

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	How to Know the Bible is the Word of God
SERMON REFERENCE:	2 Timothy 3:16
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#5817

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

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- 1) INTRODUCTION
 - a) 2 Timothy 3:16
 - i) You will never be any greater in your Christian life that your conviction concerning the Word of God.
 - b) The Bible is not the book of the month; it is the book of the ages.
 - i) It has out-lived, out-loved, out-lifted, out-reached and out-ranked all other books put together.
 - ii) We read the Bible and the Bible reads us.
 - c) Man has only three problems: sin, sorrow and death.
 - i) All other problems are a subset of one of these.
 - ii) The Bible is the only book that has the answer to these three problems.
 - d) There is a war against the Bible today.
 - i) Some despise it.
 - (1) They hate the Bible for some reason and wish it were obliterated.
 - ii) Some deny it.
 - (1) They do not believe it is the inspired Word of God.
 - iii) Some distort it.
 - (1) They massacre the Bible with different interpretations
 - (2) One way to know the Bible is the Word of God: it has stoop up under so much shoddy preaching.
 - iv) Some dissect it.
 - (1) They view the Bible as a math book rather than a love story.
 - (2) They try to pick it apart piece by piece.
 - v) Some disregard it.
 - (1) They give lip service to the Bible, but they do not really study it.
 - (2) Many Christians spend more time with their newspapers than their Bibles.
 - (a) Even though they know much in the newspaper is not true and they claim to believe that everything in the Bible is true.
 - e) You will not be any bigger, any better, and stronger than your belief in the Word of God.
 - f) Why is it so important to understand that the Bible is the Word of God?
 - i) Your salvation depends on it.
 - (1) Salvation is based on the Gospel and the Gospel comes out of the Word of God.
 - (2) Apart from Gospel Truth, no one is saved.
 - ii) If you want to see somebody saved, you have to give them something to believe.
 - (1) You give them the Word of God.
 - (a) Romans 10:17
 - iii) Your growth as a Christian depends on the Word of God.
 - (1) 1 Peter 2:2
 - iv) Your sanctification depends on the Word of God.
 - (1) John 17:17

- v) Your assurance depends on the Word of God.
 - (1) 1 John 5:13

2) BECAUSE OF SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY

- a) Some believe the Bible cannot be scientifically accurate because it was written thousands of years ago.
 - i) The Bible has not always agreed with the days current scientific thought.
 - ii) In the Louvre in Paris, there are 3 ½ miles of scientific books.
 - (1) Many of these books are now obsolete because science is ever-changing.
 - (2) What is scientific fact in one era may not be in another era.
 - iii) A pamphlet from the French Academy of Science printed in 1861 listed 51 incontrovertible facts that prove the Bible scientifically wrong.
 - (1) Today, scientists dismiss all 51 of those statements as false.
 - iv) When a scientist says a good word about the Bible, that does not give us more faith in the Bible; only a little more faith in the scientist.
- b) We take for granted that the Earth is suspended in space.
 - i) The ancient Egyptians believed the Earth was supported on five pillars.
 - ii) The ancient Greeks believed that the Earth rested on the back of Atlas.
 - iii) The ancient Hindus believed the Earth rested on the backs of huge elephants.
 - (1) The elephants were standing on the back of a huge tortoise.
 - (2) The tortoise was standing on the back of a huge serpent.
 - (3) The serpent was swimming in a cosmic sea.
 - iv) Job 26:7
 - (1) God suspended the Earth in space, hanging upon nothing.
- c) We take for granted that the Earth is a sphere.
 - i) In times past there were scientific groups called Flat Earth Societies that believed the Earth was flat.
 - ii) People in the time of Columbus feared he would sail off the edge of the world.
 - iii) Isaiah 40:22
 - (1) “Circle” in this passage means sphere or globe’
- d) We take it for granted that the stars are uncountable in human number.
 - i) 150 years before Christ, Hipparchus claimed to have counted the stars; numbered at 1,022.
 - ii) 250 years later, Ptolemy double-checked the work and called the number “absurd,” stating that there were actually 1,026.
 - iii) 1,300 years later, Galileo created the first crude telescope and was able to see stars beyond stars beyond stars that were uncountable.
 - iv) The Hubble telescope has taken images of stars millions of light years away.
- v) Jeremiah 33:22
- e) We take it for granted that the blood in our body is a river of life.

- i) Blood carries food to the cells.
- ii) Blood carries waste from the cells.
- iii) Blood carries energy to the cells.
- iv) Blood fights disease.
- v) Blood maintains a constant temperature in the body.
- vi) Not until William Harvey in 1615 do scientists know that the blood circulates in the body.
- vii) In relatively recent times, when people were sick they would often attribute it to bad blood and doctors would bleed them.
 - (1) Bloodletting was attributed for the death of President George Washington.
 - (2) Leviticus 17:14
 - (a) The blood is the life of all flesh.
 - (3) “None of These Diseases” written by Dr. S.I. McMillan, studied medical practices and scientific truths found in the Pentateuch; the first five books of the Bible.
 - (a) He focused on these because they were written by Moses.
 - (i) Moses had been educated in Egypt.
 - (b) The Egyptians practiced embalming and even brain surgery.
 - (i) These practices can be found in the “Papyrus Ebers.”
 - 1. This contained much of the medical knowledge of the Egyptians.
 - (c) Some of the practices found in the Papyrus Ebers:
 - (i) To prevent hair from turning gray, anoint with the blood of a black cat which has been boiled in oil or with the fat of a rattlesnake.
 - (ii) To prevent losing hair, apply a mixture of six fats: horse fat, hippopotamus fat, crocodile fat, cat fat, snake fat and eyebeex fat.
 - (iii) To strengthen your hair, anoint with the tooth of a donkey that has been crushed in honey.
 - (iv) To remove a splinter, apply a mixture of worms’ blood and donkey dung to the site of the wound.
 - (v) Other common “drugs” used by the Egyptians:
 - 1. Lizard blood
 - 2. Pig’s teeth
 - 3. Rotten meat
 - 4. Moisture from pig’s ears
 - 5. Milk
 - 6. Goose grease
 - 7. Donkey hooves
 - 8. Excreta from animals and humans
- (4) In the Middle Ages, the Bubonic Plague killed millions of people.
 - (a) Leviticus 13:46

- (b) Sickly people were quarantined in order to protect those that were not sick.
 - (i) This practice helped to subside the infection and death rates from Bubonic Plague.
 - (5) In 1840, a hospital in Vienna was experiencing high rates of maternity deaths.
 - (a) The new head of the hospital, Dr. Phillip Semmelweis, instituted a policy of washing hands before pregnant mothers were examined.
 - (i) Doctors were starting there days in the morgue and then going straight to the maternity ward without washing their hands.
 - (b) The mortality rate dropped from 1 out of every 5 to 1 out of every 84 within a year simply because of washing hands.
 - (c) When 11 out of 12 died in a row, even after washing their hands after leaving the morgue, Semmelweis instructed doctors to wash after every patient.
 - (d) Numbers 19:14-19
 - (i) Warns about contamination from dead bodies and how to isolate those that had come into close contact.
- 3) BECAUSE OF HISTORICAL ACCURACY
- a) The Bible is not primarily a book of science.
 - i) The Bible is not written to tell us how the heavens go; it is written to tell us how to get to Heaven.
 - ii) But, the God who wrote the Bible is also the God of all science.
 - iii) John 3:12
 - b) The Bible is also not primarily a history book.
 - i) But it is historically correct.
 - ii) It is His story.
 - c) Dr. S.R. Driver said it was impossible for Moses to have written the first five books of the Bible because man did not know how to write at that time.
 - i) Dr. Matthew Petrie studied some tablets found in Northern Egypt.
 - (1) These were letters written between people in Egypt and Palestine.
 - ii) This proved that people at the time of Moses knew how to write.
 - d) In the book of Daniel, Belshazzar is having a feast when a hand appears and writes upon a wall.
 - i) Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upsharsin.
 - (1) "You have been weighed in the balances and found wanting. Your kingdom is coming to an end."
 - ii) Daniel is summoned to translate the writing and told that if he can do so, he will be made the third ruler of the kingdom.
 - iii) Historians claimed that that was impossible because no historical records of Babylon mention a king named Belshazzar.
 - iv) Historians claim that Nabonidus was the last king of Babylon.

- v) Again, in the 1880's, a set of clay cylinders were discovered that not only proved the existence of Belshazzar, but that he indeed ruled Babylon with his father; they were co-regents.
 - (1) Nabonidus was away from the kingdom for most of his reign and left his oldest son, Belshazzar, in power during his absence.
 - (2) This makes the statement in the book of Daniel by Belshazzar to make Daniel the "third" ruler of Babylon historically accurate.
- e) Had the cylinders with the name of Belshazzar not been found, would that have made the Bible any less true? No.
 - i) The Bible is true even without archeological evidence backing it up.
- f) The Bible is historically true.
 - i) You can bank on the record of the Word of God.

4) CONCLUSION

- a) How will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?
 - i) If you turn from God's Word, there is no escape for you.
- b) What will you do with Jesus who is called the Christ?
 - i) You will ignore Him or listen to Him.
 - ii) You will accept Him or Reject Him.
 - iii) You will crown Him or Crucify Him.
 - iv) You will have to make a decision about Him.
 - (1) To decide not to decide is a decision.
- c) What must I do to be saved?
 - i) Acts 16:31
- d) You can know the Bible is the Word of God because God tells us so.
- e) If you will trust Jesus, He will save you instantaneously, He will be with you continually, and He will keep you eternally.
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16