

# Truth

## “Gaining the Advantage”

Doctrine is not a swear word.

2 Timothy 3:16&17

### Three Advantages to Knowing the Bible

#### 1. The Advantage of Getting Your Information from God

*Scripture is God-breathed— θεόπνευστος*

##### 2 Timothy 3: 12-17 (NIV)

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup>while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is **God-breathed** and is **useful** for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be **thoroughly equipped for every good work**.

##### 2 Peter 1: 20 & 21 (NASB)

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

##### 2 Peter 3: 3-7 (NASB)

Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

- How do we know it is from God?
  - It is accurate
  - It is filled with unique wisdom
  - It has the power to change lives

#### 2. The Advantage of Getting Truthful Answers to Life's Questions

*And is profitable for teaching and correcting*

We Don't Get Fooled Again – Pete Townshend

The questions you and I have are answered truthfully in Scripture, but not all truth is equal in importance.

### GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are coequal and are one God. Genesis 1:1,26-27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2

##### Isaiah 43:10-12 (NASB)

"You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me. "I, even I, am the LORD, And there is no savior besides Me. "It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange god among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And I am God.

### JESUS

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is coequal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on the cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to claim His own and take them to Heaven. Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:22-23; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:14-15

##### John 14:6 (NASB)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

## SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ and God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ as Lord of his life. This is evidenced by repentance, confession, baptism by immersion, and a life committed to His service. John 1:12, 14:6; Romans 5:1, 6:23; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5

**Acts 4:12 (NASB)**

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

### 3. The Advantage of Knowing What to Do and What You Can Expect

*Thoroughly equipped for every good work*

- **To fulfill your purpose** – *The Westminster Catechism*

**Q.** What is the chief end of man?

**A.** Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

**1Cor. 6:20 (NASB)**

For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

- **To know how to respond when treated unfairly**

**1 Peter 4:19 & 20 (NASB)**

For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

**Matthew 5:11 & 12 (NASB)**

"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

- **To gain wisdom for life situations and challenges**

**Psalms 119:98 (NIV)**

Your commands **make** me **wiser** than my enemies, for they are ever with me.

**2 Timothy 3:15 (NIV)**

And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to **make** you **wise** for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

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#### Resources: (Books)

- Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict* (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999)
- Paul Barnett, *Is the New Testament Reliable?: A Look at the Historical Evidence* (InterVarsity Press, 1992)
- Craig Blomberg, *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels* (InterVarsity Press, 1987)
- Kenneth Boa & Robert Bowman, Jr., *Faith Has its Reasons: An Integrative Approach to Defending Christianity* (Authentic Publishing, 2005)
- R.C. Sproul, "The Case for Inerrancy: A Methodological Analysis", in John Warwick Montgomery, ed. *God's Inerrant Word* (Bethany Fellowship, 1974).

#### Online Articles:

- "Is the New Testament Reliable?" by Paul Barnett  
<http://blogcritics.org/archives/2005/05/24/030516.php>
- "Reasons To Believe: Is The Bible Really God's Word?" by E. Calvin Beisner  
– Review by George P. Wood  
<http://www.navpress.com/EPubs/DisplayArticle/1/1.26.14.html>
- "The Historical Reliability of the Gospels" by Patrick Zukeran  
<http://www.probe.org/reasons-to-believe/reasons-to-believe/the-historical-reliability-of-the-gospels.html>

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