

1. We have covered a lot of information concerning the Bible that we hold in our hands today.
2. And we have only touched the surface of the complexity and seriousness of the canonization and translation process.
3. Having and understanding the knowledge surrounding the history of the book that is at the very center of Christianity is important - but - it must go beyond that.
4. We will only come to know the Bible through intentional and devoted study.
(2 Timothy 2:15, 4:13; 2 Peter 3:14-18; Acts 17:1-4)
5. It is also extremely rare for a holy book to call for careful, rational examination of its own teachings to see if they are consistent with revealed truth.
6. The Bible is about God and what He has done, is doing, and will do in the world and for all eternity. It is from God to us.
7. But - if the Bible is nothing more than a book of rules - it makes little to no sense to study its contents over and over.
8. The Bible serves as a compass - directing us to the right path on our daily journey. It will guide us toward a relationship with God and His kingdom, and will reveal when we stray.
9. There is a statement that is often made concerning the Bible - "the Bible is the revealed Word of God" or the "Bible is the Word of God."
10. Several claims or statements come from those words:
 - A. There is an external world that can be known.
 - B. Truth about this world can be discovered.
 - C. The Bible describes this world objectively - as it is for everyone.
 - D. The Bible makes claims that opens itself up for scrutiny and examination for truth.
11. There is growing confusion over what people mean when they say the Bible is the Word of God.
12. It is important for believers to be equipped to understand and defend the Bible's "true truth" and not just our feelings about it.
13. Some claim that the Bible "contains" God's Word - which is very different from "it is" the Word of God. This would imply that it also contains other things as well.
14. Next question - "Who then would determine which parts of the Bible contain God's Word and which do not?"
15. The following are some reasons to have absolute confidence in the Bible that you hold in your hand:

- A. The Bible is rooted in history and has been accurately transmitted.
(The more historical evidence that is uncovered - the more confirmation we have of its accuracy.)
- B. The Bible is inspired by God. The Holy Spirit supernaturally moved and superintended the prophetic and apostolic recipients of revelation in the entire process of writing their individual books. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- C. The Bible is inerrant (without error in its original writings).

16. Luke 1:1-4.

17. Luke's testimony was not based on wishes or strong feelings but on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and investigation of the events surrounding the life of Christ.

18. God is a God of truth - whose word is truth. (John 17:17)

19. The Holy Spirit is the "Spirit of Truth" and will teach us true things. (John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13)

20. God's truth must be learned (Acts 17:11), meditated upon (Psalm 119), and defended (Jude v.3).