



SERIES: Pursuing Spiritual Fitness
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Wednesday, August 2, 2023
Scripture: John 17:17 / Psalm 119:160
TITLE: Can You Trust the Bible?

Do you trust the Bible? If you do, why do you trust it? If you're like many Christians, you trust it because it says it is trustworthy. Jesus said in John 17:17 (NLT),

“Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.”

So Jesus affirms the truthfulness of the Bible.

Psalm 119:160 says,

The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever.

The Psalmist declares God's Word is true and will remain true forever.

Now, it may surprise you, but I think we should approach any truth claim much like former President Ronald Reagan. Reagan said, “Trust but verify.” In other words, “Okay, I trust you, but you're going to have to prove it.”

I believe that the Bible is true because of its internal testimony, with passages like John 17:17 and Psalm 119:160. But I ultimately want to trust the Bible because I know it's true. And the good news is, it is true. The Bible is God's Word. It's the one true holy book. But it's also a book of history and prophecy. Why does that matter? Because history can be verified, and prophecies can be debunked.

Some of the world's most unique events are recorded in the Bible, and they can be confirmed. Did you know that the Exodus escape of the Israelites isn't just a good story with an iconic movie? In Exodus 14, Moses records the Israelites fleeing Egypt, but Pharaoh promptly sends the armies after the Israelite slaves. Well, Moses stretches out his arms, and the water parts, making way for the travelers. Once safely across, the Egyptians were running down the parted water, but God closed the water over the Egyptians and their horses. Did you know we have artifacts backing this up?

In 2000, Dr. Lennart Möller, while diving in the Red Sea, discovered chariot wheels, axels, and pieces of chariots. In 2015, another group dove and discovered hundreds of artifacts, human and horse remains, armor and armored chariots. The Bible is trustworthy because it's, in fact, true.

In the New Testament, the Bible talks about James the Apostle, the half-brother of Jesus. Well, was he real? Was he really the brother of Jesus? Was his dad really Joseph? Well, in 2002, they discovered a 2,000-year-old burial box made from limestone. But what makes this box unique is

the inscription on it. It says, "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus." Time Magazine said it was "the most important discovery in the history of New Testament archaeology."

There are hundreds of other proofs we could look at. We could look at any of the 2000 fulfilled prophecies found in the Bible. So this will be my challenge for you today: continue the search for truth. God's Word is true. It's true because it is the Word of God, but also because it is, in fact, true. Read the Bible with faith, and then look for the proof. History, archeology, internal witness, and external corroboration continue to prove the reliability of the Bible.

I'd love to hear from you below. How has pursuing truth helped your faith? How has doubt impacted your faith? Share your comments below.

Today, pursue truth. It won't disappoint you, because when you pursue truth, it leads back to God. And with God, you will always win the day.