



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Sharpening Your Sword Series, Lesson 39

Lesson Title: How Do We Know the Bible is True?

Take Home Point: The Bible is true—the evidence is convincing.

Warm-Up:

With our cultural emphasis on individual freedom and relative truth, as a people we have become quite skeptical of any standard of truth. It is not uncommon to hear someone say, "I don't believe it!" even though there is clear evidence to the contrary. In such cases, it is not so much "don't" believe as "won't" believe. This seems to happen most frequently in two situations: First, when an opinion is formed without complete knowledge, then when facts are presented that should change the opinion, the person clings to the original view. I know I can be guilty of this on occasion. Second, when truth is presented that should cause a change in how a person lives, but the person doesn't really want to change so the truth is rejected without reason. There is truth to the old saying, "The truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable!"

Read: 2 Peter 1:21

Observation (What happened?):

According to Peter, who does the speaking of prophecy?

For whom and by whom does he speak?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why is Peter so insistent about this point?

What do you think is the distinguishing characteristic of speaking God's true word?

Insight:

How much evidence, and what kind, is required to validate the Bible as true? Over and over, a statement in the Bible once thought untenable has been verified in one way or another. For example, until this century, there was no historical record of Pontius Pilate as governor of Judea. So critics and skeptics said the Bible was obviously wrong on this point. That is, until a building stone dated to the first century was discovered inscribed with his name and position. Even the space program is verifying the Bible. Scientists check the position of the sun, moon, and planets over hundreds of years past and future so a satellite won't hit something in later orbits. As their computer ran through orbital positions over the centuries, it stopped with an error. The problem found to be "a day missing in elapsed time." A member of the team remembered Joshua 10 and said, "I heard a story in church about the sun standing still." So they updated the program and "recovered" 23 hours and 20 minutes – not quite a whole day. They puzzled over this until the man also recalled the account of the sun going backward. So they read 2 Kings 20:9-11 to find God sent the sun back ten degrees, which is exactly 40 minutes!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Do you believe the entire Bible is true? How do you know?

Find a book about evidence for the Bible as God's true word and read it in the next few weeks.

Kingdom Quest year 2