

# GROUNDING

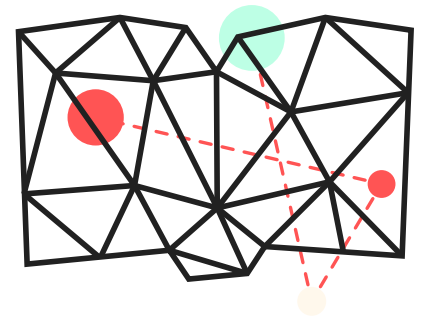
Sunday, January 23, 2022 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

## Part 2 | **Grounded in the Word**

2 Timothy 3:10-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21

### EFCA Statement of Faith | Article 2. The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.



God has **SPOKEN** to us in his Word!

through **HUMAN** authors

Matthew 1:22; 4:4; Luke 1:1-4; Hebrews 1:1-2

both Old **AND** New Testaments

Matthew 5:17-20; Luke 24:44; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 2 Peter 3:15-16

verbally **INSPIRED**

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18

without **ERROR** in the **ORIGINAL** writings

2 Sam 7:28; Prov. 30:5; Num 23:19; Ps. 119:89; Matt. 5:18; John 17:17; Titus 1:1-2

God's **COMPLETE** revelation and our final **AUTHORITY**

John 17:17; Ps. 19:7; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:22-25; 2 Peter 1:19-21

So we must...

**BELIEVE** all that the Bible teaches,

Matthew 22:29; Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:16

**OBEY** all that it requires,

Psalm 119:44-45; Psalm 119:162-168; Matthew 28:20; 2 Thessalonians 3:14; Hebrews 4:12; 1 John 2:5

and **TRUST** all that it promises!

Romans 1:2; Romans 4:21; Hebrews 10:23; 2 Peter 1:4; 2 Peter 3:13

**What is this?** – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them Life Groups. The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a parallel passage of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card at the Connect Desk.

**Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.** For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this as a guide for further study and growth personally.

## Getting Started

Part of our goal together is getting to know more about one another.

*Play 2 truths and a lie. Have each person make three statements about him or herself: two true statements and one lie. See if you can guess what the lie is.*

## Review...

1. **Read Article 2 of our Statement of Faith aloud as a group.**
2. **Read 2 Tim 3:14-17.** What strikes you about God's Word here?

**Review your message notes.** What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it as a group.

## Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

*Sometimes the challenge of getting God's word into our lives is trying to understand what the Bible is saying and why. It's also possible for us to read into something or misinterpret what a passage is saying. The six questions below are designed to help you better understand the Bible and how it relates to all of us.*

**Read through Philippians 1.**

**Then get out a notebook or separate sheet of paper and answer the questions below.** Note: *Many Bibles have a page before the actual chapter that will help answer these questions.*




1. What's happening in the background?  
Who is the author?  
Why was it written?  
Key people? Dates? Events?
2. How would you summarize this chapter in your own words?  
Note: *"The Message" is a translation of the Bible that's broken down into simple language. Consider reading the passage in that version for ideas.*

3. Are there any questions or confusing things in this passage? Any possible answers?  
*Note: Bible commentaries are a great resource for helping understand the Bible. Blue Letter Bible is a free online resource with several commentaries to choose from. —> blueletterbible.com*
4. Are there any similar or related passages to Philippians 1 elsewhere in the Bible?  
*Note: There are often corresponding verses in the margins of your Bible marked with a letter and a related passage.*
5. What are some additional insights and observations? In other words, continue asking the question "what do I see in this text?"
6. How does this apply to your life? Is there anything you learned from your study that you'd like to implement in your life this week?

*As you close, share your applications and pray for each other.*

## Some Free Bible Apps

Consider downloading the following **FREE** apps to your phone:

1. **YouVersion** — This bible app will give you free access to EVERY translation available and many audio Bibles.  
 Bible  
Daily Study, Audio & Prayer  
★★★★★ 5.8M
2. **Faithlife Study Bible** — This bible app comes with free study notes.  
 Faithlife Study Bible  
Reference  
★★★★★ 9.6K
3. **Read Scripture** — This is a **great** app for reading Scripture and learning more about the structure of the Bible  
 Read Scripture  
Books  
★★★★★ 1.3K

F I R M L Y A Y U P F G R R A  
C E V E R Y S A L V A T I O N  
W G W Q G T E A C H I N G C H  
I F O U Y K I Q L K T C H B L  
S C R I P T U R E N H C T E T  
E O K P R J M M A O M O E L T  
M M P P O N T A R W M R O I R  
H P B E F R A K N I O R U E A  
W L R D I U B E E N C E S V I  
R E E V T G O O D G O C N E N  
I T A U A C Q U A I N T E D I  
T E T M B C H R I S T I S B N  
I C H I L D H O O D I O S G G  
N L E R E P R O O F N N E O V  
G I D I D G F J E S U S S B A  
S A C R E D F A B L E A J C U

## Word Find in the Word

*Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.*

### Word Find for 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV)

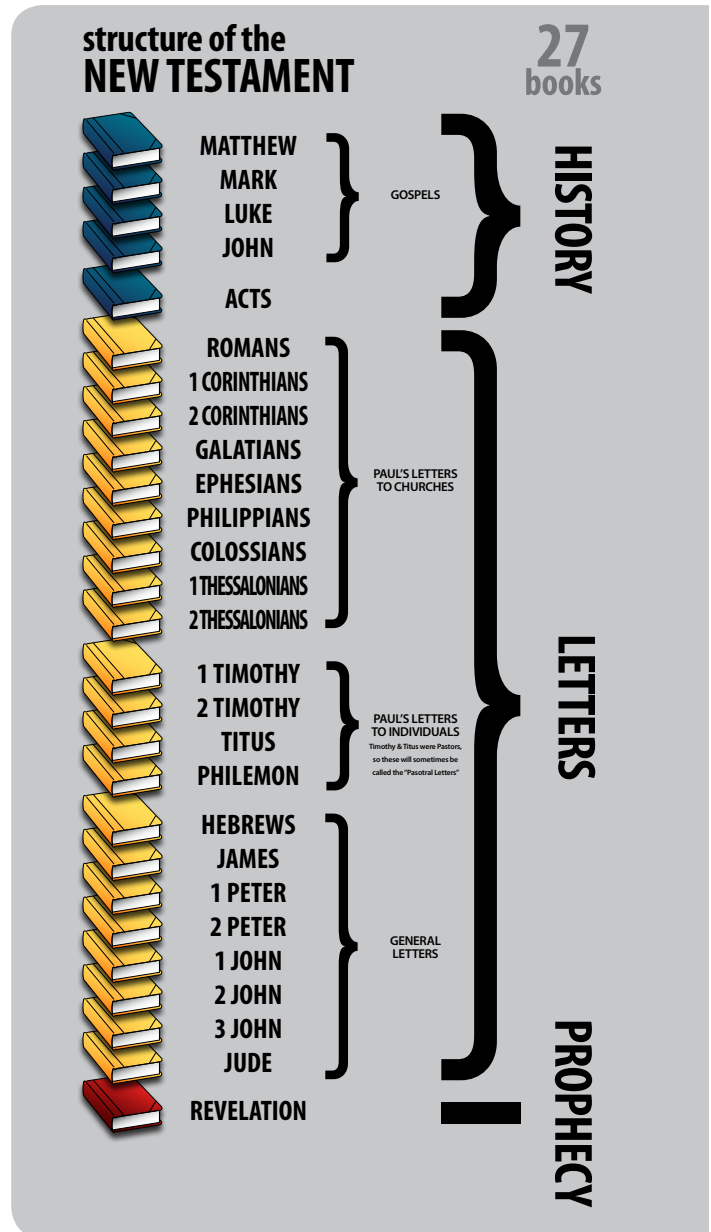
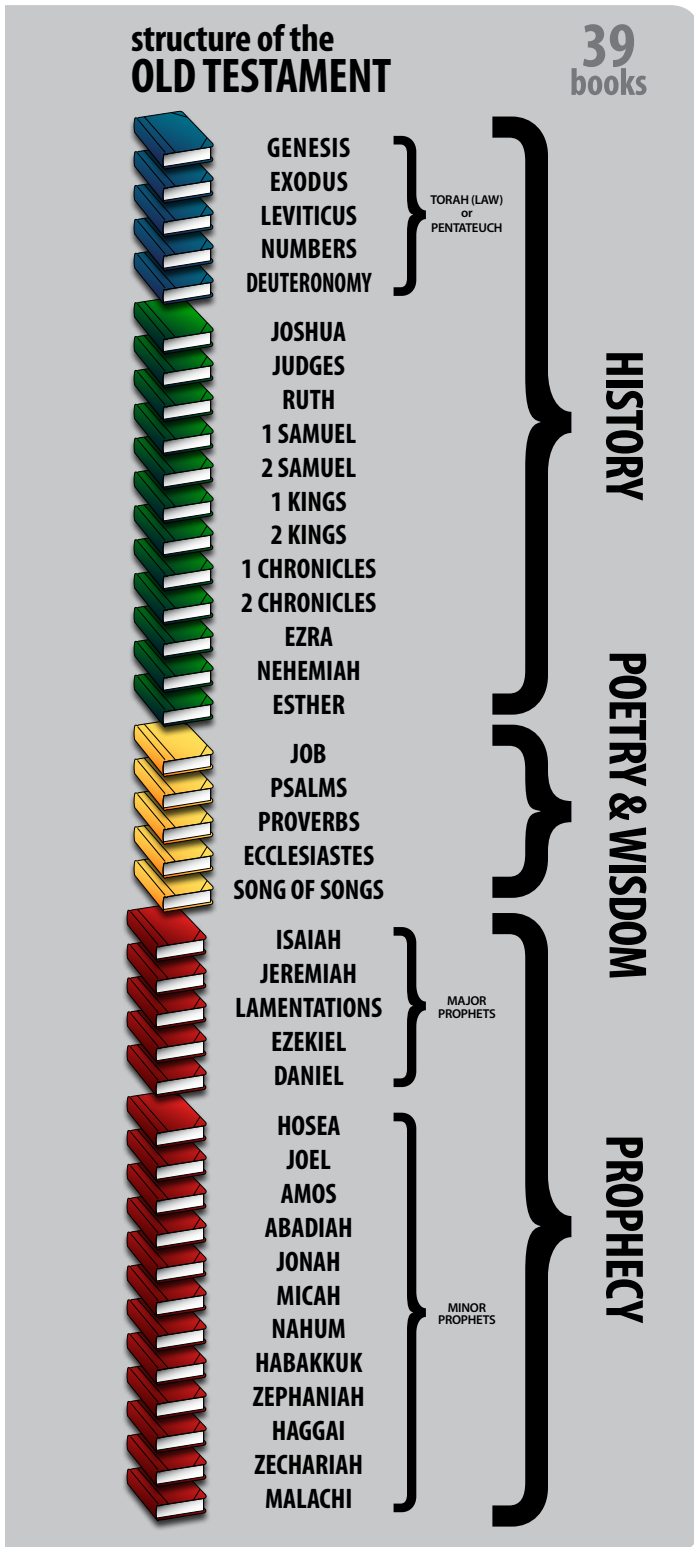
*Find the words **bolded** below.*

14 But as for you, **continue** in what you have **learned** and have **firmly believed**, **knowing** from whom you **learned** it <sup>15</sup> and how from **childhood** you have **been acquainted** with the **sacred writings**, which are **able** to **make** you **wise** for **salvation** through **faith** in **Christ Jesus**. <sup>16</sup> All **Scripture** is **breathed** out by God and **profitable** for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, and for **training** in **righteousness**, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be **complete**, **equipped** for **every good work**.

# STRUCTURE OF THE BIBLE

Ever wondered why the books of the Bible are in the order that they are? Many people assume that they're simply arranged chronologically, but they would only be partially right. The books of the Bible are organized first by the type of literature (History, Poetry/Wisdom, Prophecy, Letters), and then each of those types of literature are *basically* in chronological order. So in the Old Testament, for instance, the books of history (including the Torah or Pentateuch\*) are first, all in chronological order. Following them are the books of Poetry and Wisdom, also arranged in a basic chronological order. Then the major prophets ("major" just means they're the bigger books of prophecy), and then the minor prophets ("minor" just means the smaller books of prophecy). Below is a chart which lists the books of the Old and New Testaments in order and shows their category. Many of these books overlap in terms of when they were written, particularly the prophecy and history books of the Old Testament.

\* The Pentateuch is the first five books of the Old Testament ("Penta" = five and "teuch" = book, so... "five-books"). It is also known as the "Torah" (which means "Law" in Hebrew) because all five books were written by Moses and contain the Law that God gave Moses to pass on to his people.



## HOW MANY BOOKS?

The bible is a collection of 66 "books". Here's an easy way to remember how many books are in the Old Testament and how many are in the New Testament.

$$3 \rightarrow 9 = 39 \text{ books}$$

OLD TESTAMENT

How many letters are in the word "Old"? 3. So we put a "3" over "OLD" above. How many letters in "Testament"? 9. So we put a "9" over "TESTAMENT". Now slide them together, and you get "39". There are 39 books in the Old Testament.

$$3 \times 9 = 27 \text{ books}$$

NEW TESTAMENT

How many letters are in the word "New"? 3. So we put a "3" over "NEW" above. How many letters in "Testament"? 9. So we put a "9" over "TESTAMENT". Now this time, multiply them and you get "27". There are 27 books in the New Testament.

If you can't remember whether to slide them together or to multiply, just remember that the New Testament is smaller than the Old Testament!

# Manuscript Evidence

*We no longer have the original autographs of Scripture, so how do we know that the copy of Scripture we have today hasn't changed since the original writings?*

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approximate Time Span Between Original & Copy	Number of Copies
Pliny	A.D. 61-113	A.D. 850	750 years	7
Plato	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200 years	7
Demosthenes	4th Century B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400 years	8
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	A.D. 900	1400 years	8
Suetonius	A.D. 75-160	A.D. 950	800 years	8
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 years	8
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1300 years	9
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200 years	10
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D.900	1000 years	10
Tacitus	Circa A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1000 years	20
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400 years	49
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1000	1400 years	193
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 years	643 (95% accuracy)
<b>New Testament</b>	<b>1st Century A.D. (A.D. 50-100)</b>	<b>2nd Century A.D. (c. A.D. 130 f)</b>	<b>&lt;100 years</b>	<b>5600 + (99.5% accuracy)</b>

As you can see, there are thousands more New Testament Greek manuscripts than any other ancient writing. The internal consistency of the New Testament documents is over 99% textually pure in the 5600+ Greek manuscripts. That is an amazing accuracy. In addition there are over 19,000 copies in the Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic languages. The total supporting New Testament manuscript base is over 24,000!

Almost all biblical scholars agree that the New Testament documents were all written before the close of the First Century. If Jesus was crucified in 30 A.D., then that means that the entire New Testament was completed within 70 years. This is important because it means there were plenty of people around when the New Testament documents were penned who could have contested the writings. In other words, those who wrote the documents knew that if they were inaccurate, plenty of people would have pointed it out. But, we have absolutely no ancient documents contemporary with the First Century that contest the New Testament texts.

Furthermore, another important aspect of this discussion is the fact that we have a fragment of the gospel of John that dates back to around 29 years from the original writing (John Rylands Papyri 125 A.D.). This is extremely close to the original writing date. This is simply unheard of in any other ancient writing and it demonstrates that the Gospel of John is a First Century document.

If the critics of the Bible dismiss the New Testament as reliable information, then they must also dismiss the reliability of the writings of Plato, Aristotle, Caesar, Homer, and the other authors mentioned in the chart above. On the other hand, if the critics acknowledge the historicity and writings of those other individuals, then they must also retain the historicity and writings of the New Testament authors; after all, the evidence for the New Testament's reliability is far greater than the others. The Christian has substantially superior criteria for affirming the New Testament documents than he does for any other ancient writing. It is good evidence on which to base the trust in the reliability of the New Testament.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Taken from "Manuscript Evidence for Superior New Testament Reliability" by Matt Slick. Available online at <http://carm.org/manuscript-evidence> on 10/3/2011. You can find a great deal of reliable Christian apologetic information on line at [www.carm.org](http://www.carm.org).