

“The Bible Is Trustworthy”

The former William (Bill) Bright, founder and president of Campus Crusade for Christ International, stressed what is often the real issue by many intellectuals with the Bible and Christianity. Bright wrote of a *brilliant but confused psychiatrist who came to Arrowhead Springs for counsel frankly confessed that he had never been willing to honestly consider the claims of Christ in his own life for fear that he would be convinced and, as a result, would have to change his way of life.*” – found in the Foreword of **Josh McDowell’s** book, **EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT**, C. 1972 by Campus Crusade for Christ, Inc., p. “i”

FOCUS: The Bible is Trustworthy In Its...

1. _____ Test.

Frederick Kenyon (one of the great authorities concerning the field of NT textual criticism) writes: *“It cannot be too strongly asserted that in substance the text of the Bible is certain: Especially is this the case with the New Testament. The number of manuscripts of the New Testament, of early translations from it, and of quotations from it in the oldest writers of the Church, is so large that it is practically certain that the true reading of every doubtful passage is preserved in some one or other of these ancient authorities. This can be said of no other ancient book in the world.”* – Ibid., p. 45 (emphasis added)

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2. _____ Test.

The Bible was written by eyewitness and from first-hand information:

- **Luke 1:1-3** – *“Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things they accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses*

and servants of the Word have handed them down to us, it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus.”

- **2 Peter 1:16** – *“For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.”*
- **John 19:35** – *“And he who has seen has borne witness, and his witness is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.”*

3. _____ Test.

Polycarp (A.D. 70-156) was a disciple of John and succumbed to martyrdom at 86 years of age because of his relentless devotion to Christ and the Scriptures.... When asked to recant and live, he is reputed to have said, *‘Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He hath done me no wrong. How can I speak evil of my King who saved me?’* He was burned at the stake, dying a heroic martyr for his faith.”

–Ibid., p. 69

4. _____ Test.

For many years, some critics had scoffed at the Biblical account of Jesus before Pilate since there was absolutely NO physical evidence of his existence. However, in 1961 an archaeological team led by Antonio Frova discovered the **“Pilate Stone”** behind the stage house of the Roman theatre at Caesarea, the city that served as Rome's administrative center in the province of Judaea.