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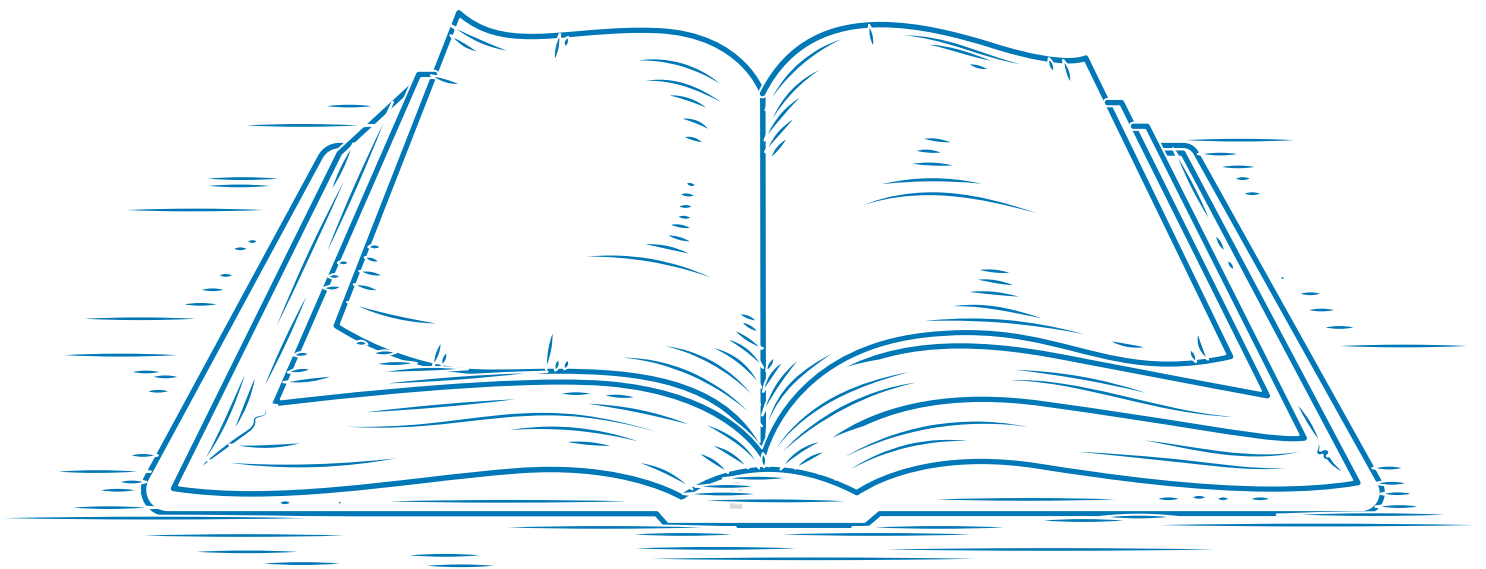
Bedrock of Scripture



BEDROCK OF SCRIPTURE

Why do we believe anything at all? For Christian believers, the foundation of our faith rests firmly on the authority of Scripture. The Bible is not just a sacred text; it is the bedrock of our understanding of who God is, how we are to live, and what distinguishes right from wrong. In this chapter, we will explore 11 key reasons why believers trust in the authority of Scripture, while also examining how our convictions about truth and morality stand apart from other popular belief systems. The goal is to deepen our understanding of why we hold the Bible in such high regard and how it shapes every aspect of our faith and life.

WHY BELIEVE ANYTHING AT ALL?



WHY

WE BELIEVE IN THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

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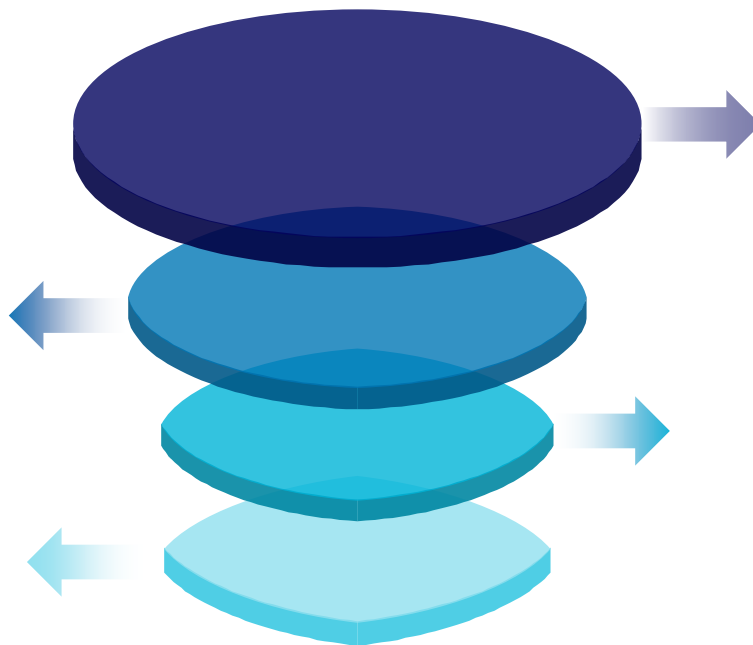
Place a check next to the three reasons that you are most likely to use in a conversation with an unbeliever about the authority of scripture.

Wesley on Scripture

"The Scripture, therefore, of the Old and New Testament, is a most solid and precious system of divine truth. Every part thereof is worthy of God; and all together are one entire body, wherein is no defect, no excess."

John Wesley, Explanatory Notes upon the Old Testament, Vol. 1, Preface

PRIMACY OF SCRIPTURE



"In all cases, the Church is to be judged by the Scripture, not the Scripture by the Church. And the Church is to be guided by the Scripture, as the only rule of right and wrong in things pertaining to God."

Reference: John Wesley, The Works of the Rev. John Wesley, Vol. 10, p. 130*

IF NOT THE BIBLE, WHAT ARE SOME WAYS PEOPLE BELIEVE THEY KNOW... RIGHT FROM WRONG

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(Place a check next to the moral framework you most frequently hear people use.)

In popular culture, various moral frameworks may be helpful to some, but they fall short for those who follow Jesus. As Christians, our **moral standard is the Lord Himself.**

Key Scripture Passages:

•1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)

"But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"

•Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

•John 13:15 (NIV)

Jesus said, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

What does it mean for us?

We discern right from wrong based on who the Lord is and what He says and does.

- **Truthfulness** is right because the Lord is truthful.
- **Fidelity** in marriage is proper because the Lord is faithful in His relationships.
- Stealing is wrong because the Lord is **Giving**.

The Lord is the ultimate moral standard, and the **best way to understand what is right or wrong** is to know what the Lord is like through the Bible. We don't simply believe something is right or wrong because Scripture says so; we believe it is right or wrong because it reflects whether it is like or unlike the Lord. **Scripture** is the definitive way of knowing God's nature and character.

Reflect on Luke 23:33-34

Take a moment to read **Luke 23:33-34**, where Jesus says, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Reflection Questions:

1. What does this passage tell us about what the Lord is like?
2. What do we learn about right or wrong behavior as followers of Jesus?

Importance of Daily Scripture Reading

Scripture is the **bedrock of our beliefs**. It is an immovable source of understanding what the Lord thinks, desires, and does. Knowing the Bible is essential for knowing God, and developing a **daily habit** of reading Scripture is vital for spiritual growth.

If you haven't yet established a daily routine of reading Scripture, I encourage you to start. Consider the following reading plan to explore God's Word:

- Start with the **Gospel of Matthew** or **Luke**.
- Follow up with the **letter of 1 John**, and then read the **Gospel of John**.



Personal Scripture Reading Plan

Take a moment to set your goals for the week:

1. Scripture Passage:

Each day in the coming week, I will read a portion of the following Scripture passages: *(Example: I will read Luke chapters one and two in the coming week.)*

2. Time of Day:

I will read Scripture at this time each day:
(Example: 6:45 AM before I get ready for work.)

3. Location:

I will be in this location when I read Scripture:
(Example: at my kitchen table drinking coffee.)

