

Tests for ancient documents show that the New Testament Scriptures are accurate and reliable

- Test #1 – Bibliographical Evidence
 1. Quantity and quality of manuscripts
 2. Length of transmission time

- Test #2 – External Evidence
 1. Known facts
 2. Fulfillment of prophecies
 3. Confirmation from archaeology
 4. Personal witness

- Test #3 – Internal Evidence
 1. Consistency
 2. Geographical and time references

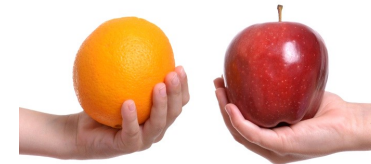
Audio sermons can be downloaded from our website: www.islandfmc.ca

All Scripture references are from "The Holy Bible: New Living Translation" unless otherwise noted

ST. JOSEPH ISLAND FREE METHODIST CHURCH
SERMON NOTES
SUN APR 17 2016 PASTOR ADRIAN COLLINS

So What's the Difference?

Comparing Evangelical Christianity to Other Faiths



#2 – Can We Believe the Bible?

God communicates with His people:

- Words spoken directly to us
 - *Gen 1:3, Ps 33:6, Gen 2:15-18, Exod 3:1-4, 33:11, Deut 18:15-18, Mat 3:17*
- Words spoken through the person of Jesus Christ
 - *John 1:1, 14, Rev 19:11-13, Heb 1:1-2*
- Words spoken through the human lips of chosen people
 - *Jer 1:4-9, 2 Pet 1:19-21, Gal 1:11-12, 1 Cor 2:10-13*
- Words written down by chosen human authors
 - *Exod 31:18, 32:15-16, Deut 31:9, 24-26, Josh 24:25-26, Isa 30:8, Jer 30:1-2*

The Old Testament points forward to the coming of Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

- **John 5:39** ³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!”
- **Luke 24:25-27** ²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. ²⁶ Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?” ²⁷ Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”

The New Testament shows that Jesus is indeed the fulfillment of the Old Testament narrative, prophecies and law.

- **Mat 5:17-18** ¹⁷ Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.”
- **Heb 1:1-2** ¹ Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. ² And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe.”

The New Testament Scriptures the Holy Spirit inspired writings of the Apostles

- **The “canon” of New Testament Scripture is the recognition of the Apostle’s personal testimony.**

- **The inspiration of the Holy Spirit enabled the Apostles to write down the word of God**

- **How we got the New Testament canon of Scripture**

- **Tests for inclusion in the canon**
 1. **Was the book written by a prophet of God?**
 2. **Was the writer confirmed by acts of God?**
 3. **Did the message tell the truth about God? ...if in doubt throw it out.**
 4. **Does the book come with the power of God?**
 5. **Was the book accepted by the people of God?**