



Logical Reasons

Small Group Work Sheet

January 9, 2011

Part 1 - Ice Breaker

- Catch up from Christmas. Where did you go? What did you do? Were you ready to get back to a routine?
- Pastor Kurt shared that in the postmodern world, we are more interested in consensus than truth. Examples included Wikipedia, online star rating systems and user feedback for web sites like www.amazon.com. Do you agree or disagree with him? Can you think of other examples that demonstrate the same thing?
- What is dangerous about defining truth by consensus.

Part 2 - Sermon Review

- What is wrong with saying, "We can trust the Bible is God's Word because it claims to be?" What is right about saying the same thing?
- The Bible claims to contain the very words of God and the very words of God spoken through his prophet. These claims are made over 1,500 times. Can you think of any books in the Bible where the author was *not aware* he was writing Scripture but was still inspired by God? (Check this message at the www.christ2Rculture.com web site for the answer.)
- How does the all-or-nothing claims the Bible makes for itself change the way you think about it?
- How does the Bible differ from the Book of Mormon? Check the web to read the full letter from National Geographic about the book of Mormon. (<http://irr.org/mit/national-geographic.html>)
- What is Unity of Authorship and Unity of Theme and how do they logically identify God as the author behind the Bible?
- The third logical argument from this weekends message is that if the Bible is the Word of God, we need to weave it into our life. Of the three *take action* challenges, which ones did you commit to?
 - I will read at least three chapters of the Bible a week for the duration of the series.
 - I will memorize Scripture with the rest of the church body.
 - I will read My Professor Says the Bible is a Myth.

Part 3 - Digging Deeper... Can We Prove the Bible is the Word of God?

In this series, Pastor Kurt will give reasons to believe the Bible is the Word of God. But it's possible a skeptic might remain unconvinced. He might be looking for a kind of proof that is unavailable. First, remember there are very few things in life that can be proven in an absolute sense. For example, we all know that $2+2 = 4$ is a proposition that needs no proof because it is

self evident to the person who understands the meaning of the terms. But mathematics is about the only discipline in which we have such certainty.

Other kinds of knowledge are always dependent on observation and experience. When all the evidence is in, we say we have proved a proposition, but even then, there still might be exceptions. For example, scientists who have studied thousands of snowflakes tell us no two are alike. We might say they have *proved* this. But have they proved it absolutely? Think of the hundreds of billions of snowflakes they never compared to one another! At the end of the day, scientists can't prove no two snowflakes are alike absolutely.

When it comes to history, it is even more difficult to prove things, especially the older the history we are trying to prove. For example, it is much easier to prove Bill Clinton was President of the United States than the Greeks conquering of Troy.

This is also true in the case of the Bible. We must remember historical studies can only take us so far. In this series we will discover an impressive amount of evidence to believe the Bible, but just like any other event of history, evidence, especially old evidence, can only take us so far. It gives us reasonable proof, never absolute proof. Faith must take us the rest of the way. Reasonable faith, but faith never-the-less. With the Bible, there are some things even evidence can not prove. They must be taken by faith. For example, historical studies can marshal impressive evidence that a man named Christ died on a Roman cross and that his followers persisted in the belief he rose from the dead. Historical studies can provide impressive evidence for the birth of the church but historical investigation cannot verify that he died for our sins. That is something we take by faith. There is no way to prove it!

No matter how much evidence for the credibility of the Bible is accumulated, I must stress that the truth of the Bible will involve accepting it by faith. A reasonable faith based on historical evidence, not a blind faith,... but faith will always be involved. If arguments for the truth of the Bible were absolute, no faith would be needed. All we would have to do is point to the evidence and prove it like a math problem and people would have to believe. But that is not the way anything is proven from ancient or modern history. As they say in the court room, it is proof beyond *reasonable doubt* and faith is needed the rest of the way.

Skeptics who are open to the possibility that God has intervened in history, men and women who have a desire to know the truth, even if it challenges their self perception, might find this series their pathway to faith. By understanding the reasonableness of the Bible, they may be led to give it an honest hearing. They might find their curiosity stimulated, their appetites whetted, and their hearts turned toward Christ, the center of our faith. I hope the Spirit of God will use the Word of God to bring about a transformation that is their gateway to eternal life.

I pray that the most radical skeptic who has dismissed the Bible will be changed in this series and these arguments will lead him or her to the study of the Scriptures they have long abandoned.