

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE BIBLE

SERIES: The Foundations on Which We Stand – Why We Believe What We Believe!

2 Timothy 3:15-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21

The purpose of this message is to reacquaint us with the essentials of our faith. For some of us this is an important review. For others who are new to our church, you're finding out exactly where we stand so you can make an informed choice about your attendance and involvement. We learned last Sunday "Why Doctrine is Important"

Now today we share a message entitled, "Why We Believe What We Believe – About the Bible." I had an email from Carol Anglund last week who commented about the message "Preach The Word" and Carol so] profoundly said, "the Word of God is what will be the 'GLUE' that will hold each of us together" as we see the foundations being destroyed. And I say **AMEN AND AMEN!** Thank you, Carol.

Church what this comes down to today is this... **What do we believe in? What are we tied too? Are we tied to the right stuff? The right beliefs...** We believe that what we believe about the Bible is the most important thing we have as a church and it gives us - **Certainty in an Age of Uncertainty** What we believe is based on – *"thus sayeth the Lord- God has spoken"*. In other words, our church isn't based on **preferences** or **personal** choices, our doctrine does not come from **creeds** or man-make **catechisms** but on the written words of God.

I. WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE BIBLE

We take our claims about the Bible directly from the Bible itself. The Bible claims to be inspired by God and there are **five powerful words** that we use in that description. Let me give and explain those five powerful and important words that we will discover that are wrapped up in **2 Tim. 3.15-17.**

DIVINE –

VERBAL –

PLENARY –

INSPIRATION –

INERRANT - means "without error."

II. WHY WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

The Bible has credibility that backs up its claim.

1. We have the accuracy of transmission.
2. The Bible has Amazing Historical Accuracy.
3. The Bible is Amazingly Consistent.
4. We see the impact of the Bible.

III. WHAT WE DON'T BELIEVE ABOUT THE BIBLE

Having covered what we believe about the Bible, I think it is important to study what don't believe about the Bible.

1. We believe the Bible is not a continuing revelation, but a closed revelation. 1) Nobody is getting a "Word from the Lord these days. 2)we reject the Apocrypha, The book of Mormon, The Koran, or any other additions to Scripture. 3) The Bible says that no man should add or take away from this book (**Rev. 22:18-19**). This warning is powerful, we don't add or take away.
2. We believe that the original autographs are inspired. However The copies are not inspired but we hold in our hands the preserved Word of God that is **DIVINE – VERBAL – PLENARY – INSPIRATION –INERRANT** God Breathed Book.
3. We believe the Bible is the final and sufficient rule of faith and practice.

IV. WHAT WILL WE DO WITH WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE BIBLE?

1. We believe in teaching the whole counsel of God from Genesis to Revelations.
2. We believe in the primacy of textual and expository Bible preaching rather than cherry picking verses out of context for our profit.
3. We believe in speaking where the Bible has spoken and being silent where the Bible is silent.
4. We want the Bible to be primary in everything we do. We're not another social club, we're not the YMCA, the Lions or Rotary Club. We're the body of Christ gathered to worship God and live out our gifts in the church. Therefore, the Bible must be central to everything we do.

Love the Bible. Read the Bible. And let the Bible speak through your life. Don't just know knowledge - do as James says, *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves"*.

Open the Word and let the Word open you so that you know Christ. Do you know Christ as your Lord and Savior today? If you were to die today do you know where you would spend eternity?