

Truth Study

Chad Cogburn

Summary

Psalms 119:160

The entirety of Your word *is* truth, And every one of
Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.

Serial Study Outline

1. Knowing the Truth: “You shall know the truth”
John 8:32a
2. Loving the Truth: “The Truth shall make you free”
John 8:32b
3. Living the Truth: “Walk in Truth” *3 John 1:3–4*
 - I. *Integrity*
 - II. *Secular vs. Sacred*
4. Trusting the Truth: “The truth of the LORD *endures forever*” *Psalms 117:2*
 - I. *The indestructibility of God’s Word*
 - II. *The indestructibility of God’s people*
 - III. *Why I Believe the Bible as God’s Word*

Truth Part VI.

Trusting the Truth:
Why I Believe the Bible as God's Word

Chad Cogburn
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God Gives Christians a Witness

- ▶ Why do I believe the bible?
 - Amongst believers, this question should be automatic common ground
 - **2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God...
 - Satan has cast doubt even among “christians” (Has God indeed said...?)
- ▶ Witness given to Christians; a greater witness

1 John 5:6 This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.... **9** If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. ¹⁰ He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

- ▶ Christians have the witness “in himself” (indwelling Holy Spirit) which is greater than the witness of men

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God

Ready to Give a Defense?

1 Peter 3:13 And who *is* he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. *"And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."*

¹⁵But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; ¹⁶having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. ¹⁷For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

- Don't be troubled by persecution, rather:
 1. Sanctify your heart; (ESV...in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy)
 2. Always be ready to give a defense for our hope in meekness and fear
- Defense: "apologia" - to give an answer or speech in defense of oneself
- What questions should I have prepared answers for?
- Who are the answers intended for? Everyone (vs15)

What are we Defending?

The Gospel

Phil 1:7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.

Our Hope

1 Pet 3:15...always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

What is my hope?

1. God is sovereign; I trust and rest in Him (1 Tim 6:15, Psalms 37, Matt 11:28-29...)
2. God saved me through Christ; Eternal life (2 Cor 5:21, Phil 3:7-11, Titus 3:4-7...)
3. A new heaven and earth await...and its going to be awesome! (2 Pet 3:13, Rev 21...)

Do we have a defense ready?
Is it biblical?
Is it meek and God fearing?

Why Believe the Bible?

- ▶ All questions eventually come back to the authority of the scriptures
- ▶ **Question: Why do you believe the bible?**
- ▶ Why believe the bible over other works? Quran, Plato, Confucius, etc.
- ▶ Popular answers include: *"That is the way I was raised" or "I tried it and it changed my life"*
- ▶ Some might point to the natural evidence.
 - ▶ Over 23,000 archeological findings confirm the bible's accuracy, including cities
 - ▶ Hieroglyphics of biblical events
 - ▶ Nature & creation
- ▶ These may be good reasons, but are they the best? Are they biblical?
- ▶ Where did we turn to defend our hope? The Bible. (expository apologetics)
- ▶ Peter provides an answer for this question

Discovered Cities

Arad	Hazor
Bethel	Hesbon
Chorazin	Jericho
Dan	Joppa
Ephesus	Shechem
Gaza	Sodom?
Gezer	Susa

Why the Bible?

One defense worthy of consideration

“I choose to believe the Bible because it is a reliable collection of historical documents, written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses. They report supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies, and they claim to be divine rather than human in origin.”

Author: Voddie Baucham

Derived from 2 Peter 1:16-21



2 Peter 1

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the
righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

²Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and
of Jesus our Lord, ³as His divine power has given to us all things
that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him
who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴by which have been given to us
exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you
may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the
corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

⁵But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith
virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶to knowledge self-control, to self-
control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷to godliness
brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸For if these

2 Peter 1 cont.

things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

¹⁰Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

► Summary thus far:

- Build on a foundation that will endure
- Don't neglect your walk with God – Diligence!

2 Peter 1 cont.

2 Peter 1:12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. ¹³Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, ¹⁴knowing that shortly I *must* put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. ¹⁵Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

- ▶ Summary thus far:
 - I'll remind you of the "present truth" while I'm alive Vs12-13
 - You need a reminder when I'm gone too.....Always! Vs15
- ▶ Peter follows with a solid solution; not just memory work...Proof!
- ▶ Peter wants to be sure they (and presumably those afterward) can know this truth after he is gone.

Peter's Defense

2 Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

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Did Not Follow fables

- ▶ If not cunningly devised fables, where does the bible come from?
- ▶ How do we know it isn't a conspiracy or the copies changed?
- ▶ God compiled his word to make certain its inspired origin
 - 66 books (39 OT, 27 NT)
 - Written by ~40 authors (~31 OT, 9 NT)
 - Spanning over 1500 years (1400 BC – AD 90)
 - 3 continents: Asia, Africa, Europe
 - 3 languages: Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic
 - Over 5,000 NT manuscripts or portions still in existence today
- ▶ 1st century AD church fathers wrote many commentaries on the scripture and quoted a lot of scripture
- ▶ Translations are from manuscripts, not other translations
- ▶ Impossible for somebody to alter the bible without being caught

Reliable collection of historical documents

Ancient Manuscripts

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approximate Time Span between original & copy	Number of Copies	Accuracy of Copies
Lucretius	died 55 or 53 B.C.		1100 yrs	2	----
Pliny	A.D. 61-113	A.D. 850	750 yrs	7	----
Plato	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200 yrs	7	----
Demosthenes	4th Cent. B.C.	A.D. 1100	800 yrs	8	----
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	----
Suetonius	A.D. 75-160	A.D. 950	800 yrs	8	----
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	----
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1300 yrs	9	----
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200	10	----
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1000	10	----
Livy	59 BC-AD 17	----	???	20	----
Tacitus	circa A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1000 yrs	20	----
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400	49	----
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1000	1400 yrs	193	----
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
New Testament	A.D. 50-100	A.D. 130	<100	5600	99.5%

Source: <https://carm.org/manuscript-evidence>

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Eyewitnesses

Multiple eyewitnesses required to establish a matter

Deut 19:15 “One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

Jesus teaches the same principle

Matt 18:15 “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.’ 17And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

➤ There is no more compelling evidence than multiple witnesses



Dr. Luke's Account

- ▶ The bible was written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses.
- ▶ Matt, Mark & John were eyewitnesses to Jesus and His ministry
- ▶ Luke was not an eyewitness, but he wrote from the testimony other eyewitnesses.

Luke 1:1 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 3it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, 4that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

- ▶ Vs. 4 multiple eyewitnesses provide certainty of the true events

Many Saw Christ Resurrected

1 Cor 15:3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

- ▶ Christ intentionally revealed Himself to over 500 people post-resurrection to give the proof of the resurrection
- ▶ Many of whom are bible authors
- ▶ Bible authors would not have been able to fabricate the story of the resurrection; there were too many witnesses

Written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses

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Supernatural Events

- ▶ Peter (+James & John) heard the voice of God!
- ▶ Jesus was transfigured, Moses and Elijah appeared

Matt 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”

6And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.

- ▶ Jesus was confirmed in the presence of multiple eyewitnesses (not secretly like some other “prophets”)
- ▶ This was a supernatural event; audible voice coming from heaven
- ▶ Besides that, there were healings, raisings, feedings, fishing, out castings, etc. Miracles that confirmed Jesus’ identity/authority

They report supernatural events

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Prophecy Confirmed

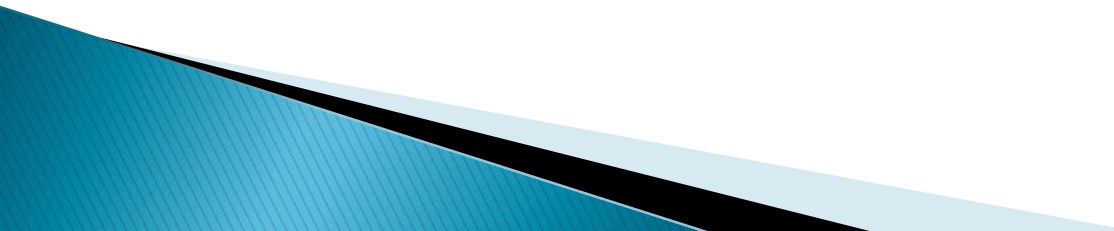
Fulfilled prophecy sets God's word apart from every other work
~ Approx. 350 identifiable prophecies have already been fulfilled

Prophecy:

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Fulfilled:

Matt 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.



Prophecy Confirmed

Prophecy:

Zech 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He *is* just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

Fulfilled:

Matt 21:6 So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. 7They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. 8And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!”

Prophecy Confirmed

Prophecy:

Psalms 22:1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? *Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?*...

14 I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. ¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. ¹⁶For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; ¹⁷I can count all My bones. They look *and* stare at Me. ¹⁸They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

- David describes detailed events at the crucifixion
- Crucifixion was a Roman practice, probably unknown to David

Matt 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*”

In fulfillment of specific prophecies

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The Bible is Divinely Inspired

- ▶ Fulfilled prophecy is proof that scripture is of divine origin

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- ▶ Spirit reveals truths from scripture regularly to those who study it on a regular basis
- ▶ Shouldn't be surprised at this since the bible is alive!

Heb 4:12 For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

They claim to be divine rather than human in origin

Why I Believe the Bible – Summary

- ▶ Our defense will not convince everyone to believe the bible. Spiritual blindness is everywhere and many can not receive the Spirit of truth. (*John 14:17, Rom 1:21, Rom 11:10, Eph 4:18*)
- ▶ Our defense may vary depending on our audience and setting
 - 20 second elevator speech vs. 1 hour bible study
 - Summarize 2 Pet 1 in your own words to better understand the defense
 - MUST be biblical; never leave the bible out of the discussion
 - Must be in meekness and in the fear of God

“I choose to believe the Bible because it is a reliable collection of historical documents, written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses. They report supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies, and they claim to be divine rather than human in origin.”