It Is In Truth, The Word Of God
1 Thess. 2:13

Introduction:
A. Once we could assume our neighbor believed the Bible to be the word of God – no longer.
B. Now we may need to be prepared to investigate this fundamental issue with him.
C. We can begin with the obvious – It is here!
   1. By accident or design? Naturally or Supernaturally?
   2. It is the word of someone! God? Man?
D. The Bible furnished its own evidences of its divine origin:

Discussion:
I. The Belief Of The Writers Themselves.
   A. Concerning their own writings.
      1. Paul. (1 Thess. 2:13; 1 Cor. 2:1; 14:37).
      2. John (Rev. 1:1).
      3. Isaiah (8:1).
   B. Concerning the other scriptures.
      1. Peter.
         a. On Paul's writings and others. (2 Pet. 3:16)
      2. Matthew (Matt. 1:22,23)

II. The Harmony Out Of Diversity.
   A. Writers wrote in different centuries.
      1. Moses about 1400 B.C.
      2. David & Solomon about 1000 B.C.
      3. Isaiah about 700 B.C.
      4. Jeremiah about 600 B.C.
      5. New Testament in 1st century A.D.
   B. Writers lived in different countries and environments.
      1. Moses — Egypt and the wilderness.
      2. John, Isle of Patmos.
      4. In palaces, tents, etc.
   C. Writers from different backgrounds.
      1. Royalty.
      2. Priests and Politicians
      3. Shepherds and fishermen.
      4. Physician and Tax-collector
   D. Writers wrote in different languages — Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek.
   E. Yet, one theme: Fall and redemption of God.
      1. Like a library of books written by one author.
      2. Like a painting by 66 paints, yet one painter.

III. The Amazing Word of Prophecy. (2 Pet. 1:19-21)
   A. The amazing number. (Matthew alone refers to 21).
   B. The amazing details.
      1. The crucifixion. (Psa. 22)
      2. The suffering servant. (Isa. 53).
      3. Cyrus named by Isaiah. (44:28; 45:1)
      4. The King riding on a donkey (Zech 9:9; Mt. 21:5).
      5. The destruction of Jerusalem. (Lk. 21:5-24).
   C. The amazing nature.
      1. Some clear on surface. (Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar and Belchazzar).
      2. Some clear only after the event. (Isa. 53; cf. Acts. 8).
   D. Hence, skeptic must explain away.

Conclusion:
A. As “word of God” — must believe and obey it.
B. As “word of God” — Must accept promises, heed warnings.