

BELIEVING THE BIBLE

Request: (a co-worker of a member of our church asked this question) “If the Bible is the holy and inspired Word of God, why are there so many translations? It seems like people are just interpreting it as they see fit.”

There seems to be at least three possible issues to address within this request.

The first issue is the intent of the word they used: “if.” When comparing the English definition to the Greek definition we might ask: “is it in the 1st Class Condition (1cc) [and its true] or the 3rd Class Condition (3cc) [questionable]”. It sounds like 3cc because of the spirit of doubt in the whole question.

The second issue deals with the question of “why so many translations?” I’m assuming that this person means English. Once again, I hear “negativity” since translating the Bible into the language of the people is a positive ministry.

The third issue involves the statement regarding “people interpreting the Bible as they see fit.” This is a real problem with every translation of the word of God because of the angelic conflict (Matt.4:1-11).

After looking at these three issues, it appeared to me that the bigger issue that needed to be addressed was the importance of BELIEVING THE BIBLE.

This lesson will study five reasons you can BELIEVE THE BIBLE as the absolute truth of God’s word.

1. The security of the translation of the Bible, like our salvation is the responsibility of the sovereignty of God.

“For truly I say to you, **until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished.** Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt.5:18-20; Luke 24:44-46) [Canon]

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.” (Matt.24:35)

2. The truth of the Scriptures is based on the integrity of the character of God and not man.

The content of the Bible is TRUTH because of the veracity of God: “In hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie (veracity), promised long ages ago.” (Titus 1:2)

“In order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us.” (Heb.6:18)

Jesus declared the Bible was TRUTH - “Sanctify them in the truth; **Thy word is TRUTH.**” (John 17:17; Gal.5:7-9)

“I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. **Who is the liar** but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.” (1 John 2:21)

3. **Grace salvation in the person and work of Jesus Christ is the way to divine truth.**

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of **the only begotten from the Father**, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

“For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17)

“Jesus said to him (Thomas), ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.’” (John 14:6)

“This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**” (1 Tim.2:3-4; James 1:18; 1 Pet.1:22-23) (Gal.2:4-6, 14/ truth of gospel)

4. **The root cause for disbelief in the infallibility of the Scriptures is the Devil.**

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, **and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.** Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a **liar, and the father of lies.**” (John 8:44)

We first saw this principle in the Garden of Eden with Eve and Adam (Gen.3:1-7). This is the cause of conflict between the wisdom of world and the wisdom of God – “This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, and demonic.” (James 3:15)

“But the **wisdom from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” (James 3:17-18; 2 Pet.3:18)

The Bible contains doctrines (CBD/ categorical bible doctrine) that are essential to spiritual growth – “If anyone advocates a different **doctrine (didaskalia)**, and does not agree with **sound (hugiaino) [healthy words]**, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness.” (1 Tim.6:3; Eph.6:14)

“For the time will come when they will not **endure sound doctrine**; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from **the truth**, and will turn aside to myths.” (2 Time.4:3-4; Gal.4:16; James 5:19-20)

False teachers will attack the Scriptures by teaching false doctrines – “But the Spirit explicitly says in later times some will fall away from **the faith** paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.” (1 Tim.4:1; 2 Pet.2:1-3; 2 Tim.3:8-9)

5. **It is the responsibility of the indwelling Holy Spirit to spiritually guide each church age believer in divine truth of the Scriptures (2 Tim.3:15-17; 2:15).**

“Paul affirms God’s active involvement in the writing of Scriptures, and involvement so powerful and pervasive that what is written is the infallible and authoritative word of God (see 2 Pet.1:20-22 and notes).” (2 Tim.3:16) NIV

“But when He, **the Spirit of Truth**, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, he will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.” (John 16:13; 14:16-17; 8:31-32)