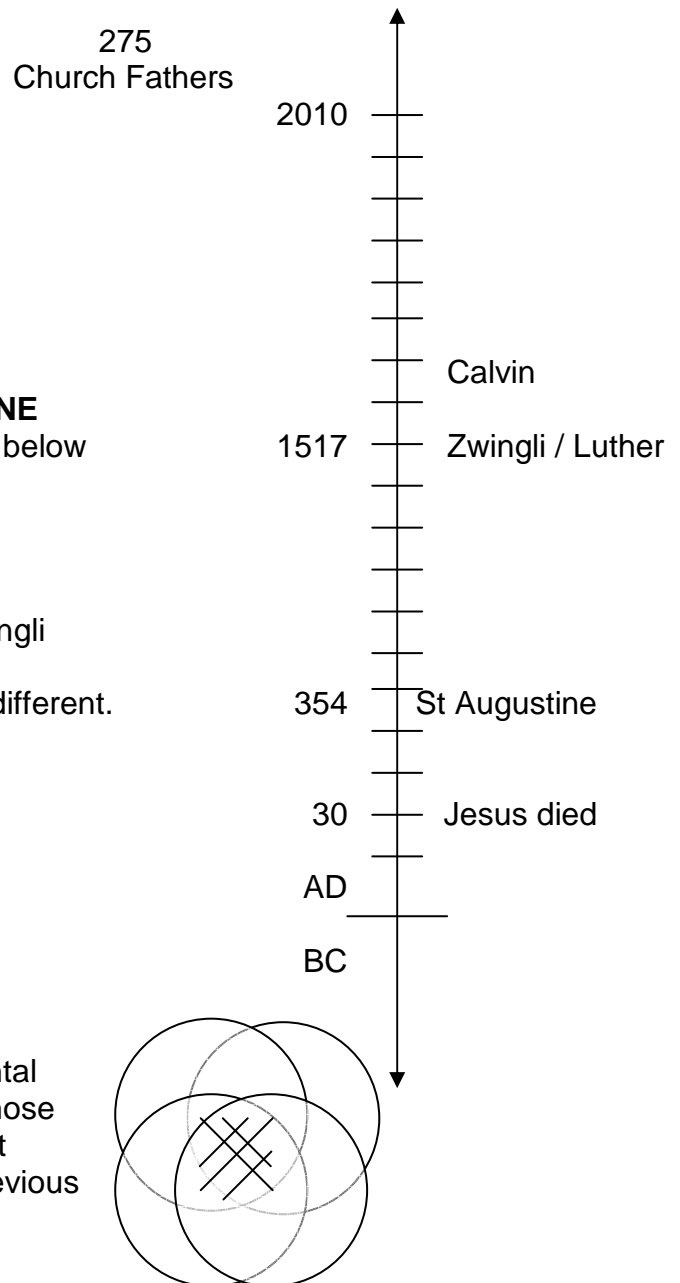


## Isn't this presentation just your interpretation of the Bible?

That is a good question. If I asked 20 people to tell me what a bible verse means, I might get 20 different answers! So how do I know what interpretation is right?

Have a look at this timeline.  
Down the bottom is **BC** and **AD**. About **30 AD JESUS DIED**. Between the time when Jesus died and now, there were many people who made a huge contribution to the shape and thinking of the church as we know it today. Historians call these people the **CHURCH FATHERS**. There have been about **275** of them. One of the first was a man called **ST AUGUSTINE** in **354AD**. Now, let's say that one of the circles below represent everything that he believed the Bible was saying. About 1200 years later in **1517** we have Ulrich **ZWINGLI**. He was a contemporary of Martin **LUTHER**. Let's say that two circles below represents both what Zwingli believed the Bible was saying and what Luther believed. Note that their interpretations are all different. Not long after them was John **CALVIN**, a real heavyweight thinker. Say the forth circle is what he believed the Bible was saying. Now if we did that for all 275 of the Church Fathers we will see that there are outer areas of the circles. These are the areas where these they did not agree. But in the centre is what all of them agreed on.

This area of agreement is called the 'Fundamental Truths of the Christian Faith'. We have taken those Fundamental Truths and put them in the booklet "The Passion" (available to download on the previous screen). This is why on the back page it says that 'this booklet is endorsed by people from mainstream Christian churches and organisations as a clear and accurate summary of the message of the Bible and the Christian faith.' So, this is not my own interpretation, but it is consistent with all the mainstream churches and with 2000 years of church history.



**Note: It is only the cults that disagree with these fundamental truths.** For example the JW's and Mormons both started in the 1870's. They have been around a very small amount of time and yet they say that their interpretation is the only true interpretation. They stand against 2000 years of church history and all the mainstream churches today.