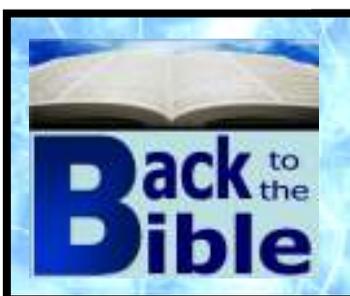


Today's Sermons
 Morning: Jesus the Messiah
 Evening: Q & A

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	41
Sunday AM Worship	48
Sunday PM Worship	29
Wed. Bible Study	n/a
Offering	\$1535



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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

Why Should It Be Convenient?
 Jimmy Clark

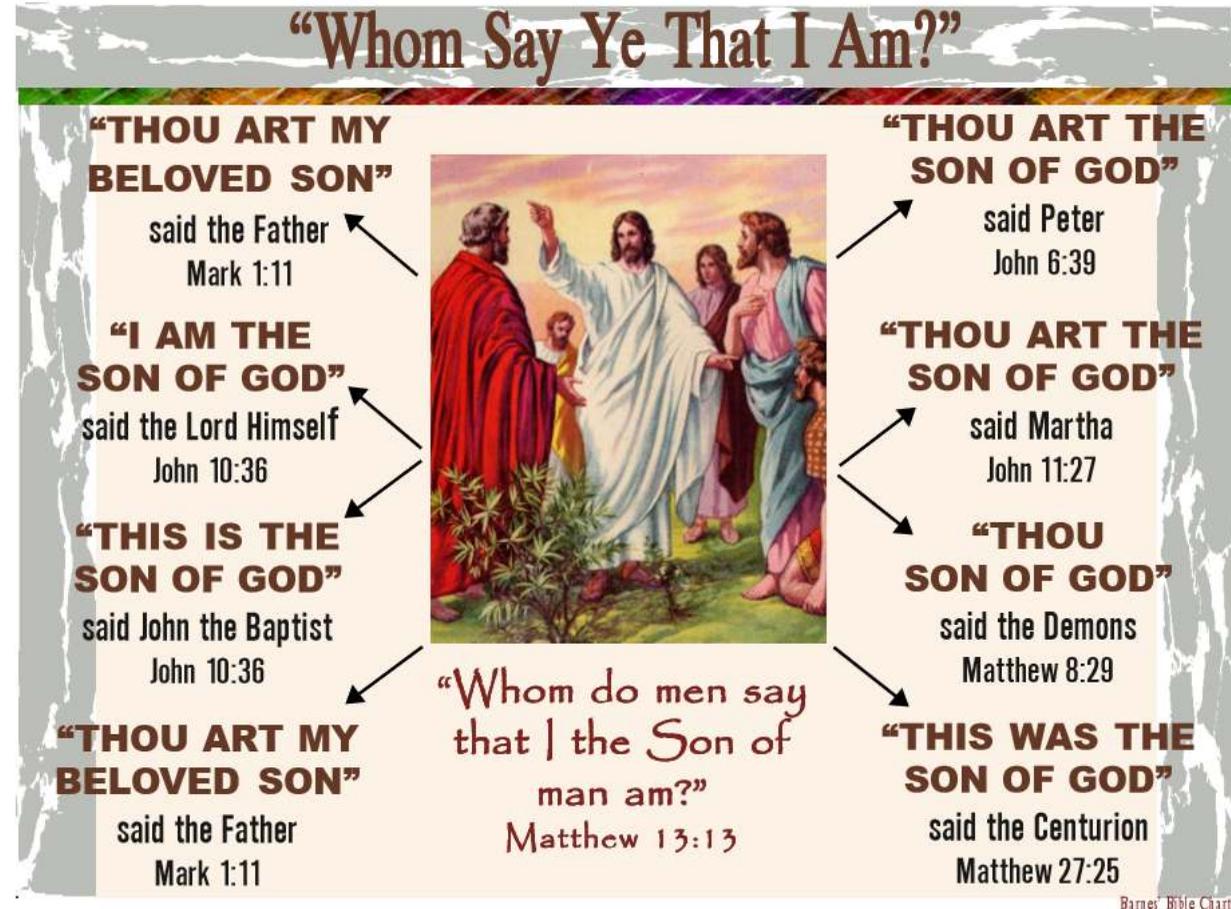
“And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee” (Acts 24:25).

Paul spoke to Felix concerning “the faith in Christ” (Acts 24:24). That faith struck at the heart of the ungodly life of Felix. He had taken Drusilla to be his wife who was formerly the wife of Gaius Julius Azizus (The writings of Josephus “Jewish Antiquities”, xx, 7.1). Felix was emotionally moved by the truths taught but was not committed to apply what was taught. He leaned upon the excuse of looking for a “convenient season” to hear more. There is no indication that Felix ever did anything more than what is recorded in Acts 24.

Some people today often look for convenience when it comes to following Jesus. If there is some great price to be paid, excuses of all kind are made. Look at the prices that Jesus has paid for mankind and ask the question “Why should it be convenient for us?”

1. Jesus Left Heaven To Come To Earth For Us. The Holy Spirit makes it clear that Jesus willingly gave

Continued Inside



up the glories of heaven to come to earth and live as a servant for man's benefit. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:5-7). It is written again, "Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will, O God" (Heb. 10:5-7). Jesus left where the saint is trying to go. Would anyone think it was convenient for Jesus to do such? Why then should it be convenient for us?

2. Jesus Lived His Life As A Pattern For Us. The life that Jesus lived was not an easy, convenient life to live. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15). Again, it is written of Jesus, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds" (Heb. 12:2-3). Jesus had a much tougher life to live than anyone ever had. Nevertheless, he set the standard for all men (cf. 1 Peter 2:21). Life was not convenient for Jesus. Why should it be convenient for us?

3. Jesus Laid Down His Life For Us. Giving up one's life for sinners to be saved is the ultimate inconvenience. Nevertheless, Jesus did just that. Paul often addressed the gracious sacrifice of Jesus (cf. 1 Tim. 1:15; Titus 2:13-14). Paul never lost sight of the great sacrifice of Christ and the need to live unto Him with all his being (cf. Gal. 2:20). The cross was the only way for man to be saved (cf. 1 Cor. 1:18-31). Why should anything be convenient for us in view of this?

Can we prove the Bible is true?

Bob Prichard

Many people today say that since they believe the Bible to be true, it must be so. Unfortunately, there are many competing faith systems throughout the world that are believed just as fervently, and are contradictory to the Bible and its teachings. Both the Bible and these other systems cannot both be true. The question of the truth of the Bible does not depend on the faith of those who believe it, though. Since it is a document rooted in history, its claims, its predictions, and its very words may be examined for accuracy and truth, even by those who do not want to believe it or live by its principles.

The Bible claims its own trustworthiness. Paul told Timothy, "All scripture is given

by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Thus God Himself is the very source of scripture (the Bible). Jesus indicated that even the smallest letters of scripture must be true: "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). The Bible does not contain the word of God. It is the word of God. For that reason it is inerrant, or wholly true and without mistake—and not just in "religious matters," but as it applies to history, science, and other realms of life. If it is only partly true, how can we know what is truth, and what is fiction? Two major areas to judge the truthfulness of the Bible are the internal evidence (what it says about itself, and how its parts harmonize) and the external evidence (what history, archaeology, science, etc. tell us about its truthfulness).

The internal evidence is clear that although many different inspired human writers produced the sixty-six books of the Bible over a long period of time, God is the true author. Skeptics have vainly sought to prove internal errors and contradictions in the Bible. For example, the wording of each of the four gospel writers about the superscription over Jesus on the cross is all slightly different (Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:28; John 19:19). Very likely, the superscription was very lengthy, and as John notes (John 19:20), it was written in three different languages. The slightly different wording may indicate different sections of the superscription, or the wording in the three different languages. Thus the differences are easily harmonized. Other similar apparent contradictions are always resolved when logic, proper rules of evidence, and understanding of the text and the culture are applied.

The external evidence for the truth of the Bible is very strong. Many times in the past critics have denied certain Bible characters existed, only to be proven wrong by archaeological and historical discoveries. The historical accuracy of the Bible has been vindicated again and again, because the Bible lists numerous details, which can be checked. It is not written in a "once upon a time" style. The Bible also agrees with proven science fact, although it may not always agree with theories that come and go. Because the claims of the Bible can be tested, we can know that it is true.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dec 1 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Dec 8 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship (Song Service)
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Jim Winters