

SALT- 3rd March

Introduction

In the early part of the letter of 2 Timothy, Paul encourages us not to be ashamed of the Gospel.

2 Timothy 1:8-11:

"So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. He has saved us and called us to a holy life-not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher."

Questions

- What do we know of Jesus' existence?
- What is the Gospel? Can we summarise it in a few words?
- Was the Bible written a long time after events? Is the Bible a reliable source?

1) Did Jesus Really Exist?

- Flavius Josephus - 93-94 AD
- Tacitus - 56-120 AD
- Pliny the younger - 61-113 AD
- Suetonius - 120 AD
- Mara bar Serapion - 73 AD
- Celsus - 175 AD

2) Is The Bible A Reliable Source?

In addition to the new Testament documents themselves, we also have the early church fathers writing and quoting New Testament scriptures.

- Papias (125 AD)
- St Irenaeus (180 AD)
- Clement (180AD)
- Tertullian (200 AD)

Definition: A creed is a set of beliefs, principles, or opinions that strongly influence the way people live or work.



Creedal Statement 1 Cor 15 1:3-5

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve



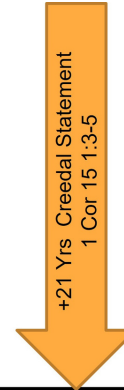
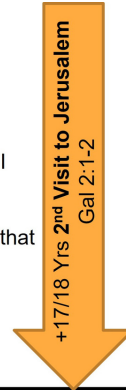
CE 30

CE 40

CE 50



Gal 2:1-2 Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain.



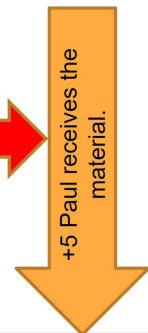
CE 30

CE 40

CE 50



Gal 1:17 I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus. ¹⁸ Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas^[b] and stayed with him fifteen days.



CE 30

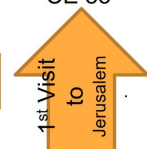
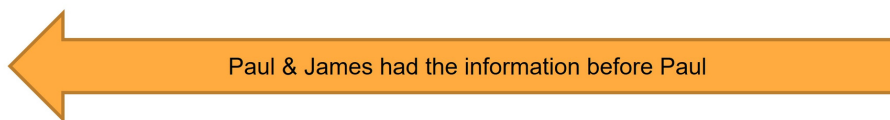
CE 31

CE 32

CE 33

CE 34

CE 35



Questions

- Galatians 1:18 – If you were going to stay with Peter and James (Jesus’ brother) for 15 days, what would you talk about?
- What would you ask Peter? What would you ask James?
- As your assistant is Luke (the writer of Luke and Acts) what material from James would you pass on to him?