

**LAUNCH****WE CAN TRUST THE BIBLE**

Kadarius and Terence were walking around the city looking for a birthday gift for Terence's girlfriend Candice. She wanted a really nice watch, and he had been saving up for months to get the brand he knew she liked. They had been shocked to see the prices at the big-name department store and decided to get a hamburger and talk about it. On their way to the restaurant a man approached them and opened a case full of expensive watches. They couldn't believe the bargain prices, and Terence snapped one up right away. "Candice will love this," he told Kadarius. He was right. Candice did love it until the day after her birthday when it quit working and the watch band fell apart. Where did Terence go wrong?

Today we are talking about how the Bible is reliable, like the real watch, not the fake one. How do we know we can trust the Bible to be so reliable that we can base how we live our lives upon it?

**EXPLORE**

Read Matthew 7:24-27

1. Describe the first man. What did he do right?
2. Now describe the second man. Where did he go wrong?
3. What was the end result?
4. What would you have advised the foolish man to do if you could have given him advice before he built his house?

**APPLY**

5. What does this story have to do with whether or not the Bible is reliable?
6. If someone questioned your belief that the Bible is true, what would you say?

**READ:** Determining whether the Bible is reliable isn't a science question that you can test in a lab. It is more of a courtroom question where you weigh

**evidence and decide what is most reasonable. On the next page, we have a few pieces of the many evidences for the Bible's reliability. We hope that this is helpful as you wrestle with the Bible's reliability.**

7. Take one of the "Evidence" pages and cut it into strips so each statement is on its own strip of paper. Pass them around the table. One person reads the Evidence strip, then everyone looks at their Meaning strips and the person who has the one that matches, reads it. Keep going until all the Evidences have been read.

8. Which piece of evidence means the most to you and why?

9. If this were a game show and I was going to give you 1 million dollars to know the right answer to the question, "Is the Bible Reliable?", what would you say? Would you research it to find out more? A short study like this can only scratch the surface of this topic. The evidence about the reliability of the Bible out there is overwhelming.

evidence  
for the reliability of the Bible

**Evidence: At least 10 non-Christian writers living around the time of Jesus also talked about him, and what they said was consistent with what the Bible says.**

Meaning: This shows that Jesus was a real historical person and that he was well-known at the time even by non-Christians.

**Evidence: The Bible was written by over 40 authors in vastly different walks of life (poor shepherd, fisherman, king, prisoner, etc.) over the span of 1500 years, but has one consistent message.**

Meaning: Any human book written like this would have drastically different views and contradictions. The fact that the Bible is consistent in its view throughout points toward the Bible as a divine book, written by God through these men.

**Evidence: Archeological digs continue to prove the Bible by finding evidence of the stories in the Bible. Not a single archaeological find has conflicted with what the Bible records. In fact, many archeologists have been aided in their search by the descriptions in the Bible.**

Meaning: This gives us more confidence that the stories in the Bible actually happened in real places as we find evidence of them still today.

**Evidence: Some people claim that the Bible is full of contradictions but, when asked, they can't name any. When they do bring them up, a closer look at the Bible shows that the contradiction was really just a misunderstanding of what the Bible was really saying.**

Meaning: Knowing that the Bible doesn't contradict itself gives us confidence that it is true and worth reading and applying to our lives.

**Evidence: There are 24,000 ancient manuscripts of the New Testament compared to 643 of Homer's Iliad, and only 7 copies of Plato -- many more than any other ancient writing.**

Meaning: Manuscripts are really, really old copies of these books. If we trust our copies of Homer's Iliad and Plato to be accurately translated over the years, we should also trust the New Testament that has far more, and more reliable, manuscripts than any other ancient writing.

**Evidence: There are over 140 details in the Gospels that only eyewitnesses would have known or written down.**

Meaning: These details point to the fact that the Gospels in the New Testament were written by people who were actually there, not written years later by someone making it up.

**Evidence: The writers of the Bible include very embarrassing stories about themselves that make them look bad.**

Meaning: If someone were making these stories up about themselves, they would have left out the parts that make them look bad. The fact that they left them in makes it more likely that they were writing the truth about what happened.

**Evidence: The writers of the New Testament were killed by rulers who wanted them to admit that they were lying about what they wrote. These writers would not admit to lying. They decided to die instead.**

Meaning: No one would die for a lie. If they made up the stories about Jesus and the early church, they would have chosen to admit that before they were killed, but every one of them chose to die instead. This is evidence that what they died for is true.