

- I. WHY doctrinal beliefs matter
- II. **THE SCRIPTURE**
“We believe the Bible to be the very Word of God; that the sixty-six books comprising the Old and New Testaments were verbally inspired in all parts and therefore wholly without error as originally given by God; that it is our final authority, our only and all sufficient rule of faith and practice.”
- III. Why Christians believe the Bible is UNIQUE
 1. The Bible has a unique **status** Gen 1:3
 2. The Bible has a unique **history** Gen 1:3; Ex. 20:1ff; Deut. 6
 3. The Bible has a unique **authority** John 10:35
 4. The Bible has a unique **author** 2 Tim 3:16
 5. The Bible has a unique **power** Hebrews 4:12
 6. The Bible has a unique **narrative** 2 Tim 3:14-16
 7. The Bible has a unique **witness** John 1:1-14: Luke 21:33
 8. The Bible has a unique **purpose** 1 Peter 1:22-25
 9. The Bible has a unique **enemy** Gen 3:1
 10. The Bible has a unique **key** Heb. 4:2

QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER: Do you prefer pens or pencils? Why?

1. In Genesis 1, the phrase "God said" appears 9 times in our English Bibles. What resulted immediately after God spoke in this text? What does this teach you about God's Word [cf. Exodus 20:1-17; Numbers 23:19; and Hebrews 1:1-4]?
2. Psalm 19 extolls God for revealing Himself in nature [vs. 1-6] and in the Scriptures [vs. 7-14]. What benefits are derived from building your life on the Word of God that are listed in this text [cf. Psalm 119:9-11; Jeremiah 15:16; and 1 Peter 1:22-25]?
3. How did the Thessalonians respond to Paul's preaching of the gospel [1 Thessalonians 2:13-14]? How did they view the Word of God and what difference did it make in their lives [cf. Luke 3:2-14; Luke 8:11-15; and Acts 17:11]?
4. According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, what is the origin of all the Scriptures? What are the 4 purposes of the Word of God? And what is the ultimate goal of the Bible [cf. Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3; and Romans 15:4]?
5. James implores his readers to be doers of the Word and not just hearers [James 1:22-25]. How does his illustration of the mirror help you understand and apply the point of his command in verse 22 [cf. Ezra 7:10; Matthew 7:21; and Romans 2:13]?
6. 2 Peter 1:20-21 speaks of the Holy Spirit "carrying along" the writers of Scripture. It is the same term found in Acts 27:15 of a ship being caught up in a windstorm. How does this word picture help you understand the process of inspiration [cf. Psalm 39:1-5; Jeremiah 20:9; and Acts 4:19-20]?
7. What did you find helpful or challenging about this Sunday's message?

"The Holy Scriptures are our letters from home."

Augustine