

March 1, 2020

Scott's Thoughts



The sign said, “Washington slept here.” You could substitute the name of any really famous person. Washington lived for sixty-seven years, which means he had about 24,455 opportunities to sleep

somewhere. What are the chances that’s really true, after all these years? Did they keep track way back then of every place someone slept?

Years ago I saw a late night TV commercial where someone was selling splinters from the cross of Jesus. I used the wrong word. The commercial called it a “donation.” I had a hard time believing the pitch. Common sense told me that there is no way to authenticate the source of the splinter. Take into consideration the cost of packaging the fragment and the fact that the original cross would have long ago disappeared, there is no way there could have been enough splinters to cover the cost of the advertisement. What are the chances of it really being a splinter from the actual cross of Jesus?

Someone might well ask, “How can I know the Bible is true?” that is a good question. Let’s consider some facts about the origin of a book that goes back some 6000 years. As far as books go, the Bible is the best seller of all time. That does not, in itself, make it true just one point of consideration.

“ There are in fact over 24,000 ancient manuscripts available to scholars today attesting to the accuracy of the text of the New Testament. Comparison with other

ancient documents (available copies versus the originals):

(available copies versus the originals):

Caesar —10 copies—1000 year gap

Tacitus—20 copies—1000 year gap

Plato — 7 copies—1200 year gap”

These just touch the surface of what this remarkable book contains. I don’t have space to go into all the complexities that relate to the accuracy of the Bible. We read works attributed to ancient authors and accept them as fact, when in truth, there is no other writing in all of recorded history that is as documented as accurately as the Bible.

Faith in the Bible does not have to be blind faith. In fact it is much better to have reasons for faith. The time spent in study of the origins of the book we call the Bible will not break faith but will build faith. And the systematic study of the text of the Bible will build faith to an even greater level. Too many in our world depend on a few verses they memorized as a child to carry them through life, but by exploring the deeper meaning of God’s word, we can discover many more ways to manage life’s difficult challenges.

“The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonika; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” (Acts 17:10–11, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott