

Defending Your Faith
Reasons Why the Christian Faith is Reasonable
Lee Delbridge
Lesson Three –The Bible

Introduction

In our first lesson we talked about the command in I Peter 3:15 that a Christian should be ready to make a defense (give an answer) for his hope (faith).

Possible Positions to Take

- A. The Bible Is God's Word.
- B. The Bible Is Not God's Word.
- C. Part Of The Bible Is God's Word and Part of It Is Not. (Joke: Some people say the Bible is inspired in spots and they are inspired to tell you which spots are which.)

We Believe the Bible Is God's Word. Here's Why:

I. ITS CLAIMS

- 1. It Claims To Be From God Over 2,600 Times.
- 2. II Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture Is Inspired..."
- 3. II Peter 1:21 "Men Moved By The Holy Spirit Spoke..."
- 4. Deuteronomy 4:2 Moses claims what he commanded was the commandments of God
- 5. Jeremiah 28:12 "The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah..."
- 6. Ezekiel 1:3 "The word of the Lord came expressly to Ezekiel the Priest..."
- 7. I Thessalonians 2:13 Paul thought his words were the words of God
- 8. Either These Claims Are True or They are False.
 - (1) Some people want to say that the Bible is a good book, but not the Word of God. That is a "foolish" position to take. If it is a good book, it would not lie about itself over 2000 times.
 - (2) Thousands of people, over hundreds of years, have believed that the Bible is God's Word. That is not direct evidence that it is God's word, but it is good supporting evidence. (It is hard to fool that many people over that long period of time.)

II. ITS UNITY

- 1. Written Over a Period of 1,500 Years, by About 40 Men, from Six Different Countries, in Three Languages
 - (1) Think about getting 10 people living at the same time to write about the same subject and see how much disagreement there is between them
- 2. Yet the 66 Books Together Make ONE BOOK
 - (1) Not One Contradiction Has Ever Been Proven
 - (2) There are some difficult passages, but some very reasonable possible explanations have been given by some very intelligent people
- 3. ILLUSTRATION: A Band. One Mastermind (the Director). If you have ever been to a concert when they are tuning up and getting ready, listen to how it sounds. It sounds terrible because everyone is "doing their own thing". Then, when the conductor takes control, everything is beautiful.

III. ITS FULFILLED PROPHECIES

1. Bible Prophecy is History Written In Advance
2. Example: Jesus ' Virgin Birth - Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38
3. Example: Jesus ' Birthplace - Micah 5:2 & Luke 2:1f (Where will your great, great, great grandson be born?)
4. Example: Jesus ' Resurrection – Psalms 16:10; Matthew 16:21; Matthew 26:32; Matthew 28:1-6
5. Over 300 Prophecies Were Fulfilled By Jesus Himself
 - (1) The Probability of all 300 prophecies being fulfilled by one person is Outrageously unlikely
 - (2) Probability: Flip a coin –the odds are 1 in 2 it will be heads
Flip 2 coins –the odds of both being heads are 1 in 4
Flip 3 coins –the odds of all three being heads are...

IV. ITS LASTABILITY

1. Mark 13:31 “..My Words Will Not Pass Away”
2. Isaiah 40:8 “..The Word of Our God Stands Forever.”
3. ILLUSTRATION: Voltaire (1694-1778) Said That in 100 Years from That Time There Would Not Be A Bible Left.

V. ITS POWER TO CHANGE LIVES

1. Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God Is Living...”
2. James 1:21 “Word...Able to Save Your Souls.”
3. Psalms 119:11 “..That I May Not Sin...”
4. It Has Changed Prostitutes Into Sunday School Teachers and Drunks into Preachers of The Gospel!
5. ILLUSTRATION: An Englishman Touring the South Sea Islands saw a converted Cannibal reading the Bible. The Englishman said to the former cannibal: “That Book Is Out of Date in Our Country.” The Converted Cannibal Said, “It Is a Good Thing For You Sir, That It Is Not Out of Date in This Country.”

Conclusion

The Bible is the Word of God. We have covered the evidence in this lesson.