

# THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE: PART 5

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*The centerpiece of Reformed theology, recovered at the reformation, is not election, predestination, or even justification by faith, rather it is the doctrine of Scripture.*

**S**ufficiency—Everything we need God to tell us about salvation, for believing him and obeying him is found in Scripture (Scripture is enough).

**C**larity—The central truths of the Christian faith are so clear in Scripture, that by the ordinary means of reading words, sentences, paragraphs, the truth is unmistakable.

**A**uthority—To disbelieve or to disobey the Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.

**N**ecessity—The Scriptures are necessary for knowing God, knowing the person and work of Jesus Christ, knowing the will of God, maintaining spiritual life and knowing the way of salvation.

Definition of Inerrancy: The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ and has no \_\_\_\_\_.

## YESTERDAY'S INFALLIBILITY, TODAY'S INERRANCY

**WCF** and **LBCF** states, "*The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.*"

**E.J. Young** states, "*By the term infallible as applied to the Bible, we mean simply that the Scripture possesses an indefectible authority...It can never fail in its judgments and statements. All that it teaches is of unimpeachable, absolute authority, and cannot be contravened, contradicted or gainsaid. Scripture is unfailing, incapable of proving false, erroneous or mistaken. Though heaven and earth should pass away, its words of truth will stand forever*" (*Thy Word Is Truth*, 1957).

Inerrancy is true because God is \_\_\_\_\_ and cannot \_\_\_\_\_.

**1) We know God has \_\_\_\_\_ in the Scriptures.**

**2 Timothy 3:16** says, "*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*"

**2 Peter 1:19–21** says, "*And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,* <sup>20</sup>*knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.* <sup>21</sup>*For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*"

**2) We know that \_\_\_\_\_ are true.**

**Numbers 23:19** says, "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?"

**Psalm 18:30** says, "*This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.*"

**Proverbs 30:5** says, "Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him"

**John 17:17** says, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

**Titus 1:1–3** says, "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, <sup>2</sup>in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began <sup>3</sup>and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior."

**Hebrews 6:18** says, "...it is impossible for God to lie..."

**3) Therefore, since God has spoken in Scripture and God's words are always true, the Scriptures are true.**

*The kind of Bible we believe in is directly proportionate to the kind of God we believe in.*

## **WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT INERRANCY**

**Psalm 19:7–9** says, "*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; <sup>8</sup>the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; <sup>9</sup>the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.*"

**Psalm 119** contains many statements such as: "*All your commandments are sure*" (**v. 86**); "*You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness*" (**v. 138**); "*Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true*" (**v. 142**); "*Your testimonies are righteous forever*" (**v. 144**); "*all your commandments are true*" (**v. 151**); and "*The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever*" (**v. 160**)

**John 10:31–36** says, "*The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. <sup>32</sup>Jesus answered them, 'I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?' <sup>33</sup>The Jews answered him, 'It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.' <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, 'Is it not written in your Law, 'I said, you are gods'? <sup>35</sup>If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— <sup>36</sup>do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"*

**Matthew 5:18** says, "*For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.*"

**Matthew 22:29, 31–32** says, "*But Jesus answered them, 'You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God....And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was*

said to you by God: 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living."

## WHAT INERRANCY IS NOT

1. Inerrancy is not full precision in \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Kings 7:23** "Then he made the sea of cast metal. It was round, ten cubits from brim to brim, and five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference."

2. Inerrancy is not \_\_\_\_\_ correctness or uniform authorial style.

3. Inerrancy is not verbatim \_\_\_\_\_.

**Deuteronomy 6:5** says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

**Luke 10:27–28** says, "And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."<sup>28</sup> And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

4. Inerrancy is not uniformity in \_\_\_\_\_ when recording the same event.

5. Inerrancy is not in reference to a specific \_\_\_\_\_.

Inerrancy means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.

**The Translators to the Reader** says, "Now to the latter we answer; that we do not deny, nay we affirm and avow, that the very meanest translation of the Bible in English, set forth by men of our profession, (for we have seen none of theirs of the whole Bible as yet) containeth the word of God, nay, is the word of God. As the King's speech, which he uttereth in Parliament, being translated into French, Dutch, Italian, and Latin, is still the King's speech, though it be not interpreted by every Translator with the like grace, nor peradventure so fitly for phrase, nor so expressly for sense, everywhere."

## PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS TO INERRANCY

1. If we deny inerrancy, we must also say that the Bible is wrong not only in the \_\_\_\_\_, but in some of its \_\_\_\_\_ as well.

2. If we deny inerrancy, can we really trust God in anything he \_\_\_\_\_?

3. If we deny inerrancy, we make our own human minds a higher standard of \_\_\_\_\_ than God's word itself.

## APPENDIX

Select portions of the preface to the 1611 KJV, **The Translators to the Reader**

*"Truly (good Christian Reader) we never thought from the beginning, that we should need to make a new Translation, nor yet to make of a bad one a good one, ... but to make a good one better, or out of many good ones, one principal good one, not justly to be excepted against."*

*"There be many words in the Scriptures, which be never found there but once, ... so that we cannot be helped by conference of places. Again, there be many rare names of certain birds, beasts and precious stones, etc. ... Now in such a case, doth not a margin do well to admonish the Reader to seek further, and not to conclude or dogmatize upon this or that peremptorily? ... Therefore as S. Augustine saith, that variety of Translations is profitable for the finding out of the sense of the Scriptures: so diversity of signification and sense in the margin, where the text is not so clear, must need do good, yea, is necessary, as we are persuaded."*

*"... we are so far off from condemning any of their labors that travelled before us in this kind, either in this land or beyond sea, ... that we acknowledge them to have been raised up by God, ... and that they deserve to be had of us and of posterity, in everlasting remembrance. ... Yet for all that, as nothing is begun and perfected at the same time, and the later thoughts are thought to be the wiser; so, if we building upon their foundation that went before us, and being helped by their labors, do endeavor to make that better which they left so good; no man, we are sure, hath cause to mislike us; they, we persuade ourselves, if they were alive, would thank us."*

## RECOMMENDED READING

From introductory, to intermediate, to advanced, these resources will nourish your soul and cause you to praise God for his word.

Kevin DeYoung, *Taking God at His Word*

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine or Systematic Theology*

John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Word of God*