

Is the Bible You Use Reliable?

Intro:

1. The Bible claims to be inspired. Just what does that mean?
2. Can we be sure we have the right books in the Bible?
3. Can we be confident it has been transmitted to us properly?

Body:

- I. The Bible Claims to be inspired.
 - A. We would expect the God of all the universe to communicate His will — Heb. 1:1-2.
 - B. What is meant that the Bible is inspired? —
2 Pet. 1:21; 1 Cor. 2:12-13.
 - C. The Old Testament claims of inspiration —
2 Sam. 23:2; Jer. 1:9; Jer. 25:13.
 1. The people accepted Moses' record — Ex. 24:7.
 2. Joshua accepted Moses' record — Josh. 1:8.
 3. David accepted Moses' record — 1 Kgs. 2:1-3.
 4. Ezra accepted Moses' record — Neh. 8:1 & 8.
 5. Daniel recognized Jeremiah's writings — Dan. 9:2.
 6. Jesus recognized the entire O. T. — Lk. 24:44-45.
 - D. The New Testament claims of inspiration — Heb. 1:1-2.
 1. The apostles were given all truth —
Jn. 14:26; Jn 16:13; Eph. 2:20.
 - a. They imparted the gift of prophecy —
1 Cor. 12:10; Eph. 4:11.
 2. Writers recognized they were recording Scripture —
1 Cor. 14:37; 1 Th. 2:13; 2 Pet. 3:1-2.
 3. Were their writings accepted as Scripture? —
1 Th. 2:13; 2 Pet. 3:15-16.
 - a. Paul also recognized Luke's writings —
Lk. 10:7 & 1 Tim. 5:18.
- II. Are we sure we have the right books in the Bible?
 - A. We have already seen that the writings of the O.T. were accepted by their peers and by generations that followed.
 1. Why are these the books that make up the canon of

the O.T.

- a. Because they were inspired of God.
 - b. Because they were accepted by the people as authoritative and inspired of God.
 - c. Because they were collected and preserved by the people of God.
2. This view is back up by other evidence.
 3. What about the Apocryphal books?
 - a. They do not pass the tests of Canonicity.
- B. We have already seen that the writings of the New Testament were accepted by their peers.
 1. In addition.
 - a. There was the apostolic teaching — Acts 2:42.
 - b. There were authoritative traditions that were being taught — 2 Th. 2:15.
 - c. Paul's epistles were accepted as authoritative —
Col. 4:16; 1 Th. 5:27.
 2. Early uninspired writers support this view.
 3. Why are they accepted in the canon of the N. T.
 - a. Because they were inspired of God.
 - b. Because they were accepted by the people as authoritative and inspired of God.
 - c. Because they were collected and preserved by the people of God.
 - d. Not because they were approved by any council.
 4. What about pseudepigraphs, spurious writings some want to include?
 - a. They do not pass the tests of Canonicity.

Conc:

1. Next week we will consider the question:
 - a. Can we be confident God's word has been transmitted to us properly?