

Can You Trust the Bible?

Gary Knuckles

“You can’t trust your Bible because it’s been translated so many times.”

It’s always been popular to criticize the Bible and try to diminish or destroy its influence. Some do so because they are unbelievers while others are looking for a less stringent form of the Christian faith. In either case, it is an effort to “loosen” moral restraints/responsibility so the individual can be “free to explore” their own distinctiveness.

It has been said that we cannot trust the Bible because it has been translated so many times. This misconception assumes that there is no manuscript evidence in Biblical languages and that all we have today is simply a copy of previous copies that have been edited and altered through the years.

In reality, we have thousands of manuscripts of the Bible in the Greek and Hebrew languages in which it was originally written. The Dead Sea Scrolls, found in 1947, date back to the period we most commonly call “the Intertestamental Period” between the end of Malachi and the beginning of Matthew’s gospel. Most New Testament manuscripts date from the second century AD, though a few have been dated to the period of the apostles. The remarkable thing about this is that these manuscripts for both the Old and New Testaments confirm the Bible as we have it today.

Not only do we have manuscript evidence for the Bible, we also know the languages in which it was written and can easily translate these into our modern English language. Through studies of ancient, non-biblical writings, we are able to understand the idioms of Biblical times, historical settings, and the wide range of meanings given to some words and phrases. There is actually more evidence for the Bible than there is for the writings of the ancient Greek philosophers! In fact, much of what we have from the ancient philosophers are copies of copies handed down through the years. Yet, some will accept their writings without question while disputing the genuineness of the Bible.

Yes, you can trust your Bible. It is not merely a copy of translations. It is the product of many tedious hours of studying, examination, testing, and cross referencing in order to give us God’s word as it was delivered to the authors!



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

September 11, 2016

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday

Bible Class- 6:30 p.m.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Romans 12:14, 15



Today’s Sermon: *Why Do You Believe?*

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website. Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

aicoc.org (Antioch Initiative)

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Scripture: John 20:19 – 29

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- Next potluck: September 18th.
- Ladies Class resumes: 10am, Tuesday, September 13th.
- Midweek Bible study @ McElhaney's **Thursday** nights at 7pm. Coffee and dessert is usually served. All contributions gladly accepted! **NOTICE THE DAY CHANGE**



- We plan on asking Jerry and Elaine Stumpf to return in the future to share their program, *Cracking the Marriage Code*, for any of us and people of the community.
- Arthur would like all the men to meet for **breakfast** next Saturday at 8:30 to make up a list of discussion points for everyone next Sunday during a quick meeting following worship and before we eat. The men will decide where to go.



- Potluck dinner after worship **NEXT WEEK!**



CALLING ALL LADIES!

- Ladies Class here at the building Tuesday mornings @ 10am. First one of the season on Tuesday! Let someone know if you need a ride.

- Be sure to check whether anyone needs a ride to or from worship if you are blessed with a vehicle.



PRAYERS...

- Pray for the successful outreach and teaching of the VBS efforts and a prayer of thanksgiving for the help we received from other Christians to accomplish the VBS.
- Remember to pray for Lori Kashorek, wife of Doug, the preacher at the Massena, NY church who has lung cancer.
- Kelly McElhaney's father, Bernie Gilleece was taken to hospital with respiratory and cardiac issues last week. He is home now. Pray that he will take better care of himself.
- Please pray that Felicity Hicks can find a place to live, as she is homeless now and her children are staying with friends. Her mother, Linda, has had little contact with her recently, but does sometimes see Chadevin and Matthew. Linda is also having a lot of knee pain.
- Pray for Claire Albro, Patty and Ruthie's stepmom who has cancer in several organs and is being treated with chemo. Claire is in a lot of pain and has been given an estimated 6 months to a year to live.
- Remember to pray for Lori Johnson, mother of Veronica who came to VBS. Lori has brain cancer.
- Remember to pray for Matthew Lowe, Rhonda's brother and Jerry's son.
- Remember to pray for Richard Beiber, Darlene's father, of West Palm Springs, FL.
- Pray for the continuing success of the church in Tunkhannock, PA. Pray that an evangelist will move to that area to keep the work going.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry

barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.

Perk up a simple meal with an ounce or two of godly conversation.