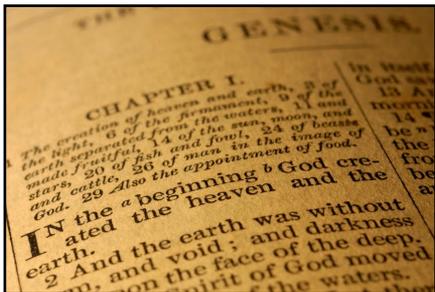




Why I Believe!

As I write this I am looking at a book with the title “Holy Bible” stamped on the cover. I have had access to this book as long as I can remember. My parents had it in their home and no doubt their par-



ents had it in their home before them. No one in my family has ever attempted to have me believe it is anything other than what it says on the cover. Why is it called the “Holy Bible”? Why do I believe it to be a holy book, and especially the Word of God?

It would be quite natural for me to believe it to be the Word of God on the basis of having been taught that it is such from generation to generation. But if I believe it to be the Word of God because somebody else believes it to be, that is not my own faith or conviction. And in addition, if the Book depends on academic scholarship or university level study in the languages and customs of ancient times for one to believe it—then it cannot be the Word of God to all men.

First of all, the understanding of any book requires careful reading. No one can declare “I believe the Bible to be God’s Word” without having first read it carefully and studiously. We are familiar with the statement of John 20:31, “But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;” and of Romans 10:17, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” We would logically conclude from these and similar statements from the New Testament that NO ONE can declare “I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God” without having read what is written to produce that faith.

So it is with my faith in the Bible. It can be second-hand or first-hand faith. I can believe it because father or mother or preacher told me it is so, or I can believe it upon the evidence I have personally collected and assimilated from my reading of the Holy Book.

One thing that is often overlooked is the fact that God's Word is designed to be READ and TAUGHT. *"When all Israel is come to appear before the Lord thy God in the place which He shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing"* (Deut. 31:11). *"And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea"* (Col. 4:16). *"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus"* (2 Tim. 3:15). *"Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ"* (Eph. 3:4). These are just a few of the many statements of Bible authors testifying to the necessity of reading.

Bible reading ought to begin as soon as one is able to hear or read and continue till death. Bible reading ought to be a part of family growth and development. All members of the family ought to be encouraged to participate in Bible reading, both in the family group and privately. This is a part of bringing them up in the "Nurture and admonition of the Lord." We deceive ourselves when we think genuine faith in the Bible can come from some other source.

Why do I believe the Bible to be God's Word? Several questions will help to answer that question.

1. Where did the Bible come from?
2. Why was it written?
3. What does it claim for itself?
4. In what ways is it different from other books?
5. Does the Bible contradict itself?

AS I read the Bible, I keep these thoughts in my consciousness, ever ready to assist me in evaluating what I read. AS I read the Bible from beginning to end I stand in awe of the masterpiece of God. I marvel at the thread of salvation running



through the Book from beginning to end. It is truly unlike any other book I have ever read.

Claims of inspiration are made by the writers of the Holy Bible. What Peter said in 2 Pet. 1:21 is the basic theme of every Bible writer. *“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy me of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”* Either I must accept what Peter, Paul & John said of their inspiration, or I must declare them liars, and their writings less worthy of my interest than the writings of honest men.

Inspiration of scripture is supported by internal evidences as well as by external evidences. When you read the Bible, make a note of prophecies that have their fulfillment in the distant future. Examine the prophecy and the fulfillment carefully. When separated by several generations or perhaps hundreds of years, how could there have been any collaboration? I have seen lists of over 60 Old Testament references to Christ which have their fulfillment in the New Testament. Hundreds of years separate the prophecy and the fulfillment. Have you noticed the prophecy in I Kings 13 and its fulfillment in 2 Kings 23? How many years intervened? This is just one of many such.

For the present, I want to urge you to make your faith in the Bible as the Word of God a personal faith. A faith that derives from your own study of the Holy Book. Husbands and wives need to study together and talk about this great book. In Old Testament times the Scriptures were to be in evidence upon their hands, as frontlets between their eyes, and upon the door posts of their houses, and upon their gates. (Deut. 6:7-9). We who live under a better covenant, established upon better promises, must not neglect the reading and study of the HOLY BIBLE. No better New Year's resolution can be made than to read the Word of God daily and prayerfully. May God bless you in such a high and holy endeavor.

Kenneth Frazier



GLAD TIDINGS

Sermon Notes: Oct. 10, 2021 Speaker: _____

Topic: _____

Order of Worship October 10, 2021

Song Leader—AM	Gary Barber
Song Leader—PM	Matthew Frazier
Lord's Table	Michael Young
Sermon—AM—Devin Barber	Sermon—PM—Devin Barber

Continue prayers for those on our list, and for the free course of the gospel.

1 John 5:14

Editor: Steve Frazier

Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.

Jacksonville, FL 32220

Meeting times of the church

Sunday 09:00 am Bible Classes 10:00 am Worship 05:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible classes

Evangelist: Devin Barber

Phone: 904-210-5036

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Hebrews 10:24-25