



Goals of class:

- 1) To grow in our trust of the Bible.
- 2) To grow in our personal Bible study.

What do we mean when we say, “The Bible is the Word of God”?

What We Believe... About the Bible: (from Discovery’s Statement of Faith)

“The Bible is the inspired Word of God,

Canon: the collection of the divinely inspired and authoritative writings

Inspiration: the past ministry of the Holy Spirit to human authors

Illumination: on-going ministry of the Holy Spirit to help readers understand truth (Ps 119:18; Matt. 11:25)

Interpretation: What does it mean? More importantly, what did the *author* mean?

Application: What does it mean to me? How should I respond?

is without error,

Inerrant: no errors, verbal (of words, not just concepts) plenary (all Bible)

Infallible: flawlessly accomplishes its purpose

An example of an infallibility statement of faith: “Scripture is an essential part and trustworthy record of this divine self-disclosure. All the books of the Old and New Testaments, given by divine inspiration, are the written word of God, **the only infallible rule of faith and practice.**”

Does the Bible have errors in it?

gives us direction for life and eternity,

and is the final authority for all Christian faith and life.”

(2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Psalm 119:105; Romans 15:4).

CONVICTION leads to THE BIBLE AS YOUR AUTHORITY leads to LIFE TRANSFORMATION

How can we know the Bible is more than a human book?

Lines of evidence:

The Bible is unique in its:

- 1) CIRCULATION
- 2) TRANSLATION
- 3) SURVIVAL & DURABILITY
- 4) IMPACT
- 5) COMPOSITION

The best external evidence for the Bible as the Word of God may be its unity in spite of

1600 years

40 authors from every walk of life.

in different places, at different times, during different moods,

on three continents, in three languages, in a wide variety of literary styles

...yet one central message!

The Message: GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

Are the Old Testament and New Testament historically accurate?

The best evidence: YOUR PERSONAL INTERACTION WITH GOD'S WORD

Starting Points of Bible Study:

How is the Bible organized?

¹Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. - **Psalm 1:1-3**

