



# The Reliability of the Bible

part 1

*Witnesses You Can Count On*

**1:16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.**

19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. (NIV)

**1. Consider** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Examine** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Evaluate** \_\_\_\_\_

# Application Questions

*These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. It is recommended that you take time this week to write out your response to each of these questions. This will help to drive home the point of today's message and will help you apply the principles to your life situation.*

1. It is the ultimate irony when people say they believe the Bible to be true and yet they have not repented of their sins and placed their trust in Christ as their only hope to be saved from the coming judgment that the Bible speaks so much about. Though this next statement may sound redundant for those who do these Application Questions on a regular basis, it must be understood how critically important it is that *your "belief" in the Bible be more than just an assent to the facts!* You must be convinced enough to act upon it. Be sure that today you know that you have consciously repented of your sin and have placed your full confidence in Christ to save you from God's just and rightful punishment. If you haven't done this, do it now. If you have, describe your experience of coming to the place in your life of doing it.
2. It is not only non-Christians who live ironically in light of their confessed belief in the veracity of the Bible. Often Christian who say they believe the Bible don't live as though they really do. Take several minutes to contemplate things you do that make no sense for one who *truly believes* the Bible is true. What contradictory things do *you* do and why do they make no sense if the Bible is true?

Take a few more minutes and consider the things you often *do not do* that make no sense for those who *really believe* the Bible is true.

3. What can be done to help you bridge the gap between what you say you believe and the way you live? How can you insure that the first list happens less and the second list happens more?
4. What research have you done that has bolstered your confidence in the truthfulness of the Bible? What would you recommend to others who are questioning the Bible's veracity?