

What do you think of the fact that there are over 400,000 textual variants in New Testament manuscripts? Does that affect your confidence in the Bible?

How about the added passages? (Mark 16:9-20; John 7:53-8:11)
If these passages are not in the early manuscripts, should we continue to leave them in newly published Bibles?

How do these ideas affect our approach to reading and applying the Bible in daily life?

Prayer Requests



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Scripture References

- 2 Peter 1:20-21 • Colossians 4:16 • Mark 14:39
- Romans 8:1, 4 • Mark 16:9-20 • John 7:53-8:11

- 1) _____ means that the content of the Bible comes from God, even though it was written by _____.
- 2) Virtually all Christians reject the idea that God _____ the words of scripture.
- 3) The book of Isaiah from the Dead Sea scrolls is virtually identical with today's Hebrew version, despite a time span of some _____ years.

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Audio and notes available at www.gbcsl.com

- 4) Textual _____: where one ancient manuscript reads differently than another ancient manuscript.
- 5) A textual variant is any difference in _____, word order, additions, omissions, substitutions, etc., between two texts.
- 6) The vast majority of variants cannot even be _____ and have no effect whatsoever on the _____ of the text.
- 7) A larger issue is _____ to the text.
- 8) Major additions include:
 The long _____ of Mark (16:9-20)
 The adulterous _____ (John 7:53-8:11)
- 9) Variant texts do not affect any central _____, therefore they have little _____ on Christian belief.
- 10) Through the science of Textual Criticism, scholars are confident that we have the New Testament as it was _____ written.
 (Scholars mentioned: Dan Wallace; Bart Ehrman)



Small Group Discussion Questions

Please try to think these over and jot down some ideas prior to discussing them at the meeting, it will improve the discussion.

Do you like to read? If so, what kind of literature do you read? Novels, poetry, short stories, dramas, mysteries, suspense, biographies, westerns? Or something else?

What is your earliest memory of the Bible? Someone reading it in church? Someone in the family reading it? Reading it yourself?

Have you ever considered the idea that the Bible contains different types of literature? What are some of the types of literature we find? How might that affect how we read and understand it?

The sermon mentioned that almost all Christians reject the idea that God dictated scripture. How do you think God might have communicated to the writers? What does Luke 1:1-4 have to say about it? Read Galatians 1:11-12. How does that apply?

Continued on reverse.