

God's Word

Theology: Core Doctrines Part 1

Session 2

*“How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?”*

-How Firm A Foundation, Author Unknown

Main Point: The Bible Truly is God's Word

1. The Bible Is God's Revealed Word

- God Reveals Himself **in Creation:** *General Revelation*
- God Reveals Himself **in the Bible:** *Special Revelation*

2. The Bible is God's Inspired Word

- **Three Wrong Theories of Inspiration:**
 - Dictation Theory of Inspiration
 - Conceptual Theory of Inspiration
 - Natural Theory of Inspiration



- **The Biblical View:** *Verbal Plenary Inspiration*
 - Verbal: *Every Word*

 - Plenary: *In All the Bible*

 - Inspiration: *In Scripture*

- **Biblical Proofs of Verbal Plenary Inspiration**
 - The Bible Self-Identifies as God's Word

 - The Bible Records God's Very Words

 - The Bible Is Affirmed by Jesus as God's Word

3. The Bible Is God's Authoritative Word

- **Subjective Sources of Authority**
 - Historical Accuracy of the Bible

 - Prophetic Fulfillment in the Bible

 - Church Affirmation of the Bible

 - Personal Impact of the Bible

- **Objective Source of Authority**

- Illumination of the Bible

- Clarity of the Bible

- Sufficiency of the Bible

4. The Bible Is God's Inerrant Word

- **Four Common Objections to Inerrancy**

- The Bible Is Only Infallible for Faith and Practice

- The Bible Does Not Claim to Be Inerrant

- The Bible's Original Autographs Are Missing

- The Bible Contains Errors

- **Three Objections to These Objections**

- If God's Word Can't Be Trusted, God Can't Be Trusted

- If God's Word Contains Minor Errors, Why Not Major Errors?

- If Man Determines Biblical Truth, Man Becomes the Highest Standard of Truth



5. The Bible Is God's Preserved Word

- Preserved through **Canonicity**:
 - **Definition of Canonicity**: The list of books accepted by the Church as Scripture. From Greek *kanon*, meaning rod (used to measure). ie. The measure or standard of what constitutes Scripture.

 - **Criteria for Canonicity**
 - Apostolic or Prophetic Authorship Evidencing Inspiration

 - Consistent Doctrinal Agreement with Scripture

 - Universal Acceptance by God's People

 - **Exclusions from Canonicity**
 - Apocrypha ("Hidden Books")

 - Pseudepigrapha ("False Author")

 - Any New Books (Canon is Closed!)

- God Preserves His Word through **Textual Criticism:**
 - **Definition of Textual Criticism:** The careful examination of the existing ancient copies of Scripture in order to determine the purest copies of the original text.

 - **Need for Textual Criticism:**
 - Bible Written in Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic

 - No Original Manuscripts Exist

 - Bible Copied by Hand until the advent of the Printing Press in the 15th Century. Slight variations exist

 - **Sources for Textual Criticism:**
 - Masoretic Text

 - Septuagint Translation

 - Dead Sea Scrolls

 - 5,000+ NT Manuscripts



○ **A Word About Bible Translations**

- **Word-for-Word Translations:** *Formal Equivalence*
 - King James (KJV)
 - New King James (NKJV)
 - American Standard (ASV)
 - Revised Standard (RSV)
 - New American Standard (NASB)
 - English Standard (ESV)
 - Christian Standard (CSB)

- **Thought-for-Thought Translations:** *Dynamic Equivalence*
 - New International (NIV)

 - New Living (NLT)

 - New International Readers (NIRV)

- **Paraphrases**
 - The Living Bible

 - The Message

6. The Bible Is God's Relevant Word

- It Must Be **Received** (1 Thess. 2:13)
- It Must Be **Illuminated** (Ps. 119:18)
- It Must Be **Obedied** (Num. 14:22-24)
- It Must Be **Honored** (Neh. 8:5-6)
- It Must Be **Studied** (Ezra 7:10)
- It Must Be **Preached** (2 Tim. 4:2)
- It Must Be **Taught** (2 Tim. 3:16)
- It Must Be **Feared** (Isa. 66:2)