What We Believe

Lesson 1

The Holy Scriptures

*Genesis 1:1/II Timothy 3:16*

Introduction: It is so important for the members of a church to know and understand what they stand for. Over the next few weeks we are going to take a look at the beliefs that are most important to us as a church. Our first lesson has to do with a foundational belief of our faith, the Bible.

“**The Holy Scriptures**
We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed and, therefore, are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to man. The scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical and historical meaning. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the official and only translation used by the church.”

1. God is sovereign over His creation because He is the creator.
	1. He has always been and is the only one who has supreme independent authority over His creation.
	2. Simply because He is the creator He has the right to determine how we ought to behave in His creation.
2. God created through His Word and leads us through His Word.
	1. The very means through which He chose to create was through speaking.
		1. His Word is powerful.
			1. He spoke and the universe was.
			2. There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD. Proverbs 21:30
		2. His Word is truth. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.John 17:17
	2. He chose to lead us by means of His Word, the Bible.
		1. The Bible is powerful.
		2. The Bible is truth.
		3. The Bible is the final source of authority for the believer.
			1. Not experience.
			2. Not tradition.
			3. Not a person.
3. God revealed His redemptive plan for man through His Word.
	1. God took chaos and shaped it into order by His Word.
	2. Through His Word God has given us what we need to go from darkness to light. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: Ephesians 5:8
4. The Bible does not contain the Word of God, it is all the Word of God.
	1. It was given by God through His Spirit. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: II Timothy 3:16
	2. It was recorded by men. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. II Peter 1:21
	3. It was preserved by God’s sovereign intervention.

Without God’s promise to preserve the Word He inspired, we would be left to wonder whether or not what we held today was indeed from God! Now the importance and benefit of such a doctrine is no justification for it, but the fact that the Scriptures proclaim this truth is a great comfort!

* 1. Psalm 12:6-7 – “Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.” (V7)
		1. The word ‘preserve’ means to “guard, watch, watch over, keep”[[1]](#footnote-1)
		2. Webster’s 1828 defines the word ‘preserve’, “1) To keep or save from injury or destruction; to defend from evil. 2)To uphold; to sustain. 5) To keep or defend from corruption.”[[2]](#footnote-2)
		3. The verse says that God’s words are “pure.” The word means “pure, clean.”[[3]](#footnote-3) This means there is no ad-mixture. The words are exactly and only what God intended them to be!
		4. The promise of God’s protection of His words applies to every generation before and after the historical context of the verse!
			1. The phrase used is, “for ever.”
			2. The definition is, “long duration, antiquity, futurity, for ever, ever, everlasting, evermore, perpetual, old, ancient, world.”[[4]](#footnote-4)
	2. Matthew 5:18 – “one jot (even the smallest of words) or one tittle (Hebrew form of punctuation) shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”
	3. Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33 – “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my*words* shall not pass away.”
		1. So the doctrine of preservation says not only that God has given His Word purely through inspiration, but He has also promised to protect it and keep it pure throughout all generations including our own.

\*We believe that the King James Bible is the preserved Word of God for English speaking people. This is the only version used by our church. There are numerous reasons why we believe this. These reasons will be the subject of another lesson.

1. The Bible was given to be a sufficient authority for His people.
	1. …profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. II Timothy 3:16b-17
	2. Paul was encouraging Timothy by assuring Him that the Bible contained everything that he would need to fulfill the work of the ministry.
	3. The sufficiency of scripture is not only a benefit to preachers like Timothy, but to all believers such as ourselves.
	4. It is not everything God knows, but it is everything we need.
	5. We are called to study it; Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15
	6. Study requires thinking: “The God of the Jews was to exist in the Word and through the Word, an unprecedented conception requiring the highest order of abstract thinking.” Neil Postman
		1. It will take discipline to know the Bible.
		2. It will take God’s help to know the Bible.
			1. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. I Corinthians 2:14

Conclusion: We have great reason to believe that the Bible is God’s Word. Because we believe this we ought to be diligent in making it a prominent part of our lives. It is vital to your spiritual growth as well as to God’s work being fulfilled the way He wants it. If you don’t have a King James Bible get one. If you have one, work to hide it in your heart. Determine to obey His Word and you will find that it will provide what you need to get through whatever life brings you. Remember that without the Bible we would know so little about our Lord. Thank the Lord that He has chosen to reveal so many wonderful things for us in His Word.

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)