

## VBS Day 1 – The Bible, God’s Book

### Welcome!

- VBS 2015 is finally here!!!
- This year's theme is "A Backyard Adventure: Exploring God's Word"
- Explore we must! For God's Word is like the ocean
  - Very accessible but it's depths go on and on
- Tonight we're going to talk about 2 aspects of God's word
  - The Bible's authenticity
  - The Bible's relevancy (to my life)
- First, let's look at some things in history that tried to destroy the written Word

### Difficult History of the Bible

1. Endured Roman persecution (A.D. 70-100)
  - Bodies of Christians used as torches
  - Anyone caught with copies of the scriptures were subject to capital punishment
  - Faithful believers endured, and so did the Scriptures
2. Medieval Catholicism (A.D. 1000-1600)
  - Almost as dangerous a time for the Bible
  - The scriptures were "chained to the pulpits", common people weren't allowed to have their own copies
  - Bible was only to be interpreted by teachers and priests
  - 1382 - John Wycliffe translated the Bible into English
    - For his crime he was ultimately declared a heretic, his bones were dug up, burned and ashes thrown in the river
  - William Tyndale published an English New Testament in 1524, much of the Old Testament in 1534
    - Burned at the stake in 1536
  - Despite opposition from within "the church", the Scriptures survived, and were widely published by the King of England less than 100 years later
3. Time of Skepticism (A.D. 1650-today)
  - Known by men as the "Age of Reason"
  - Bible snubbed by the learned and educated
  - Humanism increased, fear of God decreased
  - Theory of evolution, etc
  - Despite this, the Bible is still the most printed and read book in the world

### Biblical Unity

- 66 different books
- Written over a period of more than 1,600 years

- Over 40 writers from three continents
- Yet there is still one common message of Messiah, and God's redemption of man
  - Imagine 40 musicians separately recording pieces of their choice and then trying to bring it all together, it would be chaos!
  - Now imagine 40 orchestra members were given sheets of music from the same composer and recorded individually. It would sound harmonious. This is how the Word of God came to be!

### **Bible's Self-Affirmation**

- 2Peter 1:20-21
  - Prophecy signifies the "speaking forth" of the mind and will of God.
  - No prophecy of Scripture is a matter of a man's own interpretation.
  - Prophecies were not personal views or concepts of mere men, but rather, they were expressions of men inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- 2Tim 3:16-17
  - All Scripture is God-breathed (inspired of God).
  - It is useful for teaching, reprimanding, correcting and training in righteousness.
  - It trains and prepares us for every good work.
- 1Cor 2:12-13
- 1Cor 14:36-38 (click for underline emphasis)
- **These are some pretty bold statements. Such claims cannot be ignored.**
- Either these men are telling the truth or a lie.
  - If it's a lie, the books are not to be trusted at all.
  - But if it's the truth, then the Bible is in fact the Word of God and must be believed and obeyed
- **So now what?**
  - Once we've accepted that God's word is authentic, what should we do about it?

### **Why is this relevant to me?**

- John 12:47-48
  - The Word of God will judge us on the last day
  - Instructions for Heavenward living are found in this book!
- John 8:31-34
  - If we hold to God's Word, we are set free from the slavery of sin
- Romans 6:15-18
  - By committing ourselves to Jesus, we become slaves to righteousness

## **Slaves to Righteousness**

- We live in a condemned world. As we've seen over time, Sin continues to corrupt more and more
  - Promiscuous relationships
  - Trans-gender Children??
  - God is just not present in this world - replaced by science or man's opinion
- This is all because the world has strayed from the Bible
- Because they've strayed, they are ignorant of God
- 1Cor 15:33-34
- The last thing we need is more distractions that put our focus on "me" instead of on "Him"