

DOCTRINE MATTERS: ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Message 1: **The Bible** – Authority and Inerrancy

What does the Bible tell us about itself?

4 characteristics:

AUTHORITY defined:

The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God. (Grudem)

1. All the words in Scripture are _____.

Old Testament: "Thus says the Lord ..."

2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness ...

2 Peter 1:21 (ESV)

²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

See also: Mt 9:5, Lk 1:70, 24:265, John 5:45-47, Acts 3:18,21, 4:25, 13:47, 28:25, Rom 1:2, 3:2, 9:17, 1 Cor 9:8-10, Heb 1:1-2,6-7

What of the New Testament?

2 Peter 3:15-16 (ESV)

¹⁵And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

1 Timothy 5:18 (ESV)

¹⁸For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."

1 Corinthians 14:37 (ESV)

³⁷If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.

2. To disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey _____.

Luke 24:25 (ESV)

²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"

2 Peter 3:2 (ESV)

² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles,

Isaiah 66:2b (ESV)

² ... But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

Why?

The doctrine of _____!

Holy Scripture, being God's own Word, written by men prepared and superintended by His Spirit, is of infallible divine authority in all matters upon which it touches: It is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it affirms; obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; embraced, as God's pledge, in all that it promises.

... Being wholly and verbally God-given, Scripture is without error or fault in all its teaching, no less in what it states about God's acts in creation, about the events of world history, and about its own literary origins under God, than in its witness to God's saving grace in individual lives.

- Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy 1978 (Summary Statement)

INERRANCY defined:

The inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact. (Grudem)

5 evidences of _____:

1) The Bible's own _____

2) The _____ and _____ of the Bible

3) The Bible's _____ and _____ accuracy

4) The _____ prophecies of the Bible

5) The _____ of its content

4 Qualifiers:

1) Inerrancy does not preclude the use of _____ language.

Examples:

2) Inerrancy does not preclude the use of free and loose _____.

Examples:

3) Inerrancy does not preclude unusual _____.

Why?

4) We only claim inerrancy in the _____.

The doctrine of **inerrancy** is built on these premises:

1. God cannot _____ or speak _____.

Titus 1:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began

Hebrews 6:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

2. Therefore, all words in Scripture, being *inspired* by God, are completely _____ without error in any part.

Psalms 12:6 (ESV)

⁶ The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times.

Proverbs 30:5 (ESV)

⁵ Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

Psalms 119:89 (ESV)

⁸⁹ Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

Matthew 24:35 (ESV)

³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

3. Therefore, God's word is the ultimate _____ of truth.

John 17:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- a) Inerrancy is attached to the _____ of God.
- b) Inerrancy is taught in the _____.
- c) Inerrancy is the _____ position of the Christian Church.
- d) Inerrancy is _____ to other essential doctrines.

Finally, some common errors to look out for: