



# Thursday Thought

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## “Just a Book”

Thursday, November 17, 2016

**Verse for the week: 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT) All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”**

Throughout my 51 years of life I have heard all sorts of arguments against the Bible such as, "it's a bunch of fiction", "it's not reliable", "it's just full of men's opinions", etc. Because of good teachers who allowed me to ask questions, I believe the verse above. I know I am in the minority, but recently I found out just how much in the minority I am.

- Only 28% of Americans believe the Bible is the actual word of God and that it should be taken literally! (Gallup)
- A whopping 39% of evangelicals don't believe the Bible is literal (Pew research).

It seems to me that I'm in a much smaller minority than I originally thought. So **why** do I believe in the Bible? I'll attempt to keep this brief.

- **The Bibliographical Test** - The Bible's reliability is attested to by thousands of ancient manuscripts!
- **External Evidence Test (Historical Accuracy)** - Does other historical material (scientific, historical, or prophetic) confirm or deny the internal evidence found in the manuscripts? Numerous discoveries have confirmed the historical accuracy of the New and Old Testament documents.
- **Internal Evidence Test** – Were the messenger's firsthand witnesses and were they trustworthy? We know that the New Testament was written in the same generation in which the events took place, and that it was circulated among the very people about whom these documents were written - while they were still alive to deny them.

I know this **barely** scratches the surface of a sermon I preached a while back. Here is a link to that sermon for further study: [http://www.pfwc.net/hp\\_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/How-do-I-know-the-Bible-is-True.pdf](http://www.pfwc.net/hp_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/How-do-I-know-the-Bible-is-True.pdf)

**Questions to ask yourself:** What do you believe about the Bible? If you believe it's the "Word of God", are you applying it to your life?

**Quote: Isaac Newton**, English mathematician and scientist, 1642-1727 **“We account the scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatsoever.”**