

Recap of 3/29/20 (1 Thessalonians 2:13):

1. "That God has spoken in Holy Scripture [Paul's point in 1 Thessalonians 2:13] is the very heart of our faith and without this certainty we should be left to the relativity of human knowledge. God has spoken!" (Bernard Ramm)
2. Continuing in our study of the acronym U.F.A.C.T.S. which covers the six lines of evidence for the reliability of the Bible: Unity & consistency, Fulfilled prophecy, Archaeology, Canoncity, Transmission, & Self-testimony.
3. Concerning the fifth evidence, transmission of the text, since we don't have the original manuscripts of the Bible (called the "Autographs") how good are the copies upon which our English Bibles are based? The short answer is, very good!  
-"Since we don't have the original biblical manuscripts, the quest is, 'How good are the copies?' The answer is that the bible has stronger manuscript support than any other work of classical literature—including Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Caesar, and Tacitus." Hanegraaff)  
-"What the authors ... originally wrote in Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek was inspired. Although their original manuscripts have not been discovered, we know what they wrote. In numerous available copies, quotations, and translations, there is amazing agreement. Through some 20 centuries of laborious copying and printing, there have been no substantial variations of any important fact or doctrine." (The Apologetics Bible)  
-"Dr. Dan Wallace, New Testament scholar, says that of the textual variants, "99.8% affect nothing—most are spelling differences. No essential doctrine is jeopardized by any of these textual variants. Even critics of the Bible agree with that." (You Tube video, "How can you trust the N.T. when the original manuscripts are different?")
4. The manuscript support for the New Testament is massive. We have almost 5,856 Greek manuscripts (in 2017), over 18,130 manuscripts in other languages, 2,000 Lectionaries (early church service books), and 86,000 quotations from the Church Fathers dating from the third century.
5. The final evidence of the reliability of the Bible is "self-testimony." What does the Bible claim for itself? In Matthew 5:18, Jesus claimed "every-word accuracy" for the Bible (specifically the Old Testament, which was the available Bible in His day) in Matthew 5:18. Quoting Moses (Exodus 20:12) in Matthew 15:4, Jesus said "God said," not "Moses said." Peter makes the claim in 2 Peter 1:21 that the Bible was not the product of human will. Paul claimed that the Bible was God-breathed in 2 Timothy 3:16. According to Jesus, in John 16:12-13, the Holy Spirit would bring to remembrance the things Jesus had taught them, they were not limited by human memory.