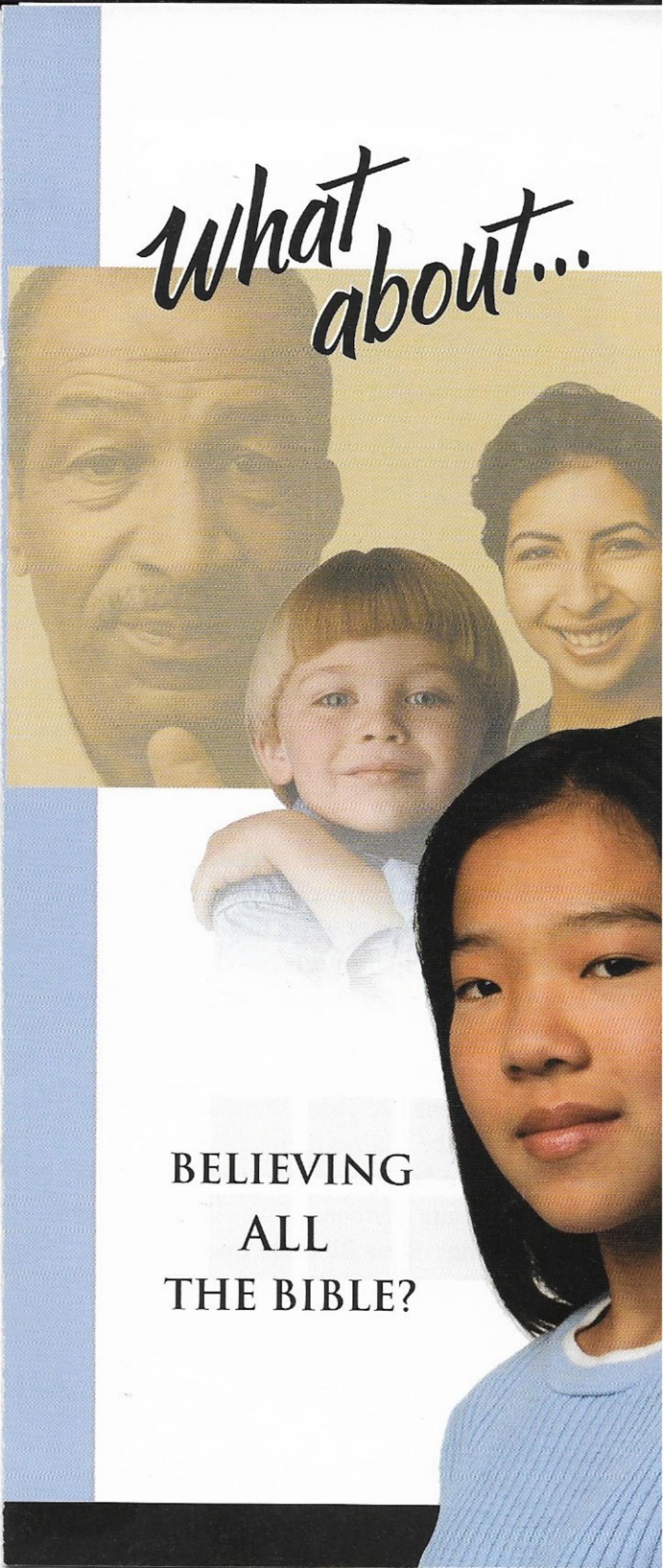


*what
about...*



**BELIEVING
ALL
THE BIBLE?**

What About...Believing All The Bible?

Some believe all the Bible. Some believe none of it. Some believe some of it.

One can understand believing all of it. One can understand believing none of it. But how can one believe just some of the Bible? How does a person decide which parts are true and which parts are not? Did Jesus really die on the cross for the sins of the world? Many would say, "Yes, I believe that." But did God create the world in six days? Some would say, "No, that's impossible."

But how can you know that the one idea is right when you are certain the other is wrong? If the second is impossible, couldn't the first be just as much a deception. I suppose it's like the farmer who had a watermelon patch. When the time for harvest came, he was troubled that so many people came to help themselves to his crop. He decided to put a stop to it and posted a sign at the edge of his patch, "One of the melons in this patch is poisoned." Unfortunately, the next morning someone had changed his sign. Now it read, "Two of the melons in this patch are poisoned." The farmer just didn't know which melons were safe anymore. If we claim that some of the teachings of the Bible are true and some are false, will anyone know which is which?

Believing only some of the Bible leads inevitably to doubting the whole book. Either the Bible is a collection of human thoughts or the Bible is God's book, given word for word by the Holy Spirit to humans long ago. If it's just human thoughts, it can be wrong, and we can pick and choose what to believe. If it's God's Word, all of it is true.

We believe the entire Bible is God's Word and is all true. That's not a naïve belief. First, there is more evidence for the documents of the Bible than for any other ancient book. Second, all the writers of the New Testament wrote within the first century of Christ's birth. They all knew Jesus. Third, even historical facts cited by the writers have been proven to be true. Fourth, God promised that the writers would tell the truth and guided them so that they did.

But most important, the Bible tells us the truth about God's love for sinners. The Bible says that its words "are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).

Why does God want us to be sure that the Bible is his words? His words give us eternal life. Thank God they are all true.

"His words give us eternal life"

