



# HERITAGE SEMINARY

## Greetings from the President

REV. RYAN RALSTON

Spring is around the corner and things are warming up on our campus.

Students will have a busy semester. Besides all of their coursework, ministry in chapel, and church obligations, they will be on the road quite a bit. They just returned from Roatan Island, Honduras, where they assisted Light in the Darkness and Christ Cares Ministries in the annual Youth Camp. In January, our students traveled to Tennessee and attended the Minister's Conference. Over the next few weeks, they will have ministry opportunities in Florida, Virginia, and Georgia. Finally, they will be traveling to PFYC where they will be hosting the Children's Church for the two-day conference!!

To each one of our students, parents, and supporters I would like to say how much we appreciate your investment and belief in what God is doing at Heritage. I have been extremely proud of each of our students in the way they

have grown in their walk with God and the sacrifices they have made to make this a wonderful year. We have a great group of students who love God and desire to live set apart for the glory of God. They have been an incredible blessing to our church and school.

In over two decades of ministry, I have never had as many confirmations from God to assure us that we are moving in His plan at His timing. Time would not permit to share with you the significant value of each letter, email, text, phone call, offering, or visit we have received in the last year. Every kind word or deed has served as strength to our team. Recently, I shared with our church something I read about sacrificial giving. The author shared that when we give to the Lord's work it is in the form of a seed. It has power to reproduce and give life. Conversely, when we do not give but just consume things for ourselves, it is as if we are buying a pebble. It is almost the same size as a seed, yet it has absolutely no power to give



life. Many people end their life with a jar full of pebbles but I believe God desires for each one of us to sow seeds. Thank you to each of you that have sowed a seed in Heritage. I am expecting a bountiful harvest SOON!

## CHRIST OUR FREEDOM

REV. E. R. RALSTON

Freedom and liberty are two of the most expensive words known to man. The price that freedom has exacted from man has cost him the happiness of his home, the forsaking of his family, the luxuries of his land, the loss of his loved ones, as well as, the loss of his own life. Encyclopedias of human events witness to man's never ending battle to remain free and determine his own destiny. However, there is a bondage of which man with all his



intellect and ingenuity, resources and riches, wisdom and weapons, cannot free himself. Nevertheless, man's condition is not hopeless because the Bible declares that while man cannot liberate himself, there is indeed a Liberator. Glorious is the verse of Scripture, *"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). The power of release, the peace of redemption, and the privilege of rejoicing brought about by Jesus Christ our Liberator can be enjoyed by whosoever will call upon Him.*

To enjoy such a glorious life of

freedom calls attention to the triumphant proclamation that must be promulgated. For others to hear the good news of the liberating power and experience the loving presence of Jesus Christ the Church must be faithful to its commission. This victorious message of freedom must be proclaimed with compulsion, compassion, and conviction. What a message! Jesus saves! Jesus liberates! From the mountains to the valleys, from the mansions to the villages, from the mighty to the vagabonds, all must hear that redemption comes through the blood of Jesus Christ.

The staff, students, and studies of Heritage Seminary are focused

on the exaltation of the sovereignty of our Savior, the surety of Scriptures, and the sacredness of our salvation. Whether it be in the areas of sacrifice, avenues of service, or arenas of struggling the entire body of Christ must remain faithful. We are living in perhaps the most pluralistic and relativistic society in American history. Lackadaisical, lethargic, lifeless programs can never replace the personal commitment and consecration expected and demanded from each believer. If we always remember the price that was paid to give us the privilege and freedom to worship, we will be obedient to our commission and calling to witness for Him.

# The Infallibility of the Bible

GRANT RALSTON

No other piece of literature from antiquity is as authenticated as the Bible. Many skeptics have sneered at its teachings and rejoiced when a portion of Scripture failed to be substantiated. However, to the scoffers' utter dismay, an archaeological discovery comes along to confirm the events inscribed within and convinces another agnostic generation of the divine origin of the Bible. Furthermore, because the Bible is so frequently and extensively endorsed, if one opts to discard the Word of God as unreliable, he must also discard every other work of literature from antiquity (McDowell, 1977). Not only do Christians assert that the Bible is unquestionably corroborated, but they also claim that the Bible is infallible. If an individual concedes that the Bible is indeed trustworthy, then the step to acknowledging its infallibility should not be too difficult for him. Even though its reliability does not necessarily make it infallible, once it can be proven to be substantially verified, the Bible then can be observed as infallible and inspired of God.



## THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL TEST

Historians often apply three criteria when determining whether an item of ancient literature is reliable- the bibliographical test, the internal test, and the external test (McDowell, 1977). The bibliographical test consists of investigating the number of existing manuscripts and the dating of those copies from the originals. Fortunately, for Christianity, there exists an absolute abundance of manuscripts sufficient for reconstructing more than ninety-seven percent of the New Testament beyond any reasonable doubt (Craig, 1984). Craig Bloomberg noted in William Lane Craig's Reasonable Faith, "Over 5,000 manuscripts and manuscript fragments of portions of the New Testament have been preserved." The remarkable coherency of these documents allows for a version of the Bible to be compiled with 99.9% accurate, with the only variations being grammatical differences and spelling variations (Cutchins, 2015). This wealth of resource becomes exceedingly noticeable when the manuscripts of

the Bible are juxtaposed with the copies of other ancient writings. For example, only five copies of Aristotle's poetics and ten of Caesar's Gallic Wars have been located. Not only is this lack of material embarrassing, but the earliest copies found date more than a 1,000 years later than the originals (McDowell, 1977). On the other hand, production for New Testament copies had already begun by the early second century and thousands of citations by the early fathers exist which could recreate most of the Scriptures (Cutchins, 2015). Therefore, the Bible can be trusted as a more reliable source than any other piece of antiquity based solely upon a careful study of its manuscripts.

## THE INTERNAL TEST

Moreover, the next criterion which historians use to verify the authenticity of a writing of antiquity is to perform an internal test. This form of investigation involves the examination of the closeness (proximity) of the writers to their recorded details, the duration of time between the written work and the alleged events, and the coherency within the document. Favorably for Christianity, the Bible excels in each of these categories and separates itself by its consistency and cogency. The authors who penned the New Testament documents were in a prime position to record the events. Josh McDowell wrote, "The New Testament accounts of the life and teaching of Jesus were recorded by men who had been either eyewitnesses or related to eyewitnesses." This proximity of the authors to their recorded material ensures that no hearsay was involved in the transcribing. Furthermore, the short duration which existed between the actual transpiring of the events and the authors' transcriptions eliminates the possibility of legend and folklore being added. Simon Kistemaker noted, "The accumulation of folklore among people of primitive culture takes many generations." Since every New Testament book was written by A.D. 100, the claim that the gospels are replete with myths and legends is untenable (McDowell, 1977). In addition, many skeptics highlight a sundry of apparent contradictions located within the Bible. However, these allegations rest upon tenuous foundation, for most "errors" can be resolved by an understanding of the journalism of that day and a harmonization of the texts (Craig, 1984). Finally, the unbelievable fulfillment of each of the prophecies concerning

Christ's coming (Messianic prophecies) firmly establishes the truth of God's Word. The probability of these prophecies being fulfilled in one person far surpasses the comprehension of the human brain and serves as a salient reminder of God's omniscience (Morris, 1951). When placed under the meticulous microscope of internal inspection, the Bible clearly passes the examination and demands the attention and adoration of mankind.

## THE EXTERNAL TEST

The final criterion used by historians for the authentication of a document is whether the piece of investigation withstands external scrutiny. One field which has brought immense corroboration to the Biblical documents is archaeology. Merrill Unger defined archaeology as a "science devoted to the recovery of the remains of ancient civilizations with a view of reconstructing the story of their rise, progress, and fall." When a portion of Scripture falls under the unfair judgment of some skeptic, often an archaeological discovery diffuses the objection and removes another piece of the scoffer's arsenal. For example, the Old Testament refers to a sect of people called the Hittites. Although the Bible had repeatedly mentioned this nation and portrayed them as being strong and influential, no external evidence had been found to prove their existence, leading many to believe that the Bible was erroneous. However, recent archaeological scholarship has removed this myth and found them to be just as the Bible described them (Morris, 1951). Furthermore, the New Testament mentions a Pool of Bethesda. For many years, the New Testament was the only place which referred to it, but now it can be identified "with a fair measure of certainty" (McDowell, 1972). Instances of this kind can be easily presented to substantiate the reliability of Scripture. Since the Bible has passed each level of examination, in the words of Craig Bloomberg, "The burden of proof that any portion of these words is unhistorical must rest squarely on the skeptic's shoulders."

## CONCLUSION

Unfortunately, even with the preponderance of evidence supporting the reliability of the Bible, many agnostics remain obstinate and intractable in asserting that it is fraught with error.

SEE 'BIBLE' ON PAGE 3



# Heritage Seminary Missions Trip 2016

ROATAN ISLAND, HONDURAS



## DONATIONS

It is with great thankfulness that Heritage Seminary acknowledges the monetary gifts that have been received. There have been many donors, some that have given a one-time gift and some that give consistently, all are appreciated.

If you wish to make a donation, you may give electronically at [holychurchofgod.org](http://holychurchofgod.org) and notate Heritage Seminary in the memo or make a check payable to Heritage Seminary. Thank you for your giving and please remember us in prayer above all.

## BIBLE FROM PAGE 2

The Christian apologist can possess an impressive amount of information in favor of Scripture and yet not be able to convince a soul. Therefore, he must pray for the Holy Spirit to use his words to penetrate the heart of a hardened sinner. On the other hand, Christians ought to rejoice that since their holy guidebook is so abundantly affirmed and reliable, its infallibility is not a blind step of faith but a rational decision. The church should rise and proclaim, in the words of R. C. Sproul: "The great and almighty God, Creator of the universe, is the source of these sacred writings!"

## REFERENCES

Craig, William Lane (1984). Reasonable Faith. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books.  
Cutchins, Stephen (2015). Prove It. Tigerville, South Carolina: Auxano Press.  
McDowell, Josh (1972). Evidence That Demands a Verdict. Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers.  
Josh McDowell (1977). More Than a Carpenter. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers.  
Morris, Henry (1951). The Bible and Modern Science. Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press.  
Sproul, R. C. (2003). Defending Your Faith. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books.  
Unger, Merrill (1962). Archaeology and the New Testament. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House.





## MINISTER'S MEETING 2016

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS  
PIGEON FORGE, TN

## REACH US

*Heritage Seminary students will be performing Kids Crusade at PFYC 2016 and will be on ministry during the summer of 2016, performing the kid's crusades. If your church would like the students to visit for that purpose, please contact us to schedule.*

*Heritage Seminary students will also be on ministry throughout the school year visiting different churches. Please contact us to schedule this ministry weekend also.*

*Please send an email to the email address located below to receive periodic emails from Heritage Seminary.*

**Contact:**  
Heritage Seminary  
707 Little Neck Road  
Savannah, GA 31419  
912.921.0088  
heritagechristianministries@  
gmail.com

## CAMPMEETING

**June 20-24, 2016**

7:30 p.m. (Monday-Friday)

10:00 a.m. (Tuesday-Friday)

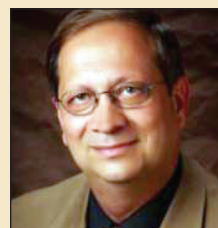
Youth Service 6:30 p.m. (Tuesday-Friday)

### Preacher's Room Reservations:

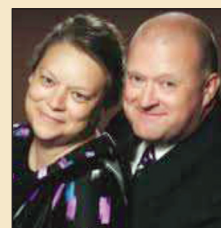
Brian Purtell  
(912) 655-1035

### Further Information:

Pastor Ryan Ralston  
(912) 596-5752



**MORNING SPEAKER**  
**RANDY WEBB**



**NIGHT SPEAKER**  
**SHAD McDONALD**

Homecoming services will be June 19th at 11:00 a.m.  
Meals will be provided following each service.  
[www.holychurchofgod.org](http://www.holychurchofgod.org)

## GIRLS DORM UPDATE:

The girls dorm is now being inhabited and is definitely a blessing to our students. We currently have a remaining balance on this facility of \$85,000 and would be very appreciative of any donations on this project. Please send all offerings to Heritage Seminary 707 Little Neck Road Savannah, GA 31419.

