

Canon & Text — 9 January 2022 — Week Two  
**THE TEXT: CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE?**

II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture: *Can We Trust The \_\_\_\_\_* \_\_\_\_\_?

**THE DATA**

We do not have the original manuscripts of the NT books. The copies we possess have somewhere between 200,000 and 400,000 variant readings (one manuscript differs from others).

**THE CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGE**

Because there are so many variants we cannot with confidence know what the NT authors originally wrote.

**A REASONED RESPONSE**

The number and dates of our NT manuscripts—and the science of textual criticism—allow us to reconstruct a text the credibility of which far exceeds that of any ancient, non-biblical document.

A. Putting the \_\_\_\_\_ of Variants In Perspective

There are @ 25,000 manuscripts of the New Testament in Greek and other ancient languages.  $400,000 \text{ variants} \div 25,000 \text{ manuscripts} = 16 \text{ variants per manuscript}$ .

B. Putting the \_\_\_\_\_ of The Variants In Perspective

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Errors**

Only 1,438 variants were deemed significant enough to be listed in the standard edition of the Greek New Testament (UBS<sup>4</sup>). Only @ .1% of the variants are interesting enough to make their way into the footnotes in most English translations.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Errors**

3. **Variants That** \_\_\_\_\_

- ✓ What do the \_\_\_\_\_ say?
- ✓ What reading best \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_?
- ✓ Does the \_\_\_\_\_ oppose our conclusions?

**KEY TAKE-AWAY**

No doctrine or ethical practice of Christianity depends solely on any disputed reading