

## 6. Qualitative Teachings

- 1) Jesus is fully God and fully man (Isa 9:6). As God, Jesus perfectly represents God to man; as sinless Man, Jesus perfectly represents man to God. Jesus thereby qualifies as the perfect mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2:5).
- 2) Jesus died and rose again (1 Cor 15:3-4). Jesus' death and resurrection demonstrate that Christianity is personal, in stark contrast to impersonal religions and philosophies.
- 3) Salvation is by grace alone (Eph 2:8-9). If salvation were by works: a) One could boast of his good works; b) God would be indebted to man; c) "Christ died in vain" (Gal 2:21).
- 4) One can know that he *has* eternal life (1 Jn 5:13). Adherents of religions that emphasize doing good deeds, as a means to merit God's favor, cannot know that they have eternal life, because they never know if they've done enough deeds to merit God's favor.

## 7. Unifying Theme

The Bible was written over a period of 1,600 years, in 3 distinct languages, by 40 men of varied cultural backgrounds and occupations (including shepherds, fishermen, prophets, kings, soldiers, scholars, professional men, and common laborers). Yet the Bible's main plot line is unified: It's all about Jesus! (1k 24:44).

## 8. Everyday Practicality

The Bible gives practical, down-to-earth guidelines for everyday living:

- 1) Interpersonal relationships: "A gentle answer turns away wrath" (Pr 15:1).
- 2) Family relationships: "Husbands, love your wives" (Eph 5:25). "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord" (Eph 5:22). "Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Eph 6:4). "Children, obey your parents in the Lord" (Eph 6:1).
- 3) Morality: The Bible condemns adultery (Heb 13:4), premarital sex (1 Cor 7:9), lust (Mt 5:28), and homosexuality (1 Cor 6:9). Apart from God and His Word, bestiality, rape, incest, cannibalism, terrorism, and even the Holocaust cannot be condemned as objectively evil. Moreover,

apart from a transcendent standard of morality, we are subjected to the chaos of a society run amok, where everyone does what is right in his own eyes (Judg 21:25).

- 4) Government: "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities" (Rom 13:1).
- 5) Finances: "Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished" (Pr 13:11). "Do not overwork to be rich" (Pr 23:4).
- 6) Work: "Be obedient to those who are your masters..." (Eph 6:5).

## 9. Changed Lives

Before repenting of his sins and receiving Jesus into his life, my father stole, lied, coveted, etc. After receiving Christ, however, my dad has been internally motivated to do what is right. His life has been transformed, and his friends and family will readily confirm the reality of this change. I, personally, repented of my heinous sins and received Christ into my life at the age of 5. Now I am over 50. For over 45 years, I have been totally satisfied with Jesus Christ!

**Conclusion:** Granted, adherents of some non-Christian religions (such as Islam and Mormonism) also claim that their deity revealed to them that their respective holy books are the Word of God. However, these alternative sacred texts lack objective credibility, in that they are not authenticated by relevant evidence. Admittedly, other religious books contain elements of authenticity, (such as bits of practical wisdom and, arguably, literary skill). However, the Bible alone evidences an ensemble of key characteristics that one would expect a divinely-inspired book to possess.

God has not provided a water-tight deductive argument for the truth of Christianity, but He has provided ample evidence to render trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as a rational and warranted position. To say it another way: The Bible does not encourage its readers to take an *irrational* leap of faith into the *dark*, but it does encourage its readers to take a step of faith into the light. So I urge you:

- a) Read the Bible, and ask God to help you understand it.
- b) Pray: "Dear Jesus, I believe you died on the cross and thereby paid the penalty that I deserve for sinning. Please bring me to God."

# HOW CAN I BE SURE THE Bible IS God's Word?

