

God's Word Written

I. INTRODUCTION

Why so much emphasis on the Bible?

- Verbal plenary inspiration – all Scripture in its written form and in its very words is inspired by God.
- Infallibility – truthfulness, such that Scripture is a sure, safe, and reliable rule and guide in all matters.
- Inerrancy – the quality of being free from all errors and mistakes; therefore, Scripture in its original manuscripts doesn't affirm anything that is contrary to fact.

II. THE ORIGIN OF THE BIBLE: GOD-BREATHED (INSPIRATION)

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Theopneustos = God-breathed

Four truths that this passage teaches us:

1. The totality of Scripture – *all* Scripture
2. What Scripture says, God says
3. Scripture is the word of God
4. The profitability of all Scripture

2 Peter 1:19-21

1 Thessalonians 2:13

In many various places, the direct identification of the words of Scripture are said to be from God – e.g., Heb. 3:7; Acts 4:25; Rom. 9:15, 17; Matt. 19:5.

III. NECESSARY CONSEQUENCE: INFALLIBILITY AND INERRANCY

A. Consider the character of God

Major premise: All Scripture is God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16)

Minor premise: God breathes only the truth (Heb. 6:18; Titus 1:2)

Conclusion: All Scripture is true and trustworthy.

B. Consider church history

C. Consider the consequences

“One cannot doubt the Bible without far-reaching loss, both of fullness of truth and fullness of life. If therefore we have at heart spiritual renewal for society, for churches and for our own lives, we shall make much of the entire trustworthiness – that is, the inerrancy – of Holy Scripture as the inspired and liberating word of God.” ~ J.I. Packer

IV. THE CHICAGO STATEMENT ON BIBLICAL INERRANCY (1978)

Spring Equip Classes 2019

The Bible: The Word of God for the People of God

(This course runs for 9 weeks from April 7 to June 16, excluding Easter Sunday and Memorial Day weekend.)

A general outline of the course:

- I. Introduction: *Rejoicing in God and His Word*
- II. What is the Bible? (dealing with doctrinal issues)
 - a. *God's Word Written: Inspiration & Inerrancy*
 - b. *Carried Along by the Holy Spirit: Human Authorship*
 - c. *Attributes of the Bible: Clear & Authoritative*
 - d. *Attributes of the Bible: Necessary & Sufficient*
- III. Can I really trust the Bible? (dealing with apologetic issues)
 - a. *Copies of Copies of Copies?*
 - b. *Why These Books and Not Those?*
 - c. *True Events from Trustworthy People?*
 - d. *Taking the Resurrected Jesus at His Word*

For how to better study, interpret, and disciple others with the Bible, join us for our upcoming *Impact* workshops:

- June 8 for men – *Fundamentals of Reading the Bible Well*
- June 21 & 22 for women

Resources used for the structure and content of this course:

- Craig Blomberg, *Can We Still Believe the Bible?*
- F.F. Bruce, *The Canon of Scripture*
- F.F. Bruce, *The NT Documents: Are They Reliable?*
- Kevin DeYoung, *Taking God at His Word*
- Greg Gilbert, *Why Trust the Bible?*
- Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*
- Walter Kaiser, *The OT Documents*
- Michael Kruger, *Canon Revisited*
- J.I. Packer, *'Fundamentalism' and the Word of God*
- Derek Thomas, *The Bible*
- B.B. Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible*
- Paul Wegner, *The Journey from Texts to Translations*