

Transmission of the Bible
2 Timothy 3:16-17
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from the way the Bible message was given to man.

Introduction

I. Languages of the Bible

A. Aramaic

1. This language was the local language of the land of Palestine and much of Syria where Jesus and the apostles lived and did a lot of work.

B. Hebrew

1. This is a pictorial language, speaking with vivid and bold descriptions.
2. This is also a personal language; it addresses itself to the heart and emotions not just to the mind and reason.
 - i. Sometimes even nations are given personalities (**Mal 1:2-3**)

C. Greek

1. This is an intellectual language.
 - i. It was more a language of the mind than of the heart.
 - ii. It was more suited to putting God's message in a easily understood form that could be passed on to man.
2. This was a nearly universal language.
 - i. This language was appropriate for the spread of the message in the N.T. age due to the fact that it was widely spoken throughout the world.

II. The Process of Transmission

A. Genuineness and Authenticity Distinguished

1. Genuineness – refers to the truth of the origin of a document, it's authorship.
2. Authenticity – refers to the truth of the facts and content of the documents of the Bible.
 - i. Authenticity – deals with the integrity (trustworthiness) and credibility (truthfulness) of the record.

B. From God to us (link after link)

1. Deity – the existence of God who desires to communicate Himself to man.
2. Apostolicity – God identified and directed a group of men known as prophets and apostles to speak authoritatively for Him.
3. Canonicity – This answers the question, which are the inspired prophetic and apostolic books and how are they known?
 - i. These are books written by men of God, confirmed by acts of God, that came with the authority and power of God, that told the truth about God, man, etc; and were accepted and collected by the people of God.
4. Authority – the teaching of men who were divinely inspired for the purpose of communicating divinely authoritative teaching.
5. Authenticity – Whatever is spoken by God must be true, because God is the standard of truth itself (**Heb 6:18**, "it is impossible for God to lie")

6. Integrity – This is the historic evidence that links authenticity and credibility, anything authentic and true is credible.
7. Credibility – is based on the authenticity of the text.

III. Lessons for us today.

A. Lessons from the languages

1. The most common languages used in the Bible reveal God took care that His Word be preserved.
2. The Koine Greek language (which is the language of the N.T.) is a “dead” language.
 - a. This means the language does not change, therefore what was recorded in the language then, still means the same today, there are no changes, the definitions of words and the meaning of phrases have stayed the same.
 - b. Thus, we have the same words recorded then available to us today.

B. Lessons from the transmission process

1. God’s Word that we have recorded for us today, stands up to the tests of genuineness & Authentic.
2. Since it stands up to such tests, the Word we have today can be trusted.

Application & Conclusion:

1. God’s Word is not a myth, or a collection of stories passed down through the ages.
2. It withstands all scrutiny and passes all tests, the same cannot be said for the theories of man.
 - a. Only God’s Word can be trusted and be used as man’s true standard.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9