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YOU CAN TRUST THE BIBLE

Our society places a premium on uncertainty, it seems. People speak about “my truth” and “your truth,” “his truth,” and “her truth.” Not many anymore wish to speak about “the” truth (Jn. 8:32)! Is there such a thing as one body of truth anymore? People in our culture wish to make things vague and uncertain. We are told to choose the church of our choice and not “indoctrinate” or “proselytize” people for fear that they might make decisions that are not truly “free” decisions. They express concern that many are making decisions and doing things that have been forced upon them by society. I have found this line of thinking confusing. I say this because folks who say “we are free to choose our own path” often become irate with those of us who choose to walk a

path different from theirs! I have found that there are few as “intolerant” of other views as those who scream “tolerance!” How confusing! **Certainty Is Needed In Life.** Contrary to what the world says, I find it interesting that people actually crave structure and certainty. Children need boundaries in the home. They need to know the rules of the home, and they will often test mom and dad to see if they *really* mean what they said! Parents need to love their children enough to train them and give them the rules that will produce good (Eph. 6:1-4). Adults need to know the rules, also! For example, some plants and animals will kill you! We need to take heed and know what is around us. Regardless of what others think about it, there are animals and plants that

we need to avoid, and that “rule” may very well keep us alive! **Certainty Is Needed For Our Spiritual Life.** Most important of all is the fact that false doctrines can harm our souls! Peter warned us that false teachers bring “*damnable heresies*” and “*swift destruction*” to themselves and others (II Pet. 2:1-3). How can we avoid false teachings? How can we know there is such a thing as “false” teachings in a world that denies truth? Let us go to the Bible and see the reality of the situation. In Luke 1:1-4, the writer sets forth several statements that lets us know with certainty that Christ is real and His word is true. Please read Luke 1:1-4 and note the statements made that tell us there is such a thing as objective truth. “*Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are **most surely believed** among us, Even as they **delivered them unto us**, which from the beginning were **eyewitnesses**, and ministers of the word; It seemed good to me also, having had **perfect understanding** of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That*

*thou mightest **know the certainty** of those things, wherein thou hast been **instructed.***” (Lk. 1:1-4). In this passage alone, we see words used that let the reader (Theophilus and us) know that what was written in this account is the objective truth! What Luke wrote is something that can be trusted. Look back to the text and see that Luke wrote about the things “*most surely believed.*” (The LSB says the things “fulfilled”!) Luke notes that what he wrote was confirmed by “eyewitnesses” in addition to using his own “investigation” (LSB). Why did Luke go to so much trouble? It was so Theophilus (and we) could know “with certainty” that what has been taught about Christ is the truth! One can read Luke 1-24 and read only the truth about Christ, His teachings, His miracles, His example, His warnings, and His fulfillment of prophecies! This is the promise made at the beginning of the book (Lk. 1:1-4). In like manner, we can have this kind of confidence as we read the rest of the Bible (Ps. 119:151, 160; Jn. 17:17, 19:35)! In a world of uncertainty and confusion, it ought to give us comfort to know about a book that provides peace, stability, and

certainty (I Cor. 14:33)!

Certainty Can Be Found In The Bible.

David said long ago that he knew more than the ancients because he relied upon God's word (Ps. 119:98-100). It is God's word that will make men wise *"unto salvation"* (II Tim. 3:15). We can know things with *"certainty"* because God's word is truth (Jn. 17:17)!

• We can know that "God is" because of what the Bible reveals (Gen. 1:1). We can know that Jesus is our Savior because of statements in places like Matthew 1:21. We can know with certainty What God calls acceptable worship (Jn. 4:24; Acts 2:42, 20:7; I Cor. 16:1-2; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; I Pet. 2:5). What God calls a Scriptural marriage (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:4-6; Rom. 7:2-3). What God calls a Scriptural divorce and remarriage (Matt. 5:31-32, 19:9). What God calls a home (Gen. 2:18-25; Eph. 5:22-6:4; Col. 3:18-23). What God says we need to do to be saved (Acts 2:22, 36-38, 8:35-39, 16:30-34, 22:16). What God says is acceptable treatment of our fellow man (Matt. 7:12, 22:39). What God says will happen on Judgment day (Matt. 7:24-27, 25:31-46; I Thess. 4:13-17; II Thess. 1:6-9; Acts 17:30-31). What God

says about church discipline (II Thess. 3:6, 14-15; I Cor. 5).

What God says to the fallen-away Christian (Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19-20; Acts 8:22; I Jn. 1:9).

What God says about religious division (I Cor. 1:10-13; Phil. 1:27, 2:2; etc.). **Conclusion.**

These items listed above are but a few things to show that we can know God's truth with certainty. Yes, we can trust the Bible and rely on it to give us the truth every time we read! The world provides confusion, but not God (I Cor. 14:33). The world produces division, but not God (Eph. 4:4-6; I Cor. 1:10). The world provides nothing for us, while God gives us all! When the world tells us that everything is "relative" and there is no absolute truth, we need to ask whether or not that was an absolute statement!

Remember, *"the world is passing away, and also its lusts but the one who does the will of God abides forever"* (I Jn. 2:17, LSB)! ***"On Christ, the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand!"***

- Jarrod Jacobs



DIRECTIONS: Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.

1) Praying For Others Challenge

James 5:16 *"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."* Prayer can turn night into day, and can change the worst of circumstances into amazing blessings. There are so many areas where our prayers can make a difference. We can pray for one another. "Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God," Col. 4:12. We can pray for our enemies. "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," Matt. 5:44. We can pray for those we wish to share the gospel with. "Praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word," Col. 4:3. There are so many areas where prayer is the difference maker. Devote this month to praying diligently in these specific areas and watch God clear pathways to make progress. "I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, rivers in the desert," Is. 43:19.

2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

Titus 3:3-8

"For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men."