



DATE	April 22, 2018
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	The Problem of The Bible
SERIES	Everyone has questions about God. They can be difficult and overwhelming and stir up doubts inside of us. Let's look for some answers as we investigate The Problem of God, because an informed faith is stronger than an assumed one.

Perhaps more than anything else, the Bible is central to understanding and defending our faith. This book tells us of God's creation, the fall of man, the resulting chasm between God and man, God's salvation in Christ, and how we should live in response. But can we trust this ancient text? Over the next few minutes, let us examine the legitimacy, accuracy, and reliability of the Bible.

Legitimacy

1. All at some point have questions about life. David paraphrased Ravi Zacharias' claim by stating because we have not had life's questions answered, we try to answer them ourselves. Even as a Christ-follower, have you ever found yourself allowing your career, wealth, or hobbies to define your identity, security, and satisfaction instead of Jesus? What are your questions about reality, purpose, and meaning? How have you tried to answer them?
2. How does knowing that a book containing 66 individual books, composed by 40 different authors, and written over 1500 years help you with answering those questions?
3. Read John 14:1-6. How does Jesus statement, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" answer the questions of reality, purpose, and meaning?

Accuracy

4. Imagine you walking a city street with several of your family or friends and you all witness a car accident. Do you think the police officer would throw away all our your accounts if he found they weren't exactly the same? Why or why not?
5. Read the following scripture pairs and explain how to justify the seeming contradictions:
 - a. *Death of Sisera*: Judges 5:25-27 and Judges 4:21
 - b. *Paul's Conversion*: Acts 9:7 and Acts 22:9
 - c. *Faith & Works*: Romans 3:28 and James 2:24
 - d. *Jesus' Last Words*: Luke 23:46 and Mark 15:39

Reliability

6. David brought up the question "Can the Bible be trusted? Isn't the Bible outdated in moral teaching about stoning, chauvinism, and homosexuality?" How would you explain to a skeptic that the Bible isn't outdated in its moral teaching?

7. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-6. How many juries or judges would rule against the testimony of 500 witnesses to a crime? Read Romans 1:18-21. How do these verses explain the reason why the skeptics' mind does not always change given the evidence and why we should pray for the skeptic's mind to be illuminated by the Holy Spirit?
8. At some point in your faith walk, have you ever doubted the Bible's legitimacy, accuracy, or reliability? Elaborate.
9. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Can you cite specific examples from your life that attest how the Bible has transformed you to be more like Jesus? Are you setting aside enough time to spend time in God's Word so you can experience spiritual transformation? If not, how can you change your schedule to make more room for reading and reflection?

Let us, as Peter exhorts in I Peter 3:15, always be ready to give an answer for the hope that is within us!