

Should We Believe The Bible?



Developed by Bro. Mark Little, Minister

Correspondence Course # 18

**Should We Believe
The Bible?**

1	If I Didn't Believe The Bible I would Question It's Survival.
2	The Survival of The Bible
3	If I didn't Believe The Bible I would be Amazed At Fulfilled Prophecies.
4	If I Didn't Believe in the Bible I Would Be Surprised At It's Popularity.
5	Concerning Sound Doctrine
6	Sound Doctrine Leads to Salvation

Should We Believe The Bible?

Course # 18

Lessons 1- 6

Lesson # 1

IF I DIDN'T BELIEVE THE BIBLE I WOULD
QUESTION ITS SURVIVAL

(THE WRITING OF THE BIBLE)

*Written over a period of about 1500 years

*Written by more than 40 authors, from
every walk of life.

Moses – A political leader trained in Egypt

Peter - A fisherman

Amos – A herdsman

Joshua – A military leader

Nehemiah – A cupbearer

Daniel – A prime minister

Luke – A doctor

(THE TRANSCRIPTION OF THE BIBLE)

(Clay tablets)

(animal skins)

(papyrus)

(by hand)

(The Printing Press)

Solomon – A king

Matthew – A tax collector

Paul – A Rabbi (teacher of the Law)

*Written from 3 different continents

Asia,

Africa,

Europe

*Written in 3 languages

Hebrew

Aramaic

Greek

Should We Believe The Bible?

Lesson # 2

(THE SURVIVAL OF THE BIBLE)

In 303 A.D. Diocletian, the emperor of Rome ordered that all copies were to be destroyed.

In 1199 A.D. Pope Innocent the First ordered that all Bibles were to be burned.

In 1234 A.D. Pope Gregory IX again ordered that everyone surrender their Bibles for burning.

In Spain Ferdinand and Isabella ordered that all Bibles to be turned in and destroyed.

***If I didn't believe the Bible I would wonder why is this book still around. It's been denied, burned ridiculed, yet the Bible survives the attack of man, and the test of time.**

A. William Ramsey (later 1800's-1900's) * He grew up in a scholarly world that didn't think the Bible was accurate. He even said that the book of Acts wasn't written by Luke, but by some 2nd century person. * He decided that he would go to the lands that the book of Acts mentions and start digging things up because he was going to prove once and for all that the book of Acts wasn't accurate. * After he did this he wrote a book, but it was a bit different. He admitted that he had been wrong, not only about the book of Acts but the whole Bible. Listen to what he says "I set out to look for truth on the border land where Greece and Asia meet, and found it here *the book of Acts). You may press the words of Luke to a degree beyond any other historians and they stand the keenness scrutiny and they stand the hardest treatment, provided always that the critics know the subject and do not go beyond the limits of science and justice

B. Archeologist William Albright * " The excessive skepticism shown toward the Bible by important historical schools of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, certain phases of which appear periodically, has been progressively discredited. discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history."

C. Jewish archeologist Nelson Gluek said: "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever contradicted the Biblical reference. Scores of archaeologist finds have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible."

D.Keith Schoville who writes Christian literature said: "It is important to realize that archaeology excavations have produced ample evidence to prove unequivocally that the Bible has been proven true on the basis of evidence retrieved through archaeological research."

E. Time Magazine- how true is the Bible? "The Bible is often surprisingly accurate on historical particulars, more so that the earlier generations of scholars have even suspected.....after more than two generations of facing the heaviest scientific puns that could be brought to bear, the Bible has survived and perhaps is even better because of the siege. Even on the critics own terms historical facts the scriptures seem more accurate now than they did when the rationalist began the attack.

F. US News and World Report 1981 “ A wave of archeological discoveries are altering old ideas about the roots of Christianity and Judaism and affirming that the Bible is more historically accurate than many scholars had thought.”

NOTE! If I didn't believe the Bible I would wonder how come every time they started digging it verifies the Bible and never disproves it.

Should We Believe The Bible?

Lesson # 3

***IF I DIDN'T BELIEVE THE BIBLE I WOULD BE AMAZED AT FULFILLED PROPHECY**

Prophecies concerning Jesus – 332 in the OT

Peter Stoners book Science Speaks in 1958. He looked at the probability that just 8 of those prophecies could have been fulfilled by 1 man out of all the men that ever lived. He did a study on how coincidentally He could have fulfilled 8 of the 332. (documented by scientific affiliation)

The odds are: 1 in 10 to the 17th power. 6 zeros=million, 7 zeros=billion, 8 zeros=trillion, 9 zeros=quadrillion. This is three more sets past that.

Texas illustration- Cover the whole state in silver dollars 2'deep. You mark one and put it somewhere. You then blindfold a person and say start walking and whenever you want to stop pick up one, and that be the one. That's the odds that Jesus randomly fulfilled 8 prophecies.

***IF I DIDN'T BELIEVE THE BIBLE I WOULD BE AMAZED AT ITS RELIABILITY*HISTORICAL ACCURACY**

People and Places. In the book of Acts there are:32 countries mentioned 54 cities

9 Mediterranean islands referred to by name

95 persons mentioned by name

***THE RELIABILITY AND HISTORICAL ACCURACY OF THE BIBLE**

External evidence

1. Julius Africanus “Thallus, in the third book of his histories, explains away this darkness as an eclipse of the sun-unreasonable as it seems to me. (unreasonable since a solar eclipse cannot take place at the time of a full moon. It was at this season of the Pascal full moon(Passover) when Christ died.”

2. Josephus (When Herod was defeated in a war he said) “Some of the Jews were of the opinion that God had suffered Herod's whole army to be destroyed as a just punishment on him for the death of John called the Baptist. Herod had killed John who was a just man and had called upon the Jews to be baptized and to practice virtue.”

3. Josephus in his book Jewish Antiquities, book 18, chapter 3, section 3 “Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man- if it is doer of wonderful lawful to call Him a man. For He was a works, a teacher of such men as received the truth with pleasure. He drew over to Him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. **He was the Christ** and when Pilot at the suggestion of the principle men among us had condemned Him to the cross, those who loved Him at the first did not forsake Him, for He appeared to them alive the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand

other wonderful things concerning Him. And the tribe of Christians so named for Him still exist at this day.”

If I didn't believe the Bible I would be overwhelmed by the reliability of it! I would wonder why so many people put their trust in it and why it is so reliable.

Should We Believe The Bible

Lesson # 4

IF I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN THE BIBLE I WOULD BE SURPRISED AT ITS POPULARITY

A Why has it been so popular for so long?

Is there any other book in daily use by millions of people around the world that parts of it were written over 3,000 years ago, yet which still speaks to us today? There are other writings as old as this, but they are all in museums, and have no relevance to the world today.

Why is it that men place their hand on this book when they're sworn into office?

The Bible tops the best seller lists every year. World sales of the Bible are more than 100 million every year.

It's been translated into hundreds of different languages and dialects all over the world. There are about 6,800 different languages and the Bible has been translated into around 3,000 of them.

If the Bible isn't the word of God why haven't we with all of our intelligence and technology written a book greater?

Why is the Bible used so much for comfort and strength, for weddings and funerals?

If I didn't believe in the Bible I would wonder why it is so popular and why do people thirst for it?

Is the Bible factually accurate?

YES

Does the Bible turn out to be right 100% of the time?

YES, ALWAYS!

There's not a book in history like? The Bible is without a doubt the

WORD OF GOD

If the Bible is indeed the word of God then we have some truth today and a standard to live by. Since the Bible is God's word what am I going to do about it? If the Bible condemns me and my life then **I'm condemned**. If the Bible affirms me and my life then **I'm affirmed**. What I need to do is make sure my life does not contradict what the Bible says.

Should We Believe The Bible

Lesson # 5

Let's Now Study What The Bible Teaches On Sound Doctrine.

What is meant by "Sound Doctrine"?

The word "sound" conveys the idea of something healthy (1 Tim 1:8-11)

2Ti 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

2Ti 1:11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

The word "doctrine" comes from the word "dedicay" which means teaching or instruction (Acts 2:41)

Act 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Sound Doctrine = Healthy Teachings. {2 Tim 4:2} (Titus 2:1)

2Ti 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Tit 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

What Does Sound Doctrine Include?

All the teachings of Jesus Christ {1 Tim 1:5-11}

1Ti 1:5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

1Ti 1:6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

1Ti 1:7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

1Ti 1:8 But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully;

1Ti 1:9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

1Ti 1:10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

1Ti 1:11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

{2 Tim 1:13}

2Ti 1:13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

All scripture {2 Tim 3:16}

2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Should We Believe The Bible

Lesson # 6

Sound Doctrine Leads to Salvation

Jesus makes it clear we need to understand how to be saved.

JESUS MAKES CLEAR WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO BE SAVED

Being “religious” does not = Salvation (Mt 7:21-22)

(v.21) Just because I call out his name doesn't mean I'm saved

Mat 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

(v.22) He's describing people who are religious but are not saved

Mat 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

AM I SAVED ON GOD'S TERMS?

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

ARE YOU SAVED?

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED? ARE YOU SAVED?

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Steps to Redemption and Reconciliation



Baptize

Gal. 3:26,27; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38

Confess

Romans 10:9-10

Repent

Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 17:30

Believe

John 3:16; 8:24; Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:10

ARE YOU SAVED?

What the Bible teaches us to do to be saved Additional Scriptures.

BELIEVE:

John 8:24 Joh 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

Mark 16:6

Mar 16:6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

REPENT:

Acts 17:30

Act 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent

Acts 2:38

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

CONFESS:

Matt 10:32

Mat 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Romans 10:9-10

Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Rom 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

BAPTIZED

Mark 16:16

Mar 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Acts 2:38

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

THE CHURCH THAT CHRIST BUILT

Matt 16:18

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

ONE CHURCH

Eph 4:4-6

Eph 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Eph 1:22

Eph 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

AM I SAVED ON GOD'S TERMS?

Written by Bro. Mark Little

Answer Sheet
 Course # 18
 42 Questions

Should We Believe The Bible??? Now What ??

Les#	Q#	Question	Answers
1	1	How long has it taken the Bible to be written?	
1	2	At least how many authors were responsible for writing the Bible?	
1	3	In how many continents were these writers from?	
1	4	Can you name the (3) different languages that the Bible was written in? a) b) c)	
1	5	The means by which these men use to transcribe the Bible were: Clay Tablets, _____, Papyrus, _____, & Printing Press.	
2	1	How many incidences did the lesson give for ordering the Bible to be destroyed?	
	2	William Ramsey said, "I set out to look for truth on the border land where Greece and Asia meet and found it here *the book of _____"	
2	3	Archeologist William Albright said "discovery after discovery has established the _____ of innumerable details?."	
2	4	Nelson Gluek said : "Scores of archaeologist finds have been made which _____ in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible".	
2	5	Keith Schoville said "The Bible has been proven true on the basis of _____"	

		retrieved through archaeological research.	
2	6	Time Magazine writes: "The Bible is oven surprisingly accurate on historical particulars, more so that the earlier generations of _____ have even suspected...."	
3	1	1Behold, I will send my _____, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.	
3	2	Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a _____: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.	
3	3	Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his _____.	
3	4	In the book of Acts, there are _____ countries mentioned and _____ now many cities? Note also there are 9 islands and 95 people mentioned by name.	
3	5	When Christ was condemned to the cross, those who _____ Him the first did not forsake Him, for He appeared to them alive the third day.	
3	6	And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and _____ held him by the feet, and him.	
4	1	There are no books written over 3,000 years ago that still to _____ us today.	

4	2	The _____ tops the best seller list every year.	
4	3	The Bible has been translated into about _____ different districts languages.	
4	4	The Bible is used for comfort and _____, for _____, and funerals.	
4	5	Does the Bible turn out to be 100% right all the time? Yes No	
		God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.	
5	1	What does the word SOUND mean?	
5	2	Who saves us?	
5	3	What did CHrist bring life and light to through the gospel?	
5	4	What three things did Paul consider himself to be to the Gentiles?	
5	5	How long did the crowd on the day of penecost wait to be baptized after they heard the word?	
5	6	What type of things are we to speak of?	
5	7	What type of words did Paul preach?	
5	8	Where did our scriptures come from?	
6	1	If we are very religious does this mean we are saved?	
6	2	Will people get to heaven that think they have done the right thing?	
6	3	I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye _____ not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.	
6	4	And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to _____.	
6	5	Whosoever therefore shall confess me before	

		men, him will I _____ also before my Father which is in heaven.	
6	6	He that believeth and is _____ shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.	
6	7	And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build _____; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.	
6	8	There is one body, and _____ Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;	
6	9	One Lord, _____ faith, _____ baptism,	
6	10	_____ God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.	
6	11	And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the _____,	

Course # 18

Answer/Research Sheet

Should We Believe The Bible??? Now What ??

Les#	Q#	Question	Ans	Ref	Scripture
1	1	How long has it taken the Bible to be written?	1500+		
1	2	At least how many authors were responsible for writing the Bible?	40		
1	3	In how many continents were these writers from?	3		
1	4	Can you name the (3) different languages that the Bible was written in? a) b) c)	Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek		
1	5	The means by which these men use to transcribe the Bible were: Clay Tablets, _____, Papyrus, _____, & Printing Press.	Animal skins & by hand		
2	1	How many incidences did the lesson give for ordering the Bible to be destroyed?	4		
	2	William Ramsey said, “I set out to look for truth on the border land where Greece and Asia meet and found it here *the book of _____	Acts		
2	3	Archeologist William Albright said “discovery after discovery has established the _____ of innumerable details?.	accuracy		
2	4	Nelson Gluek said :”Scores of archaeologist finds have been made	confirm		

		which _____ in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible”.			
2	5	Keith Schoville said ”The Bible has been proven true on the basis of_____ retrieved through archaeological research.	evidence		
2	6	Time Magazine writes: “The Bible is oven surprisingly accurate on historical particulars, more so that the earlier generations of_____ have even suspected....	scholars		
3	1	1Behold, I will send my_____, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.	messenger	Mal 3:1	
3	2	Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a_____: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.	shepherd	Isa 40 40:11 Isa :10	Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young
3	3	Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his_____.	kingdom	Mat 16:28	Note! Please realize that the Kingdom refers to the Church

3	4	In the book of Acts, there are _____ countries mentioned and _____ now many cities? Note also there are 9 islands and 95 people mentioned by name.	32; 54		See Booklet
3	5	When Christ was condemned to the cross, those who _____ Him the first did not forsake Him, for He appeared to them alive the third day.	loved		
3	6	And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail . And they came and _____ held him by the feet, and him.	worshipped	Mat 28:9	And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail . And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.
4	1	There are no books written over 3,000 years ago that still to _____ us today.	speak		
4	2	The _____ tops the best seller list every year.	Bible		
4	3	The Bible has been translated into about _____ different districts languages.	3,000		
4	4	The Bible is used for comfort and _____, for _____, and funerals.	comfort, weddings		
4	5	Does the Bible turn out to be 100% right all the time? Yes No	Yes		
		God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.	NOTE	2Sa 22:33	NOTE
5	1	What does the word SOUND mean?	healthy	%Dictionary	
5	2	Who saves us?	Christ	2Tim 1:9	2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved

					us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,
5	3	What did CHrist bring life and light to through the gospel?	life & immortality	2Tim 1:10	2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:
5	4	What three things did Paul consider himself to be to the Gentiles?	preacher, apostle, teacher	2Ti 1:11	2Ti 1:11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.
5	5	How long did the crowd on the day of penecost wait to be baptized after they heard the word?	Same Day	Act 2:41	Act 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.
5	6	What type of things are we to speak of?	things that will become sound doctrine	Tit 2:1	Tit 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:
5	7	What type of words did Paul preach?	Sound	2Ti 1:13	2Ti 1:13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.
5	8	Where did our scriptures come from?	God	All scripture is given by	2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction

					in righteousness:
6	1	If we are very religious does this mean we are saved?	NO	Mat 7:21-22	Just because I call out his name doesn't mean I'm saved Mat 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
6	2	Will people get to heaven that think they have done the right thing?	No	Mat 7:22	Mat 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
6	3	I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye _____ not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.	Believe	Joh 8:24	I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.
6	4	And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to _____.	Repent	Act 17:30	And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent
6	5	Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I _____ also before my Father which is in heaven.	Confess	Mat 10:32	Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.
6	6	He that believeth and is _____ shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.	Baptized	Mar 16:16	He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
6	7	And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build	My Church	Mat 16:18	And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and

		_____ ; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.			upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
6	8	There is one body, and _____ Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;	ONE	Eph 4:4	There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;
6	9	One Lord, _____ faith, _____ baptism,	ONE	Eph 4:5	One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
6	10	_____ God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.	ONE	Eph 4:6	One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
6	11	And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the _____,	Church	Eph 1:22	And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,