



HERITAGE

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Missional Community Discussion Week of January 15th

Opening thought:

How can I be sure God's Word is trustworthy? This is a question we often face and rightfully so. During this discussion we will look at seven reasons as to why God's Word can be trusted. We can read and study God's Word, but there is transforming power when we hold on to God's Word and apply it to our life. Do we believe in God's Word so much that we look to it as our final authority in our life?

"The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the Word of God stands forever." Isaiah 40:8 NLT

Questions to discuss:

1. Have you ever been questioned about the validity or trustworthiness of God's Word? How did you respond?
2. We talked about 7 ways we can know God's word is trustworthy. Which one of those points seemed to be most helpful to you? (historical, scientific, prophetically, unified theme, trusted by Jesus, survived attacks, transforming power) Why?
3. Have you ever considered your own personal testimony as "Proof" to the accuracy and trustworthiness of God's Word? How has your life changed since trusting Christ? Do others see evidence of your life change?
4. What biblical truth(s) do you feel have impacted your life the most? In what way?

Looking ahead:

Take time to thank God for His Word and continue to commit to make the Bible the final authority in your life even in those times it doesn't make sense or when it doesn't feel good. Ask God for strength to remain faithful to read, study and apply God's Word to every area of your life.

Challenge:

Take the challenge to read through the new testament during 2017. This week we are reading Matthew chapters 11-15. Look for the big idea in each chapter that you read. Look for one thing that you feel stands out and speaks to you, and write it out in a journal to make note of what God is saying to you. Take God's Word to heart, and meditate on it as you seek to apply it to your life! God's Word is transforming. Find a person who will hold you accountable and encourage you in your bible reading as well as a person who you can encourage and hold accountable.

Read through the New Testament in 2017 - This week's reading - Matthew chapters 11-15



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SERMON SERIES: The Best Year Ever

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful (ōphelimos- profitable or helpful) to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT

God and His _____ can be trusted

Matthew 24:35 NLT

_____ : Greek "Apologia" means to make a defense.

1 Peter 3:15-16a

Josh McDowell - www.josh.org - "Evidence That Demands A Verdict"

7 Reasons Why God's Word Can Be Trusted:

1. It is _____ accurate

"For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does." Psalm 33:4

Three Tests:

- a) _____ Accounts/ _____ Evidence test
 - b) _____ and copied with Great care/ _____ test
 - c) Archeological _____ - External Evidence test
- "Truth shall spring out of the earth." Psalm 85:11

"It may be stated categorically that no archeological discovery has ever controverted a single biblical reference. Scores of archeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible." -**Nelson Glueck, Jewish Archeologist**

"I began with a mind unfavorable to it...but more recently I found myself brought into contact with the Book of Acts as an authority for the topography, antiquities, and society of Asia Minor. It was gradually borne upon me that in various details the narrative showed marvelous truth. Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy...this author should be placed along with the very greatest historians" -**Sir William Ramsay**

2. The Bible is _____ accurate

Let every created thing give praise to the Lord, for he issued his command, and they came into being. He set them in place forever and ever, His decree will never be revoked. Psalms 148:5-6

It was believed early on in History that:

- The _____ is flat

God sits above the circle (sphere) of the earth earth. Isaiah 40:22

- The earth has to be held up (Atlas, back of elephant, 5 pillars)

"God stretches the northern sky over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing" Job 26:7

- The _____ could be counted

"The stars cannot be counted." Jeremiah 33:22

3. God's Word is _____ accurate

"You must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God." 2 Peter 1:20-21

"But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures." Matthew 26:56

"Then the angel said to me, "Everything you have heard and seen is trustworthy and true. The Lord God, who inspires his prophets, has sent his angel to tell his servants what will happen soon." Revelation 22:6

4. The Bible has a unified _____

Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:27

5. It is _____ by Jesus

"I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved" Matthew 5:18

6. It has _____ all attacks

As the Scriptures say, "People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. But the word of the Lord remains forever." And that word is the Good News that was preached to you" 1 Peter 1:24-25

7. It has _____ power

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32