

## 2019 NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE:

### BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT

INTRO: In our way of reckoning time, we begin each new year on January 1. What I want to encourage us with this morning is that we can trust the Bible for everything. That is huge, almost beyond description. I am not giving you anything new. I am just putting together some truths, much of which I have preached in the past, to remind us of how great the evidence is for our belief in God and in the Bible. This message is for our young people as well. Some have yet to establish and come to believe what the older ones here already believe. I may not finish all my notes but I will just go as far as I have time for.

Some of us who are older had never thought we would see 2019 and now we are there. I want to give you some encouragement for the new year. Here is the encouragement. When you look at everything that is happening, how uncertain so many things beyond our control are; tornados, tsunamis, volcanoes, earthquakes, sicknesses, accidents and how many of these are increasing, I want to encourage you to this: There are some things that will never change. God is unchanging and His Word will never change. You can place your full trust in this.

No doubt all of us have concerns. Already this morning I prayed for new concerns. All of us wonder about certain things for the new year, but how great it is to be able to entrust what lies before us to a faithful Creator.

This past year I watched what was happening in the United States quite closely. It was a most interesting year in that country. And one event kept me riveted to the news. It was President Trump's choice of Bret Cavanaugh as a supreme court judge. Very few times have the democrats been up in arms more than they were there. Well, they literally shredded a good man's reputation, and all, simply for their own political ends.

And during that time I was listening to a certain news clip and they were discussing something related to law courts and this is what I heard that caught my interest. A law court does not seek to prove a case. That is almost impossible. What they do is they

try to bring it to where a jury of twelve is convinced beyond a reasonable doubt about any case.

At the same time this past a man was tried for numerous crimes and he could not be charged with a number of those because one person in a jury of twelve was not convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that he was guilty of a number of charges. The jury has to be 100 % in agreement in order to convict anyone of anything.

As I thought about that I realized that one cannot prove there is a God. But there is enough evidence to show any logical human being that there is a God beyond a reasonable doubt. And secondly, there is enough evidence to show beyond a reasonable doubt that the Bible contains God's Word to man. And this is all one needs to face any particular year, any particular difficulty and all of life for that matter, if one places his trust in it by repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

So we want to look at the evidence for the existence of God, and at the evidence who that God is. We ask, how can we be convinced beyond a reasonable doubt? Well, man has two ways of determining truth. There is the scientific method. But the truth of many things cannot be determined by science. So things like murder cases are determined, not by scientific methods but judicial methods. Proving the truth of the existence of God and whether the Bible is the Word of God I believe must be done judicially.

When a matter is sought to be determined judicially the effort is to find evidence that makes the final decision sure beyond a reasonable doubt.

#### I. HOW TO ESTABLISH FACTS

So how is the most probable conclusion as to the truth of something determined judicially? In a case where a jury is used, there are usually 12 jurors. All 12 are given all the facts and evidence that can be obtained about any case. All 12 have to agree to be unbiased in their judgment. They must judge strictly on evidence. If one of the twelve is not convinced beyond a reasonable doubt of the guilt of the defendant, the charged person has to be let go free.

Here is a chart of what beyond reasonable doubt means (Overhead). On the bottom we have "Proven Not Guilty". On

the top we don't have "Proven Guilty". We have, "Guilty Beyond A Reasonable Doubt." Can we show there is a God beyond a reasonable doubt, and can we show who He is beyond a reasonable doubt?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvIdgW74LCk> Richard Dawkins, beyond reasonable doubt.

Meaning of <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmgGcFOwRCE> Need screenshot.

# BURDEN OF PROOF



One cannot establish truth as to whether God exists by empirical or scientific means in the same way as one can establish at what temperature water freezes. By the way, evolution is not science. True science is knowledge of facts established by repeatable and careful observation.

The judicial method of establishing what happened in any given case is to gather all the facts available, then present it in a court in the presence of the judge and jury. The jury is usually made up of 12 people. Here is what each juror must agree to before he or she can be on the jury according to Lee Strobel. He writes:

"If you were selected for a jury in a real trial, you would be asked to affirm up front that you haven't formed any preconceptions about the case. You would be required to vow that you would be open-minded and fair, drawing your conclusions based on the weight of the facts and not on your own whims or prejudices. You would be urged to thoughtfully consider the credibility of the witnesses, carefully sift the testimony, and rigorously subject the evidence to your common sense and logic."

Each juror must come to a conclusion which to them is correct 'beyond a reasonable doubt'. At the end, all 12 must agree or the one charged with murder is set free. According to one internet article this is what 'beyond a reasonable doubt' means. It said:

*What does 'beyond a reasonable doubt' mean? Reasonable doubt is the term used in jurisdiction of Anglo-Saxon countries. Evidence that is beyond reasonable doubt is the standard of evidence required to validate a criminal conviction in most adversarial legal systems.*

*Generally/Occasionally, the prosecutor bears the burden of proof and is required to prove their version of events to this standard. This means that the proposition being presented by the prosecution must be proven to the extent that there could be no "reasonable" doubt in the mind of a 'reasonable person' that the defendant is guilty. There can still be a doubt, but only to the extent that it would not affect a*

*reasonable person's belief regarding whether or not the defendant is guilty. Beyond 'the shadow of a doubt' is sometimes used interchangeably with beyond reasonable doubt, but this extends beyond the latter, to the extent that it may be considered an impossible standard. The term 'reasonable doubt' is therefore used.*

*If doubt does affect a 'reasonable person's belief that the defendant is guilty, the jury is not satisfied beyond 'reasonable doubt'. The precise meaning of words such as 'reasonable' and 'doubt' are usually defined within jurisprudence of the applicable country. A related idea is Blackstone's formulation "It is better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmgGcFOWRCE>

## II. FACTS WE WANT TO ESTABLISH

### A. Is There A God?

So, the first thing we want to seek to establish is, is there a God beyond a reasonable doubt? Can you scientifically prove there is a God? No, but you can use science to give evidence that there is a God. So what evidence is there that there is a God. Or, on the reverse, what evidence is there that there is no God? Can it be established beyond a reasonable doubt that there is a God?

Well, let us see what evidence we can gather. So let me ask, what is evidence? An online dictionary said evidence is, "the available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid."

So we ask first, what is the evidence that there is a God? In our Catechism which I have taught for many years, the very first section deals with God. And question number 3 is:

### **3. How can we know that there is a God?**

And the answer given is:

*Nature, the conscience, and the testimony of the Holy Scriptures teach us there is a God (Rom. 1:19-20; Deut. 6:4,5).*

The Catechism claims that nature gives evidence that there is a God. That is true. We'll look at that later. Psalm 19 and Romans 1:19-20 are good Scriptures here.

Furthermore, the Catechism says that the conscience gives evidence that there is a God. There is only a very small percentage of mankind that does not believe in big *G* God or a little *g* god. And I think I can safely say this; all of mankind is religious. Even agnosticism and atheism are religions. These teachings believe something they cannot prove. That makes them religious.

I believe it is the conscience that brings forth false beliefs. It is man's way of dealing with the conscience without having to repent and without having to obey the Bible. And so man generates all kinds of gods that he seeks to appease in order to give relief to a conscience troubled by sin. Romans 1:19 tells us that "...what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them" (Romans 1:19; 2:14-15).

Last the Catechism says Scripture gives evidence that there is a God. Most would claim that is circular reasoning and would not accept that as evidence but we will see later how it is good evidence.

In the answer to the Catechism I add that there is evidence that there is a God from reason. Man is a reasoning creature. Beyond animals that live by instinct, man has reasoning powers that supersede instinct. Man can override instinct by reason. Man has been made in the image of God and is a free moral agent. And so, over the years theologians have put forth arguments that appeal to reason, so let me give some of those.

One argument that there is a God is called the moral argument. How does man intuitively know between right and wrong? A child that has been given a toy and is playing contentedly knows it has been wronged when a bully comes along and takes the toy away. How does that child

know it has been wronged? One answer. This argument says it is because God made man that way.

Another rational argument is called the teleological argument.

It says that order and useful arrangement of things imply intelligence and purpose and these do not happen by chance. Anything with design presupposes a designer.

When you see a nest of a certain kind, you know there is a designer. And when you learn to know various kinds of birds you can tell which kind of bird made a particular nest. The order and useful arrangement of the universe is so staggering that only one answer can be given as to its existence. No reasonable person would suggest man made it. That it was somebody greater than man needs no explanation. It is beyond reasonable doubt. Just this pulpit alone is evidence of that.

Another argument given that there must be a God is called the ontological argument. This argument says that the intuitive idea of a God proves there is a God. Why would all people everywhere have the idea of God if there is no God? Why is all of mankind religious? Here we are back to the conscience. All of these leave only one answer: God. Evolution is not an answer. Evolution cannot answer the arrival of the first. Its only answer for all questions is the survival of the fittest.

Then there is what is called the cosmological argument. It says everything begun must have an adequate cause. For example, take this pulpit. It had an adequate cause. Would a beaver be an adequate cause? No. Would any other animate creature besides man be an adequate cause? No. Because we know humans, we know a human being is an adequate cause. Is it beyond a reasonable doubt that a human being made it? Well, we could gather enough data or evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt exactly which human made this pulpit and we would find that person an adequate cause.

Now consider the universe. Consider the planets in their movement and the stationary stars etc.. What is an adequate cause? Could a beaver do that! Even Richard



Dawkins would have to agree that it is beyond any reasonable doubt that any human being is an adequate cause! Would you agree it would have to be somebody or something far beyond a human? Yes. And that is what a God is. A God is above and beyond human.

No reasonable person could believe this pulpit happened by chance. Then certainly no reasonable person could believe the universe happened by chance. That is simply impossible to a reasonable person. It is blind ignorance to say it just happened. It is unreasonable. There is only one explanation for the existence of the universe, and that is some superhuman power made it. And God is such a superhuman, or beyond human cause.

Those four lines of reasoning give evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that there is a God. They outweigh by far all other arguments that there is no God for there is no evidence, as far as I know, that there is no God. I asked omniscient Google this question: "What evidence is there that there is no God." The first article that came up was by Richard Dawkins and it was titled: "Why There Almost Certainly Is No God." It sounds like there might be a reasonable doubt there, right?

In researching this subject a little I asked omniscient Google what 'beyond a reasonable doubt' meant. One of the first things that came up this time was a short video by Richard Dawkins explaining how trying to establish facts by the method of it having to be 'beyond reasonable doubt' is very questionable method of showing something to be one way or the other.

Now why would Richard Dawkins question the method of establishing something to be true or not true by using the "beyond reasonable doubt" method? Could it be because he has a reasonable doubt?

Here are the first two sentences by Dawkins: "*Either Jesus had a father or he didn't. The question is a scientific one, and scientific evidence, if any were available, would be used to settle it.*" What doctrine proved to Him there is no God? The virgin birth of Christ!

God has chosen a means of salvation that men like Dawkins hate.

It is expressed by this word: Faith. Dawkins wants scientific evidence which I think could be described by this word: Sight. Paul says we walk by faith not by sight. But the facts are that evolution does not have scientific evidence. It operates by faith, a faith that has as its foundation man's concocted idea of evolution.

One article that came up was called "The Five Best Reasons Not To Believe In God." It just gave five points without explanation and here they are:

- 1 No evidence.
- 2 Its illogical.
- 3 The preponderance of suffering.
- 4 We don't need him.
- 5 Life's better without him.

I ask, is there anything on that list that makes the non-existence of God a thing beyond a reasonable doubt? Is anything on that list even evidence? What evidence can be given that there no God? No evidence can be given. Surely the Scripture is right when it says, "The fool has said in his heart there is no God" is correct (Ps. 14:1; 53:1).

That there must be a God is beyond reasonable doubt. In the judicial system that is proof enough to convict anyone. Now, for anyone who comes to the conclusion that there must be a God, that person now has come to the answer of the second greatest question. It is this: Who is this God? Or are there many gods? How can we know? Or can we even know?

B. Who Is God?

It would take a lot of time to look at all the different ones that are claimed to be gods by the many religions of the world. For us, one thing, and only one needs enough evidence to show us who God is beyond reasonable doubt and that is this: Is the Bible the Word of God? Most

people who fight against the fact that there is a god do not argue against Allah, or Buddha, Zeus or Shiva or any such god. They argue against Jehovah God, the God of the Bible. Why? I believe it is because the greatest evidence lies in the claim that the God of the Bible is the one true God.

But the standard argument against the view that the God of the Bible is the true God goes something like this: It is circular reasoning for a book to claim the God in that book is the true God. For example, if I wrote a book and said I was God that would be circular reasoning. I would need other evidence to corroborate what I claimed. So for a book to say the God of this book is God, they say, is circular reasoning. Such a book needs other evidence to show that its claims are true and that is what we want to briefly look at.

You may remember that I gave a message called, "Ten Proofs That The Bible Is The Word Of God." Having studied more later, I changed it to "Evidence That The Bible Is The Word Of God." I am indebted to Dr. Harold Willmington for his book, "That Manuscript From Outer Space" for the points of that message and some of the material of that message.

I cannot give you scientific evidence that the God of the Bible is the one true God but I can give you, what I believe is evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that this is so. What we do have is evidence. I want to simply reduce that message to briefly give as many of the 10 points as I have time for.

## 1. The Evidence of the unity of the Bible

The first is the evidence of the unity of the Bible. The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years. The interplay and agreement in those books regarding any subjects is beyond explanation apart from the fact that it must have a divine author. Take the fact that the writings of the OT ended about 400 years before the NT began to be written. Take the fact that in the OT God worked through Israel and

in the NT we have the coming of the Messiah and then the change from Israel as God' primary work on earth to God working through the Church. And yet it all has perfect explanation.

Take for example that it has about 40 different authors who had various occupations and who wrote as far apart as 1500 years and yet they agree together. How is this possible? Try this with any two religious writers over a period of 25 years and there is only one conclusion possible; the Bible has a divine author.

The books of the Bible were written from different places, even different countries and yet they agree. It contains history, prophecy, biography, autobiography, poetry, law, letters, symbols, proverbs and doctrines and yet it agrees. As a matter of fact, any objective student, as he studies further will only find more agreement between the books.

In the original message I said this: Do you know of any other book with this kind of diversity and yet this kind of unity? The odds of a book of this kind being written by man are of such astronomical proportion that only a fool would say it could be done.

So I ask, does the unity of the Bible give some evidence to the claim that the Bible is the Word of God? No matter how much one may claim that there are contradictions in the Bible, can any be given beyond a reasonable doubt? Anyone who wants to make up his or her mind whether the Bible is the Word of God must deal with the fact that there is at least unity in the Bible that is absolutely amazing.

## 2. The Evidence of the indestructibility of the Bible

Then consider that man has sought to destroy the Bible like he has not sought to destroy any other book. As the anvil wears out the hammers, so the Bible wears out those who hammer on it. It is indestructible. Many have hated this book, none have been able to stop it.

One of France's most famous writers, Voltaire once said, "Another century and there will be no Bible on earth." He could not have been more wrong. If we could fill up long trains with Bibles and head to China we would have to distribute Bibles for a long, long time before all those who want one had one.

I mentioned in the original message that, and I quote:

"Ironically, after Voltaire died his old printing press and the very house where he lived was purchased by the Geneva Bible Society and was made a depot for Bibles." If you would look for the best selling book in the world in Guinness Book of records you would not find the Bible listed. Without any question it would embarrass all other books. How is this possible?

No influential hammer that ever hammered on the Bible has lived long to tell about it. So I ask, does the indestructibility of the Bible give some evidence that the Bible is the Word of God? Anyone seeking to determine whether the Bible is credible and researches how man has sought to destroy the Bible must ask, how is it possible that it has survived?

### 3. The Evidence of the historical accuracy of the Bible

There came a time not so awful long ago when the so called intellegentsia of the world ridiculed the many historical mistakes in the Bible. For example, they could find no evidence that the Hittites were ever actually a people as the Bible claims. But modern archeology did away with all the ridicule.

When I did the series on the seven churches of Asia one of the books I referred to quite often was called, "The Letters To The Seven Churches Of Asia", by William Ramsey. When I originally spoke on the ten proofs that the Bible is the Word of God I read this for you. I think I got it from Dr. Harold Willmington. Here is the quote:

"Sir William Ramsey who was for many years the professor of Humanity at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland

and the world's most eminent authority on the geography and history of ancient Asia Minor, studied every available early document concerning that period and area. He wrote of the book of Acts that it was "A highly imaginative and carefully colored account of primitive Christianity." But after many years of intensive study the absolute historical accuracy of Luke's writings, even in minute details captured both his brain and then his heart. He now wrote this of the book of Acts, "I take the view that Luke's history is unsurpassed in regard to its trustworthiness...you may press the words of Luke in a degree beyond any other historians' and they stand the keenest scrutiny and the hardest treatment."

Some of the greatest minds that remained objective in scholarly work were converted to Christianity. I have no doubt if one were to give himself to a careful study of history one would find the Bible to be accurate in all it affirms.

Those, like the Smithsonian Institute in the United States who have subjected the book of Mormon to such studies have found they could not verify the book of Mormon historically. The book of Mormon's claim of the origin of the Indians of America has been shown to be wrong through DNA.

If any such claims could be made against the Scriptures it would be devastating. Here is what we can say, to date, all such claims, for example the claims regarding the Hittites have been shown to be wrong. The Bible has been shown to be right. And in a day when so many historical things are rediscovered, one would expect more and more evidence against the Bible. But what are the facts? The more that is discovered, the more evidence there is in support of the Bible historically.

Now I ask, are there facts that should be taken into consideration here? Most definitely. Take just the Hittite example. The Bible makes claims about them

and history has verified it in these latter years. The evidence is available by the truckload. Is this evidence that the Bible is the Word of God beyond a reasonable doubt? I did not say full proof. I said evidence. But let me say this, what I have told you is only a very small part of what evidence has been discovered already. No doubt much more will be found.

To appreciate this topic properly you must do a study of the archeology of the Bible.

#### 4. The Evidence of the scientific accuracy of the Bible

What would you expect from a writer who wrote about 2,700 years ago with regard to the shape of the earth? Well, the scientific accuracy of Scripture is most amazing. Isaiah spoke in 40:22 of the One who sits on the circle of the earth. Haven't you been most amazed to hear there is a growing teaching of 'flat earthers'? They are even serious.

Job, possibly the oldest book in the Bible says that God stretched out the north over the empty space and hung the earth on nothing (26:7). How long did it take man to come to that discovery?

Now stop for a moment and think. If the Bible was a human book and it spoke of such things, should it not have been way out of touch with what we call scientific truth today? Should there not be many views expressed in writings that old that are very unscientific?

Around 2,000 years before Christ God said to Abraham in Genesis 22:17 that He would bless him and multiply his descendents like the stars of heaven and like the sand on the sea shore. Who would compare the stars to the sand of the sea shore. Take a cup full of sand, how many grains would it contain? Now think of the sand of the sea shore. Is that not a poor comparison to compare the stars to that for number?

About 150 years after Christ the famous astronomer Ptolemy declared dogmatically there were about 1056 stars! But 2,000 years earlier God compared the sand of the sea to stars. Today we know that is a worthy comparison.

Matthew Fountaine Maury is called the "Pathfinder of the Seas." His statue stands in Richmond, Virginia. He has the charts of the sea in one hand and the Bible in the other. One day when he was sick his oldest son was reading to him from Psalm 8:8 in the Bible. It says, "The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas." He said to his son, "Read that again." And then he said, "It is enough -- if the Word of God says there are paths in the sea, they must be there, and I am going to find them." Within a few years he had charted the sea lanes and currents.

And I can't fail to tell give you these words of Dr. James Dwight Dana of Yale University, probably the most eminent geologist in American history, who once addressed a graduating class with these words: "Young men! As you go out into the world to face scientific problems, remember that I, an old man who has known only science all his life long, say to you, that there is nothing truer in all the Universe than the scientific statements contained in the Word of God!"

Now one might not put much stock into the fact that the Bible is scientifically accurate in things written before the modern scientific method came on the scene. But one must be impressed that it cannot be scientifically found faulty since it gave some of these facts long before man discovered them in other ways. Most certainly this adds to the evidence that the Bible is the Word of God.

If you want to check to see how impressive the Bible is in these respects, just read the Koran or the Book of Mormon and you will see the vast difference.



## 5. The Evidence of the prophetic accuracy of the Bible

The fifth piece of evidence we give that the Bible is in fact the Word of God its prophetic accuracy. Here, one point is not sufficient, nor one message nor one book. This is a huge subject. We have just recently passed Christmas and we saw how that 4,000 years after creation the first promise in the Bible of a Messiah was fulfilled. If we would consider only these prophecies the evidence mounts almost to heaven.

When I want to speak to some stranger about the Lord I start something like this: "Do you know what lies ahead for this world?" I do not get to talk to many people but when I have, I have never been turned away once we started on this subject. This is a most fascinating subject. I will ask something like this: "Do you know who our next Prime Minister will be? And of course they say they don't. And then I will sometimes draw out a time-line and say, "Here is where it all began. This is where we are today, and this is what is to come."

Consider this for example. Turn to Matthew 24. Two thousand years ago, just before Jesus ascended back to heaven He told His disciples in outline form what would happen before He returned. We find this in Matthew 24:4-8 like this:

- 4 *And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.*
- 5 *"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.*
- 6 *"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*
- 7 *"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.*

8 *"All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

From the time of Christ until now, it has been a time of deception. Study church history where you will, and that is what you will find. Now what is interesting is that Jesus compares this to birth pangs, and we know they increase until it gets extreme and then birth happens. Each one of the things mentioned in this passage is on the increase. In the mid 1900's there was about 1 killer earthquake every 10 years. Now it is well over one hundred.

Now if things were getting better and better, as one would think they should be and as one might be want to prophecy, yet what Jesus foretold is exactly what is happening. And all these are the beginning of sorrows. Study the book of Revelation, and you will see that it will get much worse.

Is prophecy evidence that the Bible is the Word of God? I don't know of any stronger evidence than that, and it is huge. Anyone honestly considering who the true God is needs to consider this.

Let me share one of those things I shared in the message I mentioned earlier. Sir Isaac Newton is said to have said of Daniel 12:4 "Personally I cannot help but believe that these words refer to the end of the times. Men will travel from country to country in an unprecedented manner. There may be some inventions which will enable people to travel much more quickly than they do now." Newton went on to speculate that this speed might exceed 50 miles per hour. This was around 1680 A.D. Some 80 years later, the famous French atheist, Voltaire read Newton's words and retorted, "See what a fool Christianity makes of an otherwise brilliant man! Here a scientist like Newton actually writes that men may travel at the rate of 30 or 40 m.p.h. Has he forgotten that if man would travel at this rate he would be suffocated? His heart would stand still!"

The prophetic accuracy of the Bible all by itself is enough evidence to show beyond a reasonable doubt that the Bible is the Word of God. And if that is so we know who the one true God is.

#### 6. The Evidence of the prophetic accuracy of the Bible

There is another evidence that the Bible is the Word of God. It is its universal influence. Again, so much could be said here. With translation tools now available the Bible is becoming available in more and more languages. The Bible has now been translated into our own mother tongue, a language that very few people on earth speak. The NT is available in numerous translations.

You can hardly go any place on earth where the Bible does not exist. Its influence is universal. The demand for Bibles cannot be satisfied. And yet there is another piece of evidence that gives credibility to the Bible.

#### 7. The Evidence of the care and copy of the Bible

We could spend much time here on the care and copy of the Scriptures. No books have had the care the Scriptures have had. The preservation of the OT is a fascinating study. The training of the scribes, those who copied the Scriptures was meticulous. There were rules as to what kind of ink had to be used, and it could be used for nothing else. There were rules what they were written on and how they were written and how they made sure there were no errors.

When manuscripts were worn out they were never burned. They were treated more like the body of a person who dies than a book. These books were placed in a Genizah when they were worn out and then later buried in a cemetery.

When we come to the NT, handwritten copies or fragments of copies abound. Today there are well over 5,000. Fifteen hundred years after Herodotus wrote his

history only one copy remained. Twelve hundred years after Plato wrote his classic only one copy remained. Today there are only a few copies of Sophocles, Euripedes, Virgel and Cicero. Yet the Bible is reproduced faster than ever before and in more languages than ever before.

Could this be considered as evidence that the Bible is the Word of God? How would a book thought up by man be copied and recopied like the Bible is?

#### 8. The Evidence of the amazing circulation of the Bible

The internet says that the full Bible has now been translated into **670 languages** as of October 2017. The New Testament has been translated into **1,521 languages** and Bible portions or stories into **1,121** other languages.

Let me give something else here I gave in the original message:

-Only 1/2 of one percent of all books published survive 7 years.

-80% of all books are forgotten in one year.

For example, let us imagine that during this year 200 new books are published in America. Statistics show that by next year only 40 of these 200 will remain. At the end of the 7th year, of the original 200, only one lonely book will survive! Those numbers will have changed by now. But that gives us some idea of the amazing circulation of the Bible!

Now I ask, if the Bible was a book written by a smattering of different people, how would it have survived so long? How would it be copied and distributed to such an extent today? Is there some evidence to be found in this that the Bible may indeed be the Word of God? I ask, how else would one explain this? Today more and more Bibles are being printed every day and the demand exceeds the supply! Praise God.

#### 9. The Evidence of the absolute honesty of the Bible

The ninth bit of evidence is the absolute honesty of the Bible. I have mentioned numerous times what Dr. Harold

Willmington used to say. He said, "The Bible is not a Book that man could write if he would, or would write if he could." Let us say somebody set out to write a book that would make saints out of sinners if they obeyed the teaching. Could man do that? Consider today's psychology. It is supposed to make man better. I read some time ago that psychologists help just about as many people as are helped if they don't go.

Psychology is an ever changing field but the Bible never changes. Yet if people obey it, they are changed for the better. Is there not some evidence to be considered here? So Willmington said that man could not write the Bible if he wanted to. But secondly he said man would not write the Bible if he could.

So consider this, the absolute honesty of the Bible. If you set out a book to make man better would you include things like Noah got drunk, or David and Bathsheba? Would you include all the bad kinds of Judah and Israel? Would you be honest like the Bible is. And yet it is the only book that has brought so much good change in the world.

But consider if somebody started to write 3500 years ago, when the Bible began to be written. Could they have written what is written in the Bible so that it would have the impact for good that the Bible has had? It is impossible! If one wanted to know who the true God is, would he not need to consider this piece of evidence?

#### 10. The Evidence of the life transforming power of the Bible

The last evidence, and not the least, that there is a God is the evidence of the life transforming power of the Bible. No book, no course, no religion, no psychological teaching has the power to do what the Bible can do to change lives. Conversion, which involves two things; repentance and faith, can change any family or nation trait in any person and

make a godly person out of them. Again, books could be written on this.

CONCL: So we conclude. If a person is reasonable and honest and objective; is there evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that there is a God? I vote, "Yes". Is there evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the Bible is the Word of God? I vote, "Yes". If I am correct, can I commit the concerns of 2019 into this God's hands? The answer is a resound "Yes" if the following is true: I have repented of my sins and trust Christ for my salvation by faith. And if I say I trust Christ for my salvation by faith, the evidence of that is a life lived by the Bible. We do not live right to get saved; we live right because we are saved. May that be the case of each one of us in this coming year.