first century A.D. There are some 20,000 manuscripts in existence. The earliest textual evidence we have was copied 100 years after the original. In contrast:

Caesar's Gallic Wars was written in the first century B.C. There are only 10 manuscripts in existence. The earliest textual evidence we have was copied 1,000 years after the original.

Aristotle's Poetics was written in the fourth century B.C. There are only 5 manuscripts in existence. The earliest textual evidence we have was copied 1,400 years after the original.

There are many more writings of the Church Fathers quoting sections of Scripture; we could reconstruct the entire New Testament from their writings alone. There were millions of man-hours spent in cross-checking the manuscripts. There remains only 1 percent of all New Testament words about which questions still exist; no questionable passage contradicts any Bible teaching.

The Old Testament has been more accurately transmitted to us than any other ancient writing of comparable age. The textual evidence is greater for both the Old and New Testaments than any other historically reliable ancient document. The ancient scribes were very meticulous. There were only 1,200 variant readings in A.D. 500.

The Masorites produced an official text in A.D. 500. There are other versions that confirm the accuracy of the Masoritic Text.

Samaritan Pentateuch: 400 B.C.

Septuagint Greek: 280 B.C.

Dead Sea Scrolls: 0 A.D.

Latin Vulgate: 400 A.D.

The quotations from pre-Christian writing confirm the text. The New Testament accepts the Old Testament as authentic, confirming the traditional authors, quoting from at least 320 different passages, and confirming the supernatural events cited in the Old Testament

end of icr.org article

The Dead Sea Scrolls and Biblical Integrity

Complete article: <http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13&article=357>

Bible believers often are confronted with the charge that the Bible is filled with mistakes. These alleged mistakes can be placed into two major categories: (1) apparent internal inconsistencies among revealed data; and (2) scribal mistakes in the underlying manuscripts themselves. The former category involves those situations in which there are apparent discrepancies between biblical texts regarding a specific event, person, place, etc. (as was discussed in the above article "The Charge of Contradiction") [For a further treatment of such difficulties see Archer, Gleason, Jr. (1982), *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker); Geisler, Norman and Ronald Brooks (1989), *When Skeptics Ask* (Wheaton, IL: Victor), pp. 163-178]. The latter category involves a much more fundamental concern—the integrity of the

woman having a baby. There's joy through any circumstance. I know you want a happy life. I know you want peace, joy, meaning, and purpose. I know you want the fullness of life that everybody seeks. The Bible says, "[Happy] are those who hear the word of God and observe it" ([Luke 11:28](#)). Why? Because God blesses their faithfulness and obedience. You can have a happy life without sin, without sex outside of marriage, without drugs, and without alcohol. God is not a cosmic killjoy. He made you. He knows how you operate best. And He knows what makes you happy. The happiness He gives doesn't stop when the party's over. It lasts because it comes from deep within.

The Bible Is "Pure"

Fourth, the psalmist says the Word of God is pure, enlightening the eyes. The simplest Christian knows a lot of things that many scholarly people don't know. Because I know the Bible, some things are clear to me that aren't clear to others.

The autobiography of English philosopher Bertrand Russell, written near the end of his life, implies that philosophy was something of a washout to him. That's shocking. He spent his life musing on reality, but was not able to define it. I don't believe I'm Russell's equal intellectually, but I do know the Word of God. Scripture enlightens the eyes, particularly concerning the dark things of life, such as death, disease, tragic events, and the devastation of the world. Scripture deals with the tough issues of life.

I can go to a Christian who is facing death and see joy in his heart. My grandmother died when she was ninety-three years old. She was lying in bed, and the nurse told her it was time to get up. My grandmother said, "No, I'm not getting up today." When the nurse asked why, my grandmother said, "I love Jesus, and I'm going to heaven today, so don't bother me." Then she smiled and went to heaven.

Do you have that kind of hope?

When I was a boy I used to go to Christ Church in Philadelphia and read epitaphs written about Americans who have had a great impact on our country. Benjamin Franklin wrote his own epitaph:

"The body of Benjamin Franklin, printer, (like the cover of an old book, its contents worn out and stripped of its lettering and gilding) lies here, food for worms! Yet the work itself shall not be lost, for it will, as he believed, appear once more in a new and more beautiful edition, corrected and amended by its Author!"

and if there are some answers you just can't seem to find, then you're just the person who needs to look into the Word of God to determine if it can do what it says it can. It can transform you completely through the power of Christ, the One who died and rose again for you.

The Bible Is "Sure"

Second, Psalm 19 says that the Scripture is "sure"--absolute, trustworthy, reliable--"making wise the simple." The Hebrew word translated "simple" comes from a root that speaks of an open door. Ancient Jewish people described a person with a simple mind as someone with a head like an open door: everything comes in; everything goes out. He doesn't know what to keep out and what to keep in. He's indiscriminate, totally naive, and unable to evaluate truth. He doesn't have any standards by which to make a judgment.

The Bible says it is able to make such a person wise. Wisdom to the Jew was the skill of daily living. To the Greek it was sheer sophistry--an abstraction. So when the Hebrew text says it can make a simple person wise, it means it can take the uninitiated, naive, uninstructed, undiscerning person and make him skilled in every aspect of daily living.

The Bible touches every area of life, including relationships, marriage, the work ethic, and factors of the human mind and motivation. It tells you about attitudes, reactions, responses, how to treat people, how you're to be treated by people, how to cultivate virtue in your life--every aspect of living is covered in the pages of the Bible.

How does the Bible transform one's life? It does so when you read it and Commit your life to Jesus Christ, the Teacher and the Author of Scripture. He comes to live in you and applies the truth of the Word to your life.

The Bible Is "Right"

Third, the Word of God--called "the precepts of the Lord"--is right. In Hebrew, that means it sets out a right path or lays out a right track. And the result is joy to the heart.

I look back at times in my own life when I didn't know what direction to go, what my future was, or what my career ought to be. Then I began to study God's Word and submit myself to His Spirit. Then God laid out the path for me. As I've walked in that path, I've experienced joy, happiness, and blessing. In fact, I find so much satisfaction in life that people sometimes believe something's wrong with me. Even difficulty brings satisfaction, because it creates a way in which God can show Himself faithful. Even unhappiness is a source of happiness. In John 16, Jesus compares the disciples' sorrow at His leaving to the pain of a

underlying documents of our English translations. Some charge that the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek manuscripts, having been copied and recopied by hand over many years, contain a plethora of scribal errors that have altered significantly the information presented in the original documents. As such, we cannot be confident that our English translations reflect the information initially penned by biblical writers. However, the materials discovered at Qumran, commonly called the Dead Sea Scrolls, have provided impressive evidence for both the integrity of the Hebrew and Aramaic manuscripts of the Old Testament and the authenticity of the books themselves.

Critical Scholarship, Daniel, and the scrolls

The Qumran materials similarly have substantiated the textual integrity and authenticity of Daniel. Critical scholarship, as in the case of most all books of the Old Testament, has attempted to dismantle the authenticity of the book of Daniel. The message of the book claims to have originated during the Babylonian exile, from the first deportation of the Jews into captivity (606 B.C.; Daniel 1:1-2) to the ascension of the Persian Empire to world dominance (c. 536 B.C.; Daniel 10:1). This date, however, has been questioned and generally dismissed by critical scholars who date the final composition of the book to the second century B.C. Specifically, it is argued that the tales in chapters 1-6 as they appear in their present form can be no earlier than the Hellenistic age (c. 332 B.C.). Also, the four-kingdom outline, explicitly stated in chapter 2, allegedly requires a date after the rise of the Grecian Empire. Further, these scholars argue that since there is no explicit reference to Antiochus Epiphanes IV (175-164 B.C.), a Seleucid king clearly under prophetic consideration in chapter 11, a date in the late third or early second century B.C. is most likely (see Collins, 1992a, 2:31; Whitehorne, 1992, 1:270).

The apparent reason for this conclusion among critical scholars is the predictive nature of the book of Daniel. It speaks precisely of events that transpired several hundred years removed from the period in which it claims to have been composed. Since the guiding principles of the historical-critical method preclude a transcendent God's intervening in human affairs (see Brantley, 1994), the idea of inspired predictive prophecy is dismissed a priori from the realm of possibility. Accordingly, Daniel could not have spoken with such precision about events so remote from his day. Therefore, critical scholars conclude that the book was written actually as a historical record of events during the Maccabean period, but couched in apocalyptic or prophetic language. Such conclusions clearly deny that this book was the authentic composition of a Daniel who lived in the sixth century B.C., that the Bible affirms.

The Dead Sea Scrolls have lifted their voice in this controversy. Due to the amount of Daniel fragments found in various caves near Qumran, it appears that this prophetic book was one of the most treasured by that community. Perhaps the popularity of Daniel was due to the fact that the people of Qumran lived during the anxious period in which many of these prophecies actually were being fulfilled. For whatever reason, Daniel was peculiarly safeguarded to the extent that we have at our disposal parts of all chapters of Daniel, except chapters 9 and 12. However, one manuscript (4QDan^c; 4 = Cave 4; Q = Qumran; Dan^c = one of the Daniel fragments arbitrarily designated "c" for clarification), published in November 1989, has been dated to the late second century B.C. (see Hasel, 1992, 5[2]:47). Two other major documents (4QDan^b, 4QDan^a) have been published since 1987, and contribute to scholarly analysis of Daniel. These recently released fragments have direct bearing on the integrity and authenticity of the book of Daniel.

New Artifact Supports Antiquity of Bible

by Brian Thomas, M.S. *

An Israeli professor has found evidence that certain books of the Bible could easily be as old as their texts claim. Some scholars had believed that Hebrew writing did not yet exist when these books were purportedly written. But though it does not quote the Bible, a 3,000-year-old piece of pottery from Israel bears text inked in Hebrew, the language of the original Old Testament.

The pottery shard was excavated in 2008 about 18 miles west of Jerusalem, at Khirbet Qeiyafa. It was translated by Professor Gershon Galil of the University of Haifa, who determined:

It uses verbs that were characteristic of Hebrew, such as *asah* ("did") and *avad* ("worked"), which were rarely used in other regional languages. Particular words that appear in the text, such as *almanah* ("widow") are specific to Hebrew and are written differently in other local languages. The content itself was also unfamiliar to all the cultures in the region besides the Hebrew society.¹

Modern critical scholars have often contended that many portions of the Bible were actually written long after the events they describe, and that the text was then attributed after the fact to the ancient authors. The conservative view that the Bible was authored by the individuals it names clashes with the liberal assertion that the people at the time were illiterate, or that the Hebrew language did not even exist then. But this newly translated artifact demonstrates that the He-

The Bible claims to be alive and powerful. That's a tremendous statement. I have never read any other living book. There are some books that change your thinking, but this is the only book that can change your nature. This is the only book that can totally transform you from the inside out.

There's a section in Psalm 19 that is Scripture's own testimony to itself. This is what it says:

The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. (vv. 7-9)
Let's look at each aspect separately.

The Bible Is "Perfect"

First, "the law of the Lord" is a Hebrew term used to define Scripture. Psalm 19 specifies that it is "perfect"--a comprehensive treatment of truth that is able to transform the soul. The Hebrew word translated "soul"(*nepesh*) refers to the total person. It means the real you--not your body but what is inside. So the truths in Scripture can totally transform a person.

You may say, "I'm not interested in being transformed." Then you probably aren't interested in the Bible. The Bible is for people who have some sense of desperation about where they are. It is for people who don't have the purpose in their lives they wish they had. They're not sure where they are, where they came from, or where they're going. There are things in their lives they wish they could change. They wish they weren't driven by passions they can't control; that they weren't victims of circumstance; that they didn't have so much pain in life; that their relationships were all they ought to be; that they could think more clearly about things that matter in their lives. That's who this book is for: people who don't have all the answers and who want something better.

The Bible says that the key to this transformation is the Lord Jesus Christ. God came into the world in the form of Christ. He died on a cross to pay the penalty for your sins and mine, and rose again to conquer death. He now lives and comes into the lives of those who acknowledge Him as their Lord and Savior, transforming them into the people God means for them to be. If you're content with the way you are, you're not going to look to the Word of God for a way to change. But if you're aware of your guilt, if you want to get rid of your anxiety and the patterns of life that desperately need to be changed, if you have some emptiness in your heart, if there's some longing that has never been satisfied,

About 250 years later Alexander the Great came into the area of Tyre needing supplies for his eastern campaign. He sent word to the residents of the island city, but they refused his request. They believed they were safe from attack on the island. Alexander was so infuriated at their response that he and his army picked up the rubble that was left from Nebuchadnezzar's devastation of the mainland city and threw it into the sea. They used it to build a causeway, which allowed them to march to the island and destroy the city. That exactly fulfilled what Ezekiel had predicted hundreds of years previously.

If you travel to the site of Tyre today, you'll see fishermen there drying their nets. The city was never rebuilt. Peter Stoner said that the probability of all the details of that prophecy happening by chance is one in 75 million.

The Assyrian city of Nineveh is another example. It was one of the most formidable ancient cities, which reached its apex during the seventh century b.c. Yet the prophet Nahum predicted that it would soon be wiped out. He said an overflowing river would crush the gates and that the city would be destroyed ([Nahum 1:8](#); [2:6](#)).

In those days when people walled in their cities, they tended to build gates down into the rivers nearby. The water could flow through the bars of the gates and keep out intruders. In the case of Nineveh, a great storm came and flooded the river, carrying away a vital part of the city walls. That permitted besieging Medes and Babylonians to enter the city and destroy it, just as the prophet predicted.

The Life of Christ

Additional evidence for the authenticity of the Bible is Christ Himself. As we have already seen, He fulfilled many detailed prophecies and did many miracles. It is important to note that He also believed in the authority of the Bible. In [Matthew 5:18](#) He says, "Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished."

If you would like to read more about the life of Christ and other evidences for the Bible's reliability, try *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, by Josh McDowell (Here's Life Publishers).

The Power of the Bible

The Bible is an amazing book. It's amazing in that it stands up to many tests of authenticity. But beyond that, it's particularly amazing when looked at from a spiritual and moral perspective.

brew language was alive and well, in both spoken and written form, during the time that many portions of the Bible were written.

Fox News reported, "The inscription is the earliest example of Hebrew writing found, which stands in opposition to the dating of the composition of the Bible in current research."² How could "current research" have been hundreds of years off regarding its dates?

One reason that some academics have posited much later dates of authorship has been their bias against the supernatural. For example, significant prophecies were recorded by Daniel, chief advisor to several Babylonian kings, in about 536 B.C. God revealed to Daniel the number of years until the promised One, Jesus Christ, would enter Jerusalem, then be "cut off."³ Christ fulfilled these prophecies to the exact year during His triumphal entry and crucifixion, respectively.

Since a centuries-earlier prophecy of this future event could only have occurred through a supernatural revelation, a much later date (though still over a century prior to Christ) was asserted for prophetic portions of Daniel's book, along with the idea that Daniel was attributed false authorship after some of the prophesied events had actually occurred. For example, he foretold the rise of Alexander the Great, who unified the Greek empire in the third century BC.⁴

The newly deciphered Hebrew inscriptions date from the 10th century BC, long before Daniel.⁵ Therefore, the claim can no longer be made that much of the Bible could not possibly have been written by the listed authors because the Hebrew language did not exist until later. It is now more apparent than ever that these assertions of late-date authorship were not rooted in evidence, but in a certain ideology.

References for "New Artifact Supports Antiquity of Bible"

1. [Most ancient Hebrew biblical inscription deciphered](#). University of Haifa press release, January 10, 2010.
2. [When Was the Bible Really Written?](#) *FOX News*. Posted on foxnews.com January 9, 2010, accessed January 12, 2009.
3. In his study Bible, Dr. Henry Morris provided the following note for [Daniel 9:26](#): "**Messiah be cut off**. If the 483-year period began in 446 B.C., its end would seem to be in A.D. 37. However, there is much evidence that what might be called a 'prophetic year' was 360 days instead of 365. The original created year was apparently twelve 30-day months (compare Ge 7:11,24; 8:3,4). Also, the year associated with the end times seems to be the same (Re 11:2-3). If this factor were applied to the 70-week prophecy, then 483 calendar years would only be 476 prophetic years. Allowing for the fact that Jesus was actually born about 4 B.C. (this was the date when King Herod died, soon after Jesus was born), then the terminal date of the prophecy becomes sometime in A.D. 30, the year when Jesus was between 33 and 34 years of age. This, of course, is the year of His crucifixion, when He was 'cut off, but not for himself.' This prophecy was given in about 536 B.C., well over half a millennium before its fulfillment. The probability that Daniel could guess the date of the manifestation and crucifixion of the Messiah is essentially zero. Only supernatural inspiration can account for fulfilled prophecies like this. In fact,

these events were fulfilled almost two centuries even after the date assigned to Daniel by liberal scholars who deny that such prophecies can be valid!" Morris, H. 2006. *The New Defender's Study Bible*. Nashville, TN: World Publishing, 1275-1276.

4. [Daniel 8:5](#) states, "And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes." Dr. Henry Morris notes: "This 'he-goat' represents the Greek empire ([Daniel 8:21](#)), which Daniel prophesied would eventually conquer the Medo-Persian empire, just as he had prophesied the latter would conquer the Babylonian empire. These events, of course, came to pass as predicted....This 'notable horn' on the goat is said to be the 'first king' of the future conquering Greek empire ([Daniel 8:21](#))—none other than the famous Alexander the Great, whose conquests were so swift that it seemed like his legions 'touched not the ground' as they advanced." Morris, *New Defender's Study Bible*, 1271.

5. This was confirmed with carbon dating, which is understood to yield reliable dates for artifacts a few thousand years old like this one. See Morris, J. 1998. [Doesn't Carbon Dating Prove the Earth Is Old? Acts & Facts](#). 27 (7).

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You Can Trust the Bible

from a booklet by John MacArthur

We live in a world that, for the most part, has no absolute standard for life and behavior. We are under a system of morality by majority vote—in other words, whatever feels right sets the standard for behavior.

That philosophy, however, runs contrary to everything we know about our world. For example, in science there are absolutes. Our entire universe is built on fixed laws. We can send satellites and other spacecraft into space and accurately predict their behavior. Science—whether biology, botany, physiology, astronomy, mathematics, or engineering—is controlled by unalterable and inviolable laws.

Yet in the moral world many people want to live without laws or absolutes. They try to determine their points of reference from their own minds. However, that is impossible. When we move from the physical to the spiritual realm, fixed laws still exist. We cannot exist without laws in the moral and spiritual dimensions of life any more than we can do so in the physical dimension. Our Creator built morality into life. Just as there are physical laws, so there are spiritual laws. Let me give you an example.

People have asked me whether I believe that AIDS is the judgment of God. My response is that AIDS is the judgment of God in the same sense that cirrhosis of the liver is the judgment of God or that emphysema is the judgment of God. If you drink alcohol, you're liable to get cirrhosis of the liver. If you smoke, you're liable to get emphysema or heart disease. And if you choose to violate God's standards for morality, you're likely to contract venereal disease—even AIDS. It is a law that the Bible describes in terms of sowing and reaping.

Prophecy

There is no way to explain the Bible's ability to predict the future unless we see God as its Author. For example, the Old Testament contains more than three hundred references to the Messiah of Israel that were precisely fulfilled by Jesus Christ (Christ is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word Messiah).

Peter Stoner, a scientist in the area of mathematical probabilities, said in his book *Science Speaks* that if we take just eight of the Old Testament prophecies Christ fulfilled, we find that the probability of their coming to pass is one in 10^{17} . He illustrates that staggering amount this way:

We take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly. . . . Blindfold a man and tell him he must pick up one silver dollar. . . . What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them come true in any one man. ([Chicago : Moody, 1963], 100-107)

And Jesus fulfilled hundreds more than just eight prophecies!

The Bible includes many other prophecies as well. For example, the Bible predicted that a man named Cyrus would be born, would rise to power in the Middle East, and would release the Jewish people from captivity ([Isaiah 44:28--45:7](#)). Approximately 150 years later, Cyrus the Great became king of Persia and released the Jews. No man could have known that would happen; only God could.

In Ezekiel 26 God says through the prophet that the Phoenician city of Tyre would be destroyed, specifying that a conqueror would come in and wipe out the city. He said that the city would be scraped clean and that the rubble left on the city's surface would be thrown into the ocean. The prophecy ended by saying that men would dry their fishnets there and that the city would never be rebuilt.

Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon laid siege to Tyre three years after the prophecy was given. When he broke down the gates, he found the city almost empty. The Phoenicians were navigators and colonizers of the ancient world; they had taken their boats and sailed to an island a half mile offshore. They had reestablished their city on the island during the years of siege. Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city on the mainland, but since he didn't have a navy, he was unable to do anything about the island city of Tyre. This left the prophecy partially unfulfilled.

It's also interesting to note that the earth maintains a perfect balance. If you've ever seen a basketball that's out of balance, you know that it rotates unevenly. You can imagine what would happen if the earth were like that. The earth is a perfect sphere, and it is perfectly balanced. The depths of the sea have to be balanced with the height of the mountains. The branch of science that studies that balance is called isostasy. In [Isaiah 40:12](#), centuries before science even conceived of this phenomenon, Isaiah said that God "has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and marked off the heavens by the span, and calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, and weighed the mountains in a balance, and the hills in a pair of scales."

English philosopher Herbert Spencer, who died in 1903, was famous for applying scientific discoveries to philosophy. He listed five knowable categories in the natural sciences: time, force, motion, space, and matter. However, [Genesis 1:1](#), the first verse in the Bible, says, "In the beginning [time] God [force] created [motion] the heavens [space] and the earth [matter]." God laid it all out in the very first verse of Scripture.

The Bible truly is the revelation of God to mankind. He wants us to know about Him and the world He created. Although the Bible does not contain scientific terminology, it is amazingly accurate whenever it happens to refer to scientific truth. But someone might say, "Wait a minute. The Old Testament says that the sun once stood still, and if that happened, the sun didn't really stand still; the earth stopped revolving." Yes, but that statement is based on the perception of someone on earth. When you got up this morning, you didn't look east and say, "What a lovely earth rotation!" From your perspective, you saw a sunrise. And because you permit yourself to do that, you must permit Scripture to do that as well.

Miracles

A third evidence for the authenticity of the Bible is its miracles. We would expect to read of those in a revelation from God Himself, who by definition is supernatural. Miracles are a supernatural alteration of the natural world--a great way to get man's attention.

The Bible includes supportive information to establish the credibility of the miracles it records. For example, Scripture says that after Jesus had risen from the dead more than five hundred people saw Him alive ([1 Corinthians 15:6](#)). That would be enough witnesses to convince any jury. The miraculous nature of the Bible demonstrates the involvement of God. But to believe the miracles, we must take the Bible at its word. So to further validate its authenticity we must take another step and consider its incredible ability to predict the future.

We can explain this principle in another illustration. Gravity is a fixed law. You may choose not to believe in gravity, but regardless of what you choose to believe, if you jump off a building you'll fall to the ground. You don't have an option. It's not a question of what you believe; it's a question of law. The law will go into effect when you put it to the test. That is true in any other area of physical law.

The same thing is true in the moral and spiritual dimension. To segment life into a physical dimension in which fixed laws cannot be violated and a moral or spiritual dimension in which laws can be violated is an impossible dichotomization (to divide or separate into two different parts, kinds, etc). The same God who controls the physical world by fixed laws controls the moral and spiritual world.

Where, then, do you find the laws of morality? How do you determine what is right and what is wrong? Has our Creator revealed such standards to mankind in a way we can understand?

The Bible claims to be the revelation of God to man. Although I have spent many years of my life studying the Bible, I wasn't always committed to it. That commitment developed when I came to grips with my life and future and wanted to know the source of truth. I discovered several compelling reasons for believing that the Bible is God's Word. Five basic areas, which go from the lesser to the greater, help prove its authenticity.

Authenticity of the Bible

Experience

First, the Bible is true because it gives us the experience it claims it will. For example, the Bible says God will forgive our sin ([1 John 1:9](#)). I believe that, and I can truly say that I have a sense of freedom from guilt. The Bible also says that "if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). That's what happened to me when I came to Jesus Christ. The Bible changes lives. Someone has said that a Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't. That's true because the Bible can put lives together. Millions of people all over the world are living proof that that is true. Maybe you know one or two of them. They've experienced the Bible's power.

That's an acceptable argument in one sense, but it's weak in another. If you base everything you believe on experience, you're going to run into trouble. Followers of Muhammad, Buddha, and Hare Krishna can point to various experiences as the basis for their beliefs, but that doesn't necessarily mean that their

beliefs are correct. So although experience can help validate the power and authority of the Bible, we will need more evidence.

Science

The Bible also presents a most plausible, objective understanding of the universe and the existence of life. It presents a God who creates. That makes more sense than believing that everything came out of nothing, which is essentially what the theory of evolution says. I have an easier time assuming that someone produced everything. And the Bible tells me who that someone is: God.

The study of creation helps explain how the earth's geology became the way it is. The Bible tells of a supernatural creation that took place in six days and of a catastrophic worldwide flood. These two events help explain many geological and other scientific questions, some of which we will soon explore.

You will find that the Bible is accurate when it intersects with modern scientific concepts. For example, [Isaiah 40:26](#) says it is God who creates the universe. He holds the stars together by His power and not one of them is ever missing. In this way the Bible suggests the first law of thermodynamics--that ultimately nothing is ever destroyed.

We read in [Ecclesiastes 1:10](#): "Is there anything of which one might say, 'See this, it is new?'" The answer immediately follows: "Already it has existed for ages which were before us." Ancient writers of the Bible, thousands of years before the laws of thermodynamics had been categorically stated, were affirming the conservation of mass and energy.

The second law of thermodynamics states that although mass and energy are always conserved, they nevertheless are breaking down and going from order to disorder, from cosmos to chaos, from system to non-system. The Bible, contrary to the theory of evolution, affirms that. As matter breaks down and energy dissipates, ultimately the world and universe as we know it will become dead. It will be unable to reproduce itself. Romans 8 says that all creation groans because of its curse, which is described at the beginning of the Bible (Genesis 3). That curse--and God's plan to reverse the curse--is reflected throughout biblical teaching.

The science of hydrology studies the cycle of water, which consists of three major phases: evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. Clouds move over the land and drop water through precipitation. The rain runs into creeks, the creeks run into streams, the streams run into the sea, and the evaporation process takes place all the way along the path. That same process is described in Scrip-

ture. Ecclesiastes 1 and Isaiah 55 present the entire water cycle: "All the rivers flow into the sea, yet the sea is not full. To the place where the rivers flow, there they flow again" ([Ecclesiastes 1:7](#)). "For . . . the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth" ([Isaiah 55:10](#)). Also, [Job 36:27-28](#) speaks of evaporation and condensation--centuries prior to any scientific discovery of the process: "He [God] draws up the drops of water, they distill rain from the mist, which the clouds pour down, they drip upon man abundantly."

In the 1500s, when Copernicus first presented the idea that the earth was in motion, people were astounded. They previously believed that the earth was a flat disc and that if you went through the Pillars of Hercules at the Rock of Gibraltar you'd fall off the edge. In the seventeenth century, men like Kepler and Galileo gave birth to modern astronomy. Prior to that, the universe was generally thought to contain only about one thousand stars, which was the number that had been counted.

However, in Genesis, the first book of the Bible, the number of the stars of heaven is equated with the number of grains of sand on the seashore. God told Abraham, "I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore" (22:17). [Jeremiah 33:22](#) says that the stars can't be counted. Again God is speaking: "As the host of heaven cannot be counted, and the sand of the sea cannot be measured, so I will multiply the descendants of David." Today several million stars have been cataloged, though hundreds of millions remain unlisted.

The oldest book in the Bible, the Book of Job, pre-dates Christ by about two thousand years. Yet [Job 26:7](#) says, "He hangs the earth on nothing." In the sacred books of other religions you may read that the earth is on the backs of elephants that produce earthquakes when they shake. The cosmogony of Greek mythology is at about the same level of sophistication. But the Bible is in a completely different class. It says, "He . . . hangs the earth on nothing"

Job also says that the earth is "turned like the clay to the seal" (38:14, KJV*). In those days, soft clay was used for writing and a seal was used for applying one's signature. One kind of seal was a hollow cylinder of hardened clay with a signature raised on it. A stick went through it so that it could be rolled like a rolling pin. The writer could, therefore, roll his signature across the soft clay and in that way sign his name. In saying the earth is turned like the clay to the seal, Job may have implied that it rotates on its axis. The Hebrew word translated "earth" (hug) refers to a sphere.