

**But what if they lied?**  
**Authority Issues Pt. 4**

**Community Group Questions:**

1. Do you have any family stories that get told over and over again? Share one.
  2. Have you ever wondered whether or not you can trust the NT authors? What are the claims you've heard laid against them?
  3. What's the evidence that shows they weren't writing fiction, they weren't lying, and that they're memory of the events was accurate?
  4. What are some helpful next steps you know of for growing in your ability to read the Bible?
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**Skeptic's Thought:** The biblical authors were never trying to write honest history.

**QUESTION:** How do we know that we can trust authors of the New Testament?

**Plausible Alternatives**

1. They wrote with a non-historical purpose.
2. They wrote with a deceitful purpose.
3. Their experience or memory failed them.
4. They recorded honest and accurate history.

**Luke 1:1–4** *Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 3 With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.*

**Luke 3:1–2** *In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—2 during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.*

**John 20:30–31** *Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

Lies always have a MOTIVATION.

*“They stories exhibit...exactly that surface tension which we associate, not with tales artfully told by people eager to sustain a fiction and therefore anxious to make everything look right, but with the hurried, puzzled accounts of those who have seen with their own eyes something which took them by surprise and with which they have not yet fully come to terms.” -N.T. Wright*

**The Most Plausible Explanation:** The Bible is historically RELIABLE.

1. The Bible Confirms Jesus’ Resurrection

1. Jesus’ Resurrection Confirms Him

*Using both traditional and critical paths to determine that Jesus firmly taught inspiration, we may reassert our earlier assumption that if God raised Jesus from the dead, then the most likely reason was to confirm the truthfulness of Jesus' teachings. If we are correct in this, then the inspiration of Scripture follows as a verified doctrine, affirmed by God Himself when He raised Jesus from the dead. -Gary Habermas*

#### **What the Bible Tells Us About Jesus**

1. The Bible Confirms Jesus’ Resurrection
2. Jesus’ Resurrection Confirms Him
3. Jesus Confirms the Bible’s Inspiration

**2 Timothy 3:16–17** *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

#### **SMCC U Bible Reading Workshop**

#### **Become Part of the Teaching Ministry**

**Bottom Line:** In the NT, we’ve received the most reliable, trustworthy and life-giving collection of books that exists.

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