

### 3. The Scripture is meant to touch hearts, not just minds

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" vs. 32

In other words their hearts knew him before our heads did. Therefore arguments and explanations about the Bible are necessary but not sufficient.

**Why?** Because ultimately, the goal of the Bible is not just to get you to believe the right things but to get you to Jesus and His great act of sacrificial love. That is what captures heart.

**Religion teaches us what?** "Try real hard and do all the true things the Bible talks about, and then maybe God will take you to heaven.

That doesn't change your heart. That doesn't instill a passion for God. In fact it more often than not crushes you with the weight it brings down upon you.

**Paul write:**<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Jesus says:** "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. John 8:32,34

**Paul says:**<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23

**Jesus says:**<sup>35</sup> Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.<sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:35,36

**What do I do?** Back to Paul:

<sup>22</sup> This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. Romans 3:22

Do you believe Jesus is who He says He is? Do you believe He alone can forgive your sins? If your answer is yes, you've become a new creation. Your heart should be singing.

### How Reliable is Our Bible?

**Luke 1:1-4; 24:25-32**



#### Luke- Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup> Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, <sup>2</sup> just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. <sup>3</sup> With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Basically what Luke's saying. "I went to eyewitnesses, and I investigated the other written accounts of Jesus' life that already existed that themselves were based on the eyewitnesses, and after I'd done a very thorough investigation, I made a single orderly account of the life of Jesus, that's what I'm giving to you."

#### Chapter 24

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. <sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

## 1. The Scripture as it has come down to us is reliable.

### Skeptics argue otherwise.

A. The Gospel accounts are legends.

Luke says, *"My gospel is made of eyewitness testimony that has been carefully preserved right from the mouth of the living, surviving eyewitnesses."*

**Richard Bauckham** wrote a major work of scholarship called *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses*. Bauckham points out that in ancient times historians valued eyewitness testimony almost exclusively.

B. The Gospel accounts were written years after the life of Christ, if He ever existed at all.

The John Ryland's fragment, from John's Gospel, dated 100 to 110 AD written between 20-30 years of the original writing. Since John's Gospel was the last written it shows all the Gospels were written between 30-60 years of Jesus death

C. The four gospels selected entrenched the power of those doing the picking.

When you read the Gospels, the apostles and particularly Peter look foolish, not the sort of writing in a shame and honor culture by which to build your power.

As a skeptic herself, Anne Rice, author of *The Vampire Chronicles* decided to write a novel about Jesus. She began extensive historical research. She said she discovered a lot of scholarly work by liberal theologians who denied the biblical Gospel accounts of Christ's life.

*Their arguments lacked coherence and were full of conjecture. Some books were assumptions piled upon assumptions. Conclusions based upon little or no data. Their whole case for the non-divine Jesus who stumbled into Jerusalem and somehow got crucified had nothing to do with the later founding of Christianity. That whole picture floated in liberal circles I had frequented for thirty years, that case was never made.*

## 2. The Scripture must be understood in the context of Jesus

<sup>19</sup>"What things?" he (Jesus) asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people."<sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;<sup>21</sup> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.<sup>22</sup>In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning<sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.<sup>24</sup>Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." Luke 24:19-24

"How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!" "Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" vs.25,26

The Messiah the Scriptures foretold didn't come just to redeem the Jews but the whole world. He did not come in strength at the head of an army to go to a throne. He came in weakness and went to a cross. He took the punishment for our sins.

Jesus went through the whole Bible, and showed them what *some* of the Scriptures said about him, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. "Everything in the Bible culminates around me.

**Why is this important?** If you miss that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law of Moses, miss that He alone satisfies the righteous requirements of the Law, then you will be apt to struggle to live up to the Law. This in turn will lead you to either think you are living up to your standards and you'll become prideful and you'll have a superiority complex. Or you will not find yourself living up to the standard and you'll throw in the towel and give up, or worse, live beaten up by it and have an inferiority complex.

To see Jesus as our fulfillment is to receive God's unmerited grace and salvation. There is no greater purpose of the Scriptures than this.