

“Is the Bible Really the ‘Word of God?’”

FOCUS: Is the Bible reliable? Is it the “Word of God?”

I want to give recognition to Josh McDowell and his book, **Evidence That Demands a Verdict**, C. 1972 by Campus Crusade for Christ, Inc. (now known as *Cru*). I am using McDowell’s book a LOT for this message.

1. The Bible Is Unique In Its _____.

We believe that the Bible is absolutely accurate and inspired in its _____ writing.

So, why do I think there is continuity in the Bible?

- Written over a 1600 year span.
- Written over 60 generations.
- Written as 66 books by 40 plus authors, including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen and scholars.
- Written on three continents (Asia, Africa and Europe).
- Written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

- Written without even ONE original text still in our possession.
- Written so that “*The ‘Paradise Lost’ of the Genesis becomes the ‘Paradise Regained’ of Revelation. Whereas the gate to the tree of life is closed in Genesis, it is opened forevermore in Revelation.*” – Geisler and Nix (**A GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE**, Moody Press, 1968) as found in *Ibid.*, p. 19.

It is easy – when attacked in this manner – to react in one of two wrongful ways:

- 1) To _____ as though the criticism is just when it is not!
- 2) To _____ as though our primary goal is to conquer all nay-sayers.

I believe it is **Mc Dowell** who rightly says, “The objective of apologetics is not to wittingly convince a man, contrary to his will, to become a Christian.” – *Ibid.*, p. 3.