

Let Me Introduce You
"To the Heart of God"
PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY
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Thread: **Let me introduce you to the heart of God. (The Bible Part 3)**

*"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He existed in the beginning with God.³ God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it...¹⁴ So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love (Grace) and faithfulness (Truth)...But **the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart.** He has revealed God to us." John 1:1-18 NLT*

Key Thought #1 – The heart of God revealed in the Bible, _____ our knots.

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

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.
 - 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.

The Bible, the heart of God revealed – where did it come from; how did we get it? Can we trust it?

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/thousands of pastors and church leaders meticulously worked in confirming the authentic writings of the apostles.

"Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us."
2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."
Hebrews 4:12 NLT

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. ¹⁰I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. ¹¹I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."
Psalms 119:9-11 NLT

The real story!

- _____ 66 books and are divided into two major sections.
- **The Old Testament containing 39 books**, which were a complete collection of the books at the time of Jesus, and He used them to teach from.
 - The whole Bible written over approximately 1,500 year span.
- **The New Testament contains 27 books.**
 - The New Testament was written over the span of about 45-50 years.
- The word "**Canon**" is a Semitic word that translates as "**reed**" or "**stalk**" which was used as a measuring stick.
- The **basic message of the Bible** – _____

Five Criteria's the church used to Compile the New Testament

1. Apostolicity - The church accepted only those letters and books that had the authority of the apostles behind them. Luke and Mark both had the apostolicity of Paul and Peter.

2. The rule of faith - Not a document, rather an accumulation of apostolic teachings found within the churches they pastored.

- a. "Rule of faith" test paved the Jesus path forward. *"Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: 'Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.'* ²*This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question."* Acts 15:1-2 NLT

3. Chronology - Only letters and books being from the period of the apostolic age (period of Jesus on earth) would be accepted.

4. Catholicity - The letter or books universal given acceptance by the church as a whole.

5. Self-evidencing quality - These letters and books did not become scripture because a group of men said so; they were accepted into the Canon because they were **recognized** as inspired writings.

There are many copies of the New Testament in existence. They date as early as **A.D 135.**

In addition, there are **2,000 lectionaries (church service books containing many Scripture portions), more than 86,000 quotations of the New Testament in the church Father's writings.**

More than 5,000 ancient manuscripts of the New Testament exist today, which makes the New Testament the best-attested document in all ancient writings.

Skeptics of the Bible will often cite that in these manuscripts they have errors making them unreliable. The errors we find in all of them amount to scribal error - not crossing a T or dotting an I...There is not an error that amounts to changing the meaning of any verse in the Bible.

Takeaway 1 – We cannot _____ the documents from the _____ God has for _____.

Takeaway 2 – The Bible is the history of our _____.

- **It was inspired by God because He wants us to know our story.**

"Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, ²¹ or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God."

2 Peter 1:20-21 NLT

- That is why **Jeremiah says in 15:16 NLT** *"When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty."* - **They are God's WORDS.**

- **Our hearts cry out with Peter's. John 6:68 NLT** *"Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'" - They are God's WORDS.*

Challenges:

1. Put your confidence in the Bible.
2. Put your faith in the life and teachings of Jesus having been so faithfully passed on to us.

Prayer:

- Not complicated... very simple when we know the FACTS.
- ENTERED into by FAITH.
- *"Who do you say I am?"* - Jesus

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