**Bible 101- Session 2**

**How was the Bible Written and Assembled?**

***When was the Bible written and by whom?***

* The Bible (Old Testament) was first passed down through oral tradition and only later written down. Many of the New Testament writings were passed down through oral tradition originally, as well. The beginning of the process of writing it down started somewhere around the time of the 5th century B.C. and was concluded at the time of John’s writing of the book of Revelation around 90 A.D. most scholars suggest.
  + ***How is it that we can trust anything that was passed down orally for so many years? Don’t stories have a tendency to change as their being told over time?***
* The ultimate author of the Bible is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit inspired various human beings to become the earthly authors of the various books of the Bible. There is much debate in scholarly realms about who actually authored certain books of the bible, but to get caught up in those debates is to miss the point. We believe that this book is God-breathed… meaning God (the Holy Spirit) actually wrote it using human beings.
  + ***Is this to say that the human author’s of the Bible just experienced something like “automatic writing” or is it possible that their style and personality would have come out while writing God’s word down?***
    - ***If so, does that change anything for you?***
* As was mentioned the first week, the Bible was originally written in three different languages; Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
  + There are many different “translations” of the original languages. Each translation is a person’s, or more likely, a group of persons, educated opinion of what the original language was translated as in English.
    - ***Do you think things may have gotten changed in the various translations?***
  + There is a difference between a *“translation”* and a *“paraphrase*”. A paraphrase is more like a sermon, in that it does not attempt to directly translate a particular word, but instead tries to translate thoughts or ideas.
    - ***What are some examples of “Translations” and “Paraphrase Bibles?***

***How was the Bible assembled?***

* The Old Testament is the Jewish scriptures which the Christian Church adopted as authoritative from the very beginning. The New Testament is a collection of writings that evolved over the early centuries of the Church, with various gatherings of “Councils” consisting of recognized Christian leaders, being called over the years that established the “cannon” of the bible, meaning, the writings that would be recognized as authoritative scripture.
  + ***In your opinion, is the New Testament more authoritative than the Old Testament? Why or why not?***
* At the Reformation (When Martin Luther broke away from the Catholic Church) the Protestant Bible came into being. The books that the Catholic Bible has that are different from the Protestant Bible are called the “Apocrypha”… or the Intertestamental books.
  + ***Do you think the “Intertestamental Books” should have the same authority as the rest of the Bible?***
  + ***Do you think it’s alright to read the Intertestamental books?***
  + Martin Luther’s major problem with the Intertestamental books was that they had a tendency to emphasize “works righteousness” over saved by grace.
    - ***Are there any books in our Bible that have a tendency to emphasize work’s righteousness?***

***How is the Bible organized?***

* Basically, the Bible is organized into two sections; Old Testament and New Testament.
  + Old Testament- everything that happened before the earthly birth of Jesus.
  + New Testament- The life and times of Jesus Christ and his Disciples.
    - ***Is Christ found in the Old Testament?***
    - ***Why is the Old Testament so important to us as Christians or is it?***
* There are different books of the Bible. Each book being organized into Chapters and verses. It was divided into chapters and verses by a guy named Steven Langston in the year 1228.
  + ***Do you think our reading of the Bible would be different if we didn’t have chapters and verses? Does it help or hurt in your opinion?***