

We Believe: in the Bible (Various Texts)

EFCA Statement of Faith, Article 2

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.

The God who Reveals

- God reveals Himself to humanity in 2 major ways:
 - General/Natural revelation (Rom. 1:20)
 - God revealed in the natural world
 - Special revelation
 - The Bible (1 Pet. 1:10-12)
 - JESUS (Luke 10:22; 2 Cor. 4:4; Col 1:15)

What is the Bible?

- The account of God's action in the world, and His purpose with all creation.
- Written over 16 centuries (c. 1400 BC- AD 90) by over 40 human authors
- Divided into 2 Testaments/Covenants
 - The Old Testament (OT): Genesis-Malachi (39)
 - The New Testament (NT): Matthew-Revelation (27)

Who Wrote the Bible?

- Dual authorship
- Human beings inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:20-21)
 - Not dictated (2 Tim 3:16)
 - Each work reflects elements of the human author
 - Personality, style, culture, & language
- Each work also presents the message God intended
 - The Biblical text is God's word!
 - But must be understood in its original context

Is the Bible Trustworthy?

- Inerrancy: The belief that the Bible is without error in its original writings
 - Original language: Hebrew, Aramaic, & Greek
 - Original documentation: The original scrolls or copies of each book of the Bible
- This does not mean that any translation is without error
- God not only inspired the authors of Scripture, but also sustained His word through history

True Belief

- We are called to not simply believe the claims of Scripture, but also:
 - Obey what God commands in it pages
 - Build our lives on in it promises

So What?

- We can trust God's Word is true
- Do we live like it is?