

# Questions and Answers

# 1. Questioning (doubting) Scriptures

- U.S. society has been trained to doubt word of God.
- Even churches (including Roman Catholicism) openly deny the Bible.
  - For years, they tried to silence it

## 2. Book on church history

- Needs to leave Lord's church.
- After reading of R. Catholic atrocities / false doctrines, join Roman Catholicism?
  - Ac.2, how much did these Jewish Christians know of NT? (2:42)
  - Hb.5:12-14

### 3. Critical of Bible

- *“It seemed insurmountable and super difficult that God would just give us a big thousand page collection of letters, poetry, history, Jewish law, prophecy, and say figure it out on your own.”*
- Why did Jesus teach common people . . . ?
- Why did Lord’s apostles write epistles to common people . . . ?

## 4. Obstacles to learning Bible

- “*What if...cannot read... low IQ... no college degree...*” – Hopeless?
  - We can understand plan of salvation in one setting, Ac.2
  - We can understand work of church, worship, godliness as easily as Ac.2
  - Work and patience increase knowledge, Ac.2:42. Cf. Ep.3:3-5; 2 Pt.3:15-16

## 5. “You have to know Hebrew / Greek...”

- Who says?
  - Do we need medical degree to take medicine?
  - Do we need horticulture degree to grow flowers?
- Ac.2:...6, 8

## 6. “What if they translated it all wrong?”

- Nothing in antiquity compares to NT
  - Herodotus – 9 manuscripts
- Tenacity of NT text –

“Once a reading occurs it will persist with obstinancy ... It is precisely the overwhelming mass of the New Testament textual tradition which provides an assurance of certainty in establishing the original text”

– Kurt / Barbara Aland

## 6. “What if they translated it all wrong?”

- Mt.24:35
- Real danger: reject accurate NT for a false religion – 1 Tim.4:1-3; 2 Tim.4:1-5

7. “There are 30-40,000 different denominations with different interpretations...”

- First Century: Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, gnostics, ascetics, Ebionites, Marcionites . . . .
- But: Mt.11:25
- 1 Pt.2:2
- Implication: we cannot know truth. Jn.8:31f
- Whose words will judge us – pope?  
Catholic church? . . . . Jn.12:48

8. “What if we don’t have all the inspired books of the Bible?”

- 2 Tim.3:16-17 – what else do we need?
- If we obey what we have, we will be saved.

9. “Early Christians had extra books in the Bible . . . Luther took them out”

- Luther made his own German translation
- He opposed and exposed errors / excesses of Catholicism

10. “If Luther was inspired to take books out of the Bible, why are we not Lutheran?”

- Luther never claimed inspiration
- Luther is not our guide

# 11. “We have Bible only because Catholic Church assembled it for us...?”

Many Catholic/priests oppose Francis . . .

- Atheists can go to heaven
- Will not judge homosexuals...
- Embraces transgenders
- Supports climate change politics
- Forgiveness for women who have abortions
- Streamlined annulment process for divorcees who remarry
- Big bang theory . . .
- Women in pastoral roles

# I. Catholics gave us the Bible?

# Impossible

- 1 Co.9:5, Peter was married
- 1 Pt.4:11, if we speak as oracles of God...
  - What will we say about . . .
    - Roman Catholicism?
    - Roman Catholic Church?
    - Pope?
    - Cardinals?

I. Catholics gave us the Bible?

II. Apocrypha

# Apocrypha: *hidden*; of uninspired books

- Collection of documents mostly dated between 2<sup>nd</sup> Cen. B.C. and 1<sup>st</sup> Cen. A.D.; not part of original OT canon.
- Names of books included in R. Catholic editions of Bible: Tobit, Judith, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, 1 Maccabees, and 2 Maccabees.
- Catholic Council of Trent (1546) affirmed their canonicity as in Latin Vulgate, and condemned those who reject them.

# Apocrypha: *the facts*

1. Apocrypha never claims inspiration.
2. Josephus (AD 37-95) rejected it, accepting only 22 OT bks.
3. Apocrypha not accepted by Origen, Tertullian (late 2<sup>nd</sup> Century).
4. Written during silent years between OT and NT. Mal.4:4-5, looks 400 yrs. into future when 'Elijah' would come (Mt.11:14).
5. "No evidence these books were ever regarded as canonical by any Jews, whether inside or outside Palestine..." – F. F. Bruce.

## Apocrypha: *the facts*

6. Jesus never quoted from Apocrypha. Apostles ignored it.
7. Contains errors. “Books of Tobit and Judith abound in geographical, chronological, and historical mistakes” – Prof. Wm. Green.
8. Prayer for the dead: ‘Wherefore he made the propitiation for them that had died, that they might be released from their sins’ – 2 Mac. 12:45. Nowhere authorized in Bible.

I. Catholics gave us the Bible?

II. Apocrypha

III. Peter, first pope?

# If Peter were pope, would expect some statement...

1. Theme of Mt.16 – Jesus, the Messiah, not Peter, the pope
2. Mt.16:21-23, some pope!
3. Mt.18:1-4, why did other apostles miss it?
  - Why didn't Jesus correct them? (v.4)
4. Mt.18:18, you (plural): why? If Peter alone, it would be singular. Were all popes?
5. Mt.19:28, why twelve thrones...?

# If Peter were pope, would expect some statement...

6. Mt.20:20-28, James / John... 27-28, *lowest?*
7. Ac.8:14, apostles sent *Peter*...??
8. 1 Co.3:11, no other foundation than...*Peter?*
9. Gal.2:9...11-14, authority over Paul??
  - 14: gospel is standard that is binding on all apostles
10. OT evidence: Ps.118:22 / Is.28:16 – Mt.21:42 (Ro.9:32). 1 Pt.2:4-8

**Logic: why ask about Himself  
(Mt.16:13-15) but apply it to Peter?**

**Fulfillment: Ac.2:42**

- Jesus built His church on inspired preaching and unanimous confession of all apostles and prophets
  - Ep.2:20-22 (3:3-5)
  - 1 Pt.1:1, Peter: apostle; 5:1, elder; 2 Pt. 1:1, servant and apostle

Successors: even if Peter were first pope,  
where does it mention successors?

- Acts 1:21-22, apostles...but no pope...

**Ownership:** I will build My church...

- Ep.1:22-23

Why does NT not even mention,  
much less authorize, chief features  
of Roman Catholic Church?