

NOTES

WHY I TRUST THE BIBLE

INTERVIEW WITH DR. BILL MOUNCE BY JIM NICODEM

APRIL 6 & 7, 2024

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

Note: This sermon was an interview with Bible scholar Dr. Bill Mounce, author of the book, "Why I Trust the Bible." Answers to many of the following questions are based on that interview.

1. What's one of your favorite books (besides the Bible)--and why?
2. Read Luke 1:1-4. What phrases in these verses underscore the trustworthiness of Luke's biography of Jesus? Why is it important to have an accurate historical account of Jesus' life and not just a summary of his teaching? How does this differ from the degree to which other world religions focus on the actual lives of their founders?
3. The "telephone game" has been used as an analogy to describe the oral transmission and distortion of stories about Jesus before they were written down. Why is this a poor analogy?
4. Since we don't have the original copies of New Testament (NT) books, how do we know that our current versions of these books match the originals?
5. Why were Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John included in the NT, while other "Gospels" were left out? What about the other NT books--what criteria were used to determine which ones should be included?
6. What would you say to someone who dismisses the Bible because "it's filled with contradictions"? Describe the nature of most of those contradictions. Explain why it's not a contradiction for Luke's Gospel to mention two angels at Jesus' empty tomb and Matthew's Gospel to mention only one. What does this tell you about some of the perceived contradictions in the Bible?
7. What are the strengths of the NIV translation of the Bible as opposed to the King James Version (KJV)? What are the weaknesses of paraphrased versions of the Bible, such as The Message?
8. What did you find most helpful from the interview with Dr. Mounce? Has what you learned increased your confidence in the trustworthiness of the Bible? Explain.
9. What is the extent of your current engagement with the Bible? Why is the Bible such an important resource in the spiritual growth of a Christ follower (multiple answers)?