

Let Me Introduce You
"To the Heart of God"
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Thread: **Let me introduce you to the heart of God.**

Key Thought #1 - The heart of God revealed in the Bible _____our knots.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT

Key Thought #2 – We CAN TRUST our SOURCE; we can stand in faith upon its teachings with great confidence!

"...it is only right that I should keep on reminding you as long as I live. ¹⁴ For our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly life, ¹⁵ so I will work hard to make sure you always remember these things after I am gone. ¹⁶ For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes." 2 Peter 1:13-16 NLT

"We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life...³ We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us." 1 John 1:1-5 NLT

These men bore a heavy responsibility for the next generation. They carried the responsibility and would die for it because Jesus said:

"Go...make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all I have commanded you." They were entrusted with the words of Jesus the words of eternal life. Matthew 28:19 NLT

Three goals for this week and next:

1. To have _____in our source.
 - In a generation full of questions, we can trust our lives to His teachings.
2. To know the _____and be set free.
 - The truth of scripture is God's heart given to us.

- Jesus gave it to us when He said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32 NLT

3. To _____the current generation to the next by our living example.
 - We have to have it in us before we can give it to anyone else.

Why were the New Testament books and letters originally written?

- To be an _____witness of the _____and teachings of Jesus.

How was the New Testament compiled in its present form?

- With **sober** judgement – Hundreds of pastors and church leaders meticulously worked in confirming the authentic writings of the apostles.
- Over the years there were other writings, letters, books and accounts of Jesus that would surface.
 - **Lost books** or (secret) books – **Gnostics** (These were written between 150-400 AD)
 - **Gospel of Philip, Judas**
 - **Pseudopigrapha** – Written under the name of someone credible by a discredited source.
 - Were written mostly from 150 AD to 400 AD as well.
 - **Wisdom of Solomon**
 - **Apocrypha** – Refers to a group of books added to the Old Testament by the Roman Catholic Church at the Council of **Trent (1548)**. It's important to note that the 39 books of the Old Testament were a **fixed library in Jesus' day** and that the **Apocrypha were never seen** as being on the same level as scripture by Jesus.
 - Matthew 5:17-19 NLT

I want us to recognize **that the Bible that has been passed on to us** can be **trusted** in its entirety.

Takeaways:

1. No matter how many facts we bring regarding the Bible, we enter into its teachings by faith in Jesus Christ.
2. We have the Bible because the early disciples fulfilled their responsibility to connect Jesus to the next generation after them.
 - o Many of the early church leaders gave their lives to fulfill their responsibility to make sure that Jesus' life and teachings were not perverted or mishandled.

Andrew – Crucified, Peter's brother

James – Beheaded

John – Exiled, died of old age (brother of James)

Matthew – Speared to death

Bartholomew – Beaten then crucified (aka Nathanael)

Philip – Crucified

Thomas – Speared to death

Simon – Crucified, the zealot

James – Stoned to death

Thaddaeus – Stoned to death (aka Judas son of James)

Simon Peter – Crucified upside down

- All suffered and died because they put their faith in Jesus, the Son of the living God.
- Their martyrdom was not ever contested to be for anything other than faith in Jesus as the resurrected Son of God.

"But these are written that you may^a believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:31 NLT

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13 NLT

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

Romans 15:4 NLT

Challenge:

- 3 for 30
- TRUST the SOURCE with your life.
- Pray for the opportunities to come; introduce rather than exclude.

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