

Prepared: Why I Believe in the Bible

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – February 23, 2020

2 Peter 1:16-21, 2:1-3

16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. 19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.

Criteria for New Testament Cannon:

1. It had to be **APOSTOLIC**

2 Peter 1:16

We did not follow cleverly invented stories ...but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

2. It had to be **AUTHENTIC**

– In 1st century people were still alive that would recognize lies.

3. It had to be **DIVINELY INSPIRED**

John 16:13

[Jesus said] "... when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth."

2 Timothy 3:15-17

... the holy Scriptures, ... are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4. It had to be **CONSISTENT**

Matthew 5:17

[Jesus said] "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

Luke 24:44

[Jesus] said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Why should we believe in the authenticity of God's Word?

1. The gospels are rooted in multiple eyewitness testimony.
2. The gospels were written too close to the actual events to be untrue.
3. The NT contains embarrassing and hard to explain material that the authors would have deleted if they weren't true.
4. Science, archaeology and ancient historical writings tend to corroborate the Bible.
5. All the Disciples (except John) and most of the NT authors were martyred for their beliefs. Would they have died for a lie?
6. It CHANGED MY LIFE !!