

[CAN WE TRUST the bible]

question

Besides a possible lack of time or interest, what are some of the excuses you heard people use, or told yourself, for not reading the Bible?

Here are a few common excuses...

- 1 The Bible is not relevant today.** If you really think about it, human nature has not changed much over the millennia. People's relationship and spiritual needs remain as strong as ever. Environments, not people, change over time. God's word is no less relevant today than when it was originally given thousands of years ago. "Irrelevance" isn't a good excuse for not reading the Bible.
- 2 The language is so old no one can understand it.** Not to say that some parts are not difficult to understand, but most of the Bible is clear once you understand the passage's context. In fact, one could argue that its clarity is one of the Bible's greatest qualities and a good reason to follow it. Find an easy-to-read version of the Bible (like the NIV, for example) so you can follow the context.
- 3 Man has altered the Bible over time.** Believe it or not, this excuse is partially true. Over time, there have been many minor copying errors, like Christ Jesus instead of Jesus Christ, or the occasional grammatical error. However, this charge implies that the Bible's content has been altered over time, and therefore it is now untrustworthy. But, this is not the case at all. As we have seen in the "tests of authenticity," the message of the Bible has remained intact through the years.
- 4 Because men wrote it, it is not truly God's word.** Scripture is the word of God and the word of man. It is not either/or, but both/and. Beware of false choices!
- 5 Everyone has his or her own interpretation of the Bible.** Reading the Bible requires careful interpretation and extra effort to understand the original context. Strive to understand the context rather than taking "interpretations" at face value.

Adapted from Douglas Jacoby and Page Pennell's
From Facts to Faith: A Teen Apologetics Series

Homework

Scripture Memory: 2 Timothy 2:15

Scripture Memory: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Come prepared to share: What is one way that you used the Bible this week?

