

What Every Christian Should Know



Core Beliefs to Help You
Stand Strong in a Shifting World

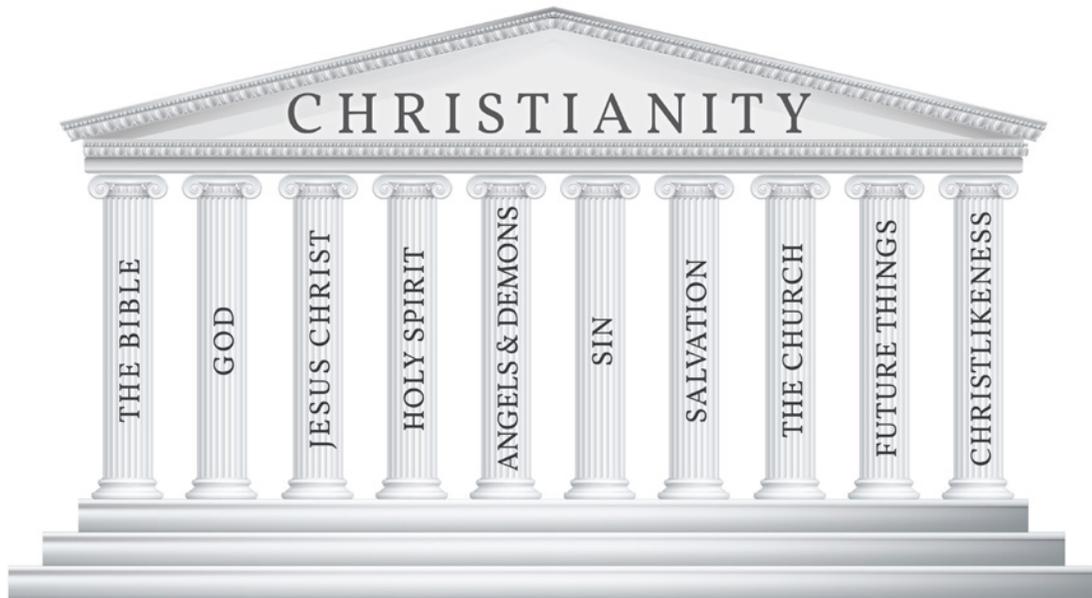
DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS
JUNE 12, 2022

“What Every Christian Should Know About The Bible”

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

Introduction: As we begin our new series on the basic beliefs of historic Christianity, we are going to start with the most foundational doctrine of all -- the inspiration of the Bible.

10 PILLARS OF HISTORIC CHRISTIANITY



I. Why We Can Trust The Bible

A. The Bible Is Inspired (2 Timothy 3:16)

2 Peter 1:21 “For no prophecy [of Scripture] was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”



Core Beliefs to Help You
Stand Strong in a Shifting World

“What Every Christian Should Know About The Bible” 2 TIMOTHY 3:16

B. The Bible Is Unified (John 5:39)

John 5:39 “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me.”

C. The Bible Is Inerrant (Hebrews 3:7)

Hebrews 3:7 “Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, ‘TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE.’”

Who Else Believed in the Bible’s Inerrancy?

Belief in the inerrancy of Scripture continued after the New Testament was written.

- Irenaeus, speaking for the ancient Greek church, wrote, “The Scriptures are indeed perfect since they were spoken by the Word of God and His Spirit.”
- Augustine, representing the Western church, said, “The canonical writings are free from error.”
- Martin Luther, the leader of the Protestant Reformation, declared, “Holy Scriptures cannot err.”
- John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, concluded, “If there be one falsehood in that book, it did not come from the God of truth.”

The testimony of these church leaders provides compelling evidence that the inerrancy of Scripture was widely believed during early church history.

II. Evidence For The Trustworthiness Of The Bible

A. The Dates of the New Testament Books

B. The Early Acceptance of the Message

C. Fulfilled Prophecies



Core Beliefs to Help You
Stand Strong in a Shifting World

“What Every Christian Should Know About The Bible” 2 TIMOTHY 3:16

What Are the Odds?

The mathematical probability that one man in history could fulfill all sixty-one biblical prophecies of the Messiah is so astronomical it can't be computed. So one mathematician cut the number to just eight prophecies. He calculated the probability of one man in history fulfilling eight specific prophecies as 1 in 10^{17} . That's a 1 followed by 17 zeros. Imagine covering the State of Texas in silver dollars two feet deep. On one of those silver dollars, you draw an X. You blindfold a person and let her roam the entire Lone Star State until she reaches down and picks up one silver dollar. The odds that she would choose the one with the X on it is roughly 1 in 10^{17} —the same odds of one man fulfilling just eight Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah. Jesus's fulfilling all *sixty-one* prophecies cannot be chalked up to coincidence—or anything other than nearly irrefutable evidence of the Bible's truthfulness.

D. **Archaeological Discoveries**

III. **Why We Can Trust The Bible We Have Today**

A. **The Accuracy of the Copies**

B. **The High Standard for Inclusion**

C. **The Answer to “Contradictions” in the Bible**

Critics argue that contradictions in the Bible make it less than reliable. But does the Bible really contain contradictions? A closer look at a few so-called contradictions tells a different story.

- In 1 Corinthians 10:8, Paul described a plague in the Old Testament that killed 23,000 Israelites. Yet the account by Moses in Numbers 25:9 says 24,000 died. Contradiction? Not necessarily. Paul said 23,000 Israelites “fell in one day,” while Moses said the total number of victims was 24,000. Perhaps not everyone who contracted the plague died within twenty-four hours.
- In his account of Jesus's resurrection, Matthew said there was an angel at the tomb. In John's account, there were two angels. Contradiction? Not necessarily. Perhaps Matthew decided to focus on the one angel who spoke, while John was more interested in the total number of angels Mary witnessed when she arrived at the tomb.
- Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6 record two versions of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount. Contradiction? Not necessarily. It could be that Jesus preached the same message in two locations at two different times. But a more probable explanation is that some Gospel accounts offer accurate paraphrases of what Jesus said rather than direct quotes. So both accounts capture the essence of Jesus's message.



Core Beliefs to Help You
Stand Strong in a Shifting World

“What Every Christian Should Know About The Bible” 2 TIMOTHY 3:16

IV. What The Bible Means For Us Today

A. The Bible Frees Us (Hebrews 4:12)

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

B. The Bible Guides Us (Psalm 32:8; 119:105)

Psalm 32:8 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.”

Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

C. The Bible Inspires Us (Jeremiah 1:12)

Jeremiah 1:12 “Then the LORD said to me, ‘You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it.’”

Conclusion