TRUE HORIZON

EMPOWERING THINKING CHRISTIANS TO ENGAGE THE WORLD

SCRIPTURAL RELIABILITY EXERCISE

truehorizon.org

OBJECTIVE

One criticism of the New Testament is that we don't have any of the autographs – the original manuscripts written the New Testament authors. This is true. But far from being a liability, it is actually a strength. What we do have is thousands of *copies* of the New Testament that were spread around the ancient world. Because we have so many copies, we are able to determine exactly what the original said. This may not be intuitively obvious. So, this exercise demonstrates how having a great number of copies of a document allows us to determine an accurate translation of the original manuscript *even if every copy we have is incorrect*.

The 10 quotes listed below are actually *misquotes* of an original by C. S. Lewis. Each is wrong in a different way.

DIRECTIONS

1. Copy page 2 of this document and provide it to your study group. If you have a large group, divide it into smaller groups of 3 or 4.
2. Have each group compare each of the quotes in the list to determine where there are errors, omissions, or insertions into the text. (*Pro tip*: It may help to cut the sheet into ten strips so you can move them around more easily for comparison).
3. Highlight the errors in each quote.
4. Once the incorrect elements are highlighted, use them to determine what the correct original wording should be.

A facilitator's key is provided on page 3.

1. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased thinking about the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

2. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have mostly ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

3. If you read history you will find that the Christians, those of the one true faith, who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

4. If you read old books you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

5. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this, but not as sinful as those who are not Christians.

6. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for this world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

7. If you read history you will find that the Christians whom did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

8. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next world to come. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

9. If you read history you will find that those Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

10. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the future world. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

FACILITATOR'S KEY

ORIGINAL QUOTE: If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.

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