

SKEPTICAL



REAL
LIFE
QUESTIONS

50% of “Churched”
Millennials said the
church is NOT SAFE
for their biggest
questions about life.

THE
QUEST

Acts 17:26-28

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

Acts 17:26-28

God did this so that they
would **SEEK HIM** and
perhaps reach out for him
and **FIND HIM**, though he is
not far from any one of us.
"For in him we live and move
and have our being."

SCIENTIFIC
SKEPTIC

God invites
believers, seekers
and skeptics to
“COME AND SEE.”

SKEPTICAL

WHY SHOULD I TRUST THE BIBLE?



The background is a complex, low-poly geometric pattern. The left side features a bright yellow and orange sunburst-like shape. The right side is a dark blue and teal geometric pattern. A large, white, irregular circle is centered in the image, containing the text.

H.A.B.I.T.S BIBLE

CAN WE TRUST IT?

SCIENTIFIC

4Qs of Skeptics

#1 “Isn’t the Bible just a bunch of made up stories and rules that got cobbled together?”



CREATION



FALL



REDEMPTION



RESTORATION

SC
PTIC
AL
S

4Qs of Skeptics

#2 Since the Bible relied heavily on oral transmission how can we trust that it is accurate?



peas

bees

knees

cheese

fleas?

Telephone Game

- 1) The purpose is to skew the message for a good laugh.
- 2) Transmitted secretly from one individual ear to the next.
- 3) There is no chance to hear the message repeatedly before it is passed on.

KEPTICAL

Jewish and Greek Oral Transmission

Master Memorizers

“In an oral culture like that of first-century Palestine the ability to memorize and retain large tracts of oral tradition was a highly prized and highly developed skill. From the earliest age children in the home, elementary school, and the synagogue were taught to memorize faithfully sacred tradition. The disciples would have exercised similar care with the teachings of Jesus.”

William Lane Craig

**CRITICAL
THESIS**

KEPTICAL

Talmud described a good Jewish student as
“A well-plastered cistern,
which would not let even
a single drop escape.”

CRITICAL
QUESTIONS

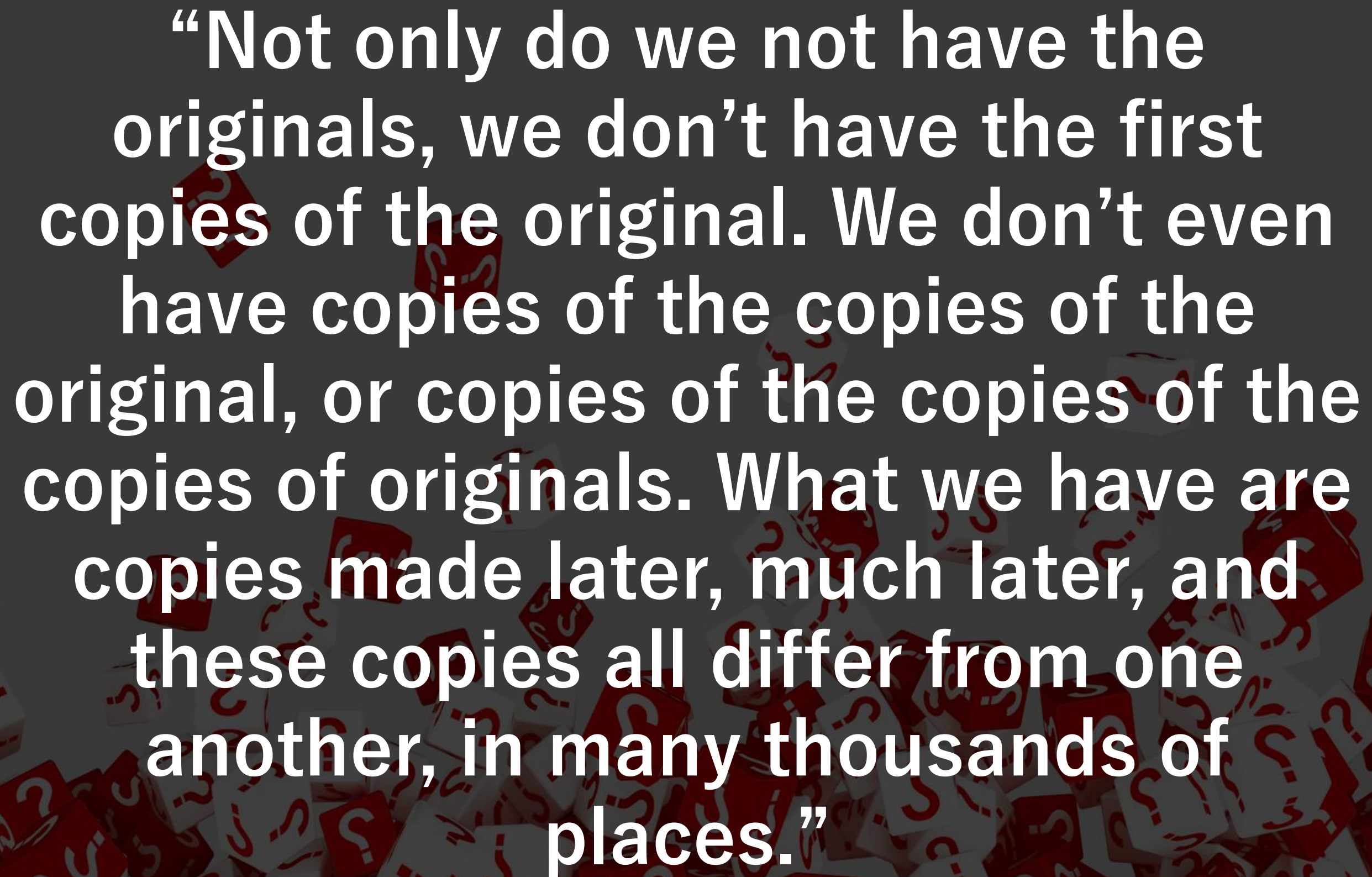
Jewish and Greek Oral Transmission

Oral Transmission was
a community project

SCPTICAL

4Qs of Skeptics

#3 Aren't the copies too late and contain too many errors to trust it?"



“Not only do we not have the originals, we don’t have the first copies of the original. We don’t even have copies of the copies of the original, or copies of the copies of the copies of originals. What we have are copies made later, much later, and these copies all differ from one another, in many thousands of places.”

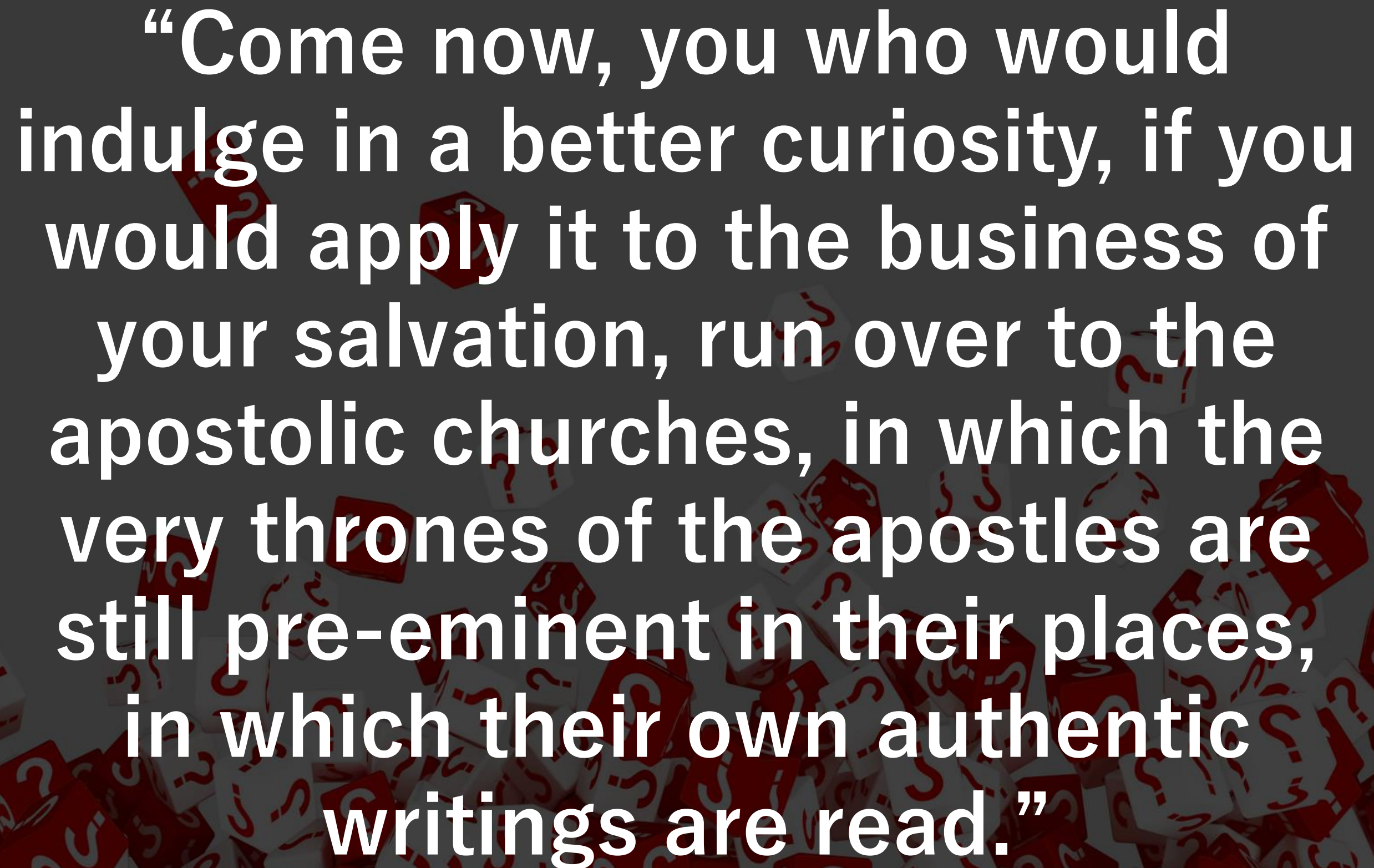
-Bart Erhman

CRITICAL
QUESTIONS

“All the New
Testament copies
are too late.”

CRITICAL

Earliest manuscript fragment, Gospel of John, 30 years or less of the original, many larger fragments are within 150 years of original.

The background is a dark gray field filled with numerous small, 3D-rendered question marks in shades of red and white. On the far left, the word "CALCULUS" is written vertically in a large, bold, light gray sans-serif font.

**“Come now, you who would
indulge in a better curiosity, if you
would apply it to the business of
your salvation, run over to the
apostolic churches, in which the
very thrones of the apostles are
still pre-eminent in their places,
in which their own authentic
writings are read.”**

- Tertullian

CRITICAL
QUESTIONS

New Testament
24,000 ancient copies
5,800 Greek copies

CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Homer

643 manuscripts, 500 year time gap

Demosthenes

200 manuscripts, 1400 year time gap

Herodotus

8 manuscripts, 1400 year time gap

Plato

7 manuscripts, 1200 year time gap

CRITICAL THINKING

“Our copies differ in many places and are full of errors so how can we possibly know what the originals said?”

TEXTUAL

- 400,000 variants across NT manuscripts
- 6000 Greek Manuscripts
- 2.6 Million total pages
- One variant per 6.5 pages

CRITICAL REFLECTIONS

What about the Errors?

99% of them fall into these categories:

- 1) Spelling errors
- 2) Word order changes
- 3) “The” article

What about the 1%?
Change the meaning of a text:

*V1: But we were GENTLE among
you, like a nursing mother taking
care of her own children.*

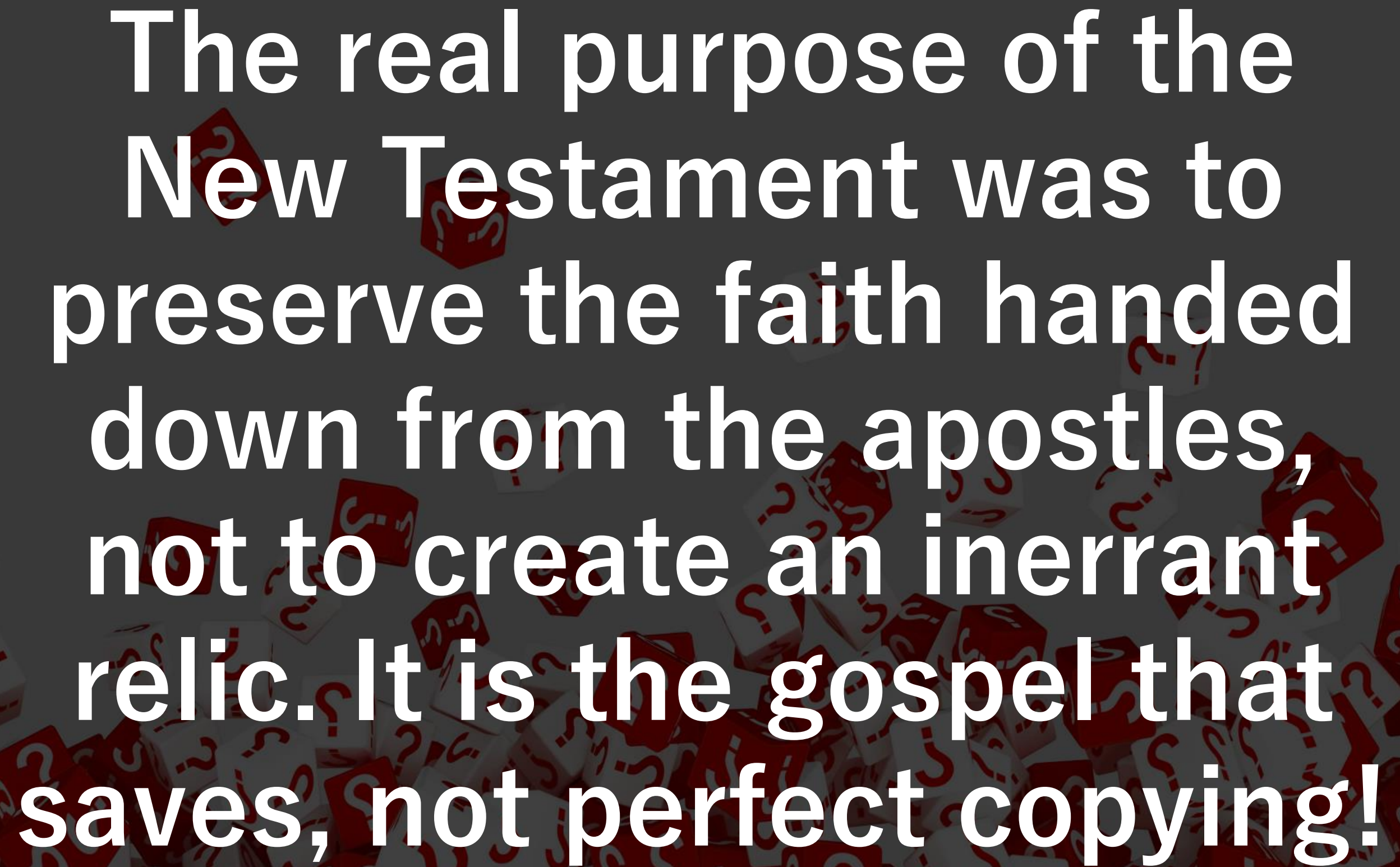
*V2: But we were INFANTS among
you, like a nursing mother taking
care of her own children.*

VERBAL

CRITICAL QUESTIONS

“The real concern is with a “thousandth part of the entire biblical text.”

– A. T. Robertson

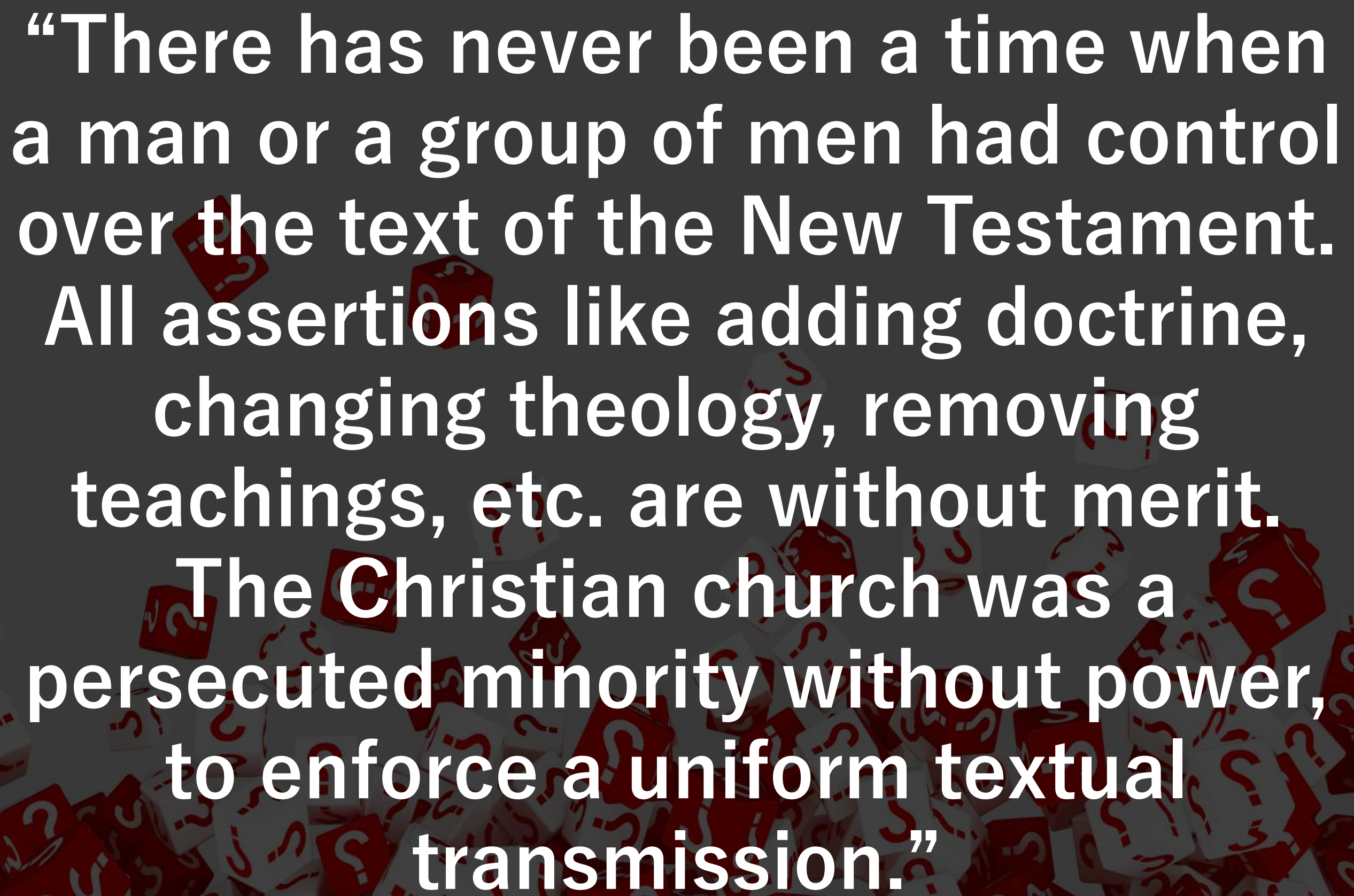
The background of the slide is a dark gray field filled with numerous small, three-dimensional red cubes. Each cube has a white question mark on its visible faces. The cubes are scattered across the entire background, creating a textured, chaotic effect. On the left side, the words 'CRITICAL THINKING' are written vertically in a large, bold, light gray sans-serif font.

The real purpose of the
New Testament was to
preserve the faith handed
down from the apostles,
not to create an inerrant
relic. It is the gospel that
saves, not perfect copying!

CRITICAL
SKEPTICAL

4Qs of Skeptics

#4 “Hasn’t the Bible
been corrupted?”

The background of the image is dark with a pattern of red and white question marks. On the left side, the word "CAL" is written vertically in large, bold, white letters.

“There has never been a time when a man or a group of men had control over the text of the New Testament. All assertions like adding doctrine, changing theology, removing teachings, etc. are without merit. The Christian church was a persecuted minority without power, to enforce a uniform textual transmission.”

- Dr. James White

CRITICAL
QUESTIONS

Outside of Scripture

Tacitus, Suetonius,

Thallus, Jewish

Talmuds, Josephus

20-150 years after

Jesus

Outside of Scripture

- 1) Jesus was from Nazareth
- 2) He lived a virtuous life
- 3) He Performed unusual feats
- 4) He introduced new teaching contrary to Judaism
- 5) He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
- 6) His disciples believed he rose from the dead.

Outside of Scripture

- 7) His disciples denied polytheism
- 8) His disciples worshiped him as God
- 9) His teachings and disciples spread rapidly.
- 10) His followers believed they were immortal.
- 11) His followers had contempt for death.
- 12) His followers renounced materials goods.

SCIENTIFIC

Conclusion:
The Bible is far and
away the most
trustworthy ancient
document in existence!

KEPTICAL

What is your next
step to discovering
the Bible?

101

EXPLORING THE BASICS
OF CHRISTIANITY