

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. In other words, the Bible claims that every word is exactly as God intended for us to have.
 1. Those who wrote knew they were speaking God's word.
 2. Their peers among God's people and those who lived for generations afterward accepted their writings as being from God.
- II. Are we sure we have the right books in the Bible?
 - A. God's people preserved the writings they accepted as Sacred Scripture.
 - B. Those deemed unacceptable were not preserved as Sacred.
 - C. Thus, it was not a matter of passing the test of some counsel.
- III. Are we sure God's word has been transmitted to us properly?
 - A. The O.T. books were meticulously copied.
 1. How can we be sure there are not major copying errors?
 - a. God's people held their Scriptures in high esteem.
 - b. The Masoritic Text.
 2. The Dead Sea Scrolls confirm the O.T. text.
 3. Secondary witnesses confirm the O.T. text.
 - B. The New Testament:
 1. There are over 5000 manuscripts of the Greek N.T.
 2. There are translations that date as early as 150 A.D.
 3. There are writings of church fathers.
 4. We can be sure that the text is 99.5% accurate.
 5. God has preserved His word — 1 Pet. 1:25.
 - C. But we do not read Greek text Bibles!
 1. Jesus considered the Septuagint version as Scripture.
 - D. One should keep in mind that no translation is perfect.