

Session 3: Why do we believe that the scriptures are without error?

Part 1: A summary of what we learned last session:

- The scriptures are God's word, not just the thoughts or the doctrines, but the very words in the original languages.
- God used prophets and apostles to give us His word and they were fully aware that they were writing God's word when they wrote scripture.
- God's word is more trustworthy than the recall and comparison of eyewitnesses because it finds its ultimate source in God.
- Though God's spoken and written word, both bare His full authority, His written word had a superior quality because it has been preserved for future generation.

Part 2: Why do we believe in the inerrancy of scripture?

- **A simple definition:** "The scriptures are without error in everything that they affirm or imply. They do not affirm anything that is contrary to fact..." Grudem
- **A few logical arguments connected to this discussion:**
 - **God Cannot Lie:**
 - **Numbers 23:19**
 - **Titus 1:2**
 - **Hebrews 6:18**
- **God's Word stands forever:**
 - **Psalms 119:89**
 - **Matthew 24:35**
- **Key Scripture: Psalm 19:7-10**
 - **Verse 7:** Law of the LORD is: "perfect..."
 - **Verse 7:** The testimony of the LORD is "sure..."
 - **Verse 8:** The statutes of the LORD are: "right..."
 - **Verse 8:** The commandment of the LORD is: "pure..."
- **Some additional statements in scripture:**
 - **2 Samuel 7:28**
 - **Psalms 12:6**
 - **John 17:17**

Part 3: The logical progression built on scripture that leads us to the inerrancy position:

- Every word of scripture is God breathed.
- Even though God used human instruments to give us His word, every word that they wrote was ultimately from His mouth.

- God cannot lie nor does He need to learn something new, therefore, everything that He speaks is true.
- Everything that the scriptures affirmed was true then, is true now, and will be true forever.
- To doubt the truthfulness of any affirmation in scripture is ultimately a questioning of God's character.

Part 4: Why is inerrancy so important?

- **Case example: Satan and Even in the Garden Genesis 3:1-6**
 - **Question about authority:** "Hath God said?"
 - **Contradiction to what God said:** "Ye shall not die..."
 - **An indictment of God's character:** "For God doth know..."
 - **A questioning of God's word and a willingness to arrogantly disobey Him:** "And when the woman saw...she took the fruit..."

Part 5: How does a conviction regarding inerrancy practically works out in the way we teach and study Scripture"

- We will de-emphasize our own opinions and emphasize the sure standard of scripture.
- We will work hard to understand difficulties in the Bible from a position of confidence rather than doubt.
- We will read and listen to teaching with discernment to see how what is stated compares to the perfect standard of scripture.
- When we read scripture, we will constantly ask, what does this mean rather than is this true.
- We will not attempt to explain away or accommodate Biblical affirmations to accommodate modern thought.
- We will teach the scriptures with conviction and passion.

Part 6: How a low view of scripture can come out in the way people approach scripture:

- **A Theologically liberal view:** The view that rejects the miraculous in scripture like the virgin conception of Christ, the hypostatic union of Christ, the literal bodily resurrection of Christ, the miracles that authenticated Christ's ministry.
- **The cannon within a cannon view:** Some parts of the Bible are reliable, primarily dealing with issues of faith, but matter of science or history are subject to critical review.
- **The theistic evolution compromise:** The view that while God is the ultimate creator of all things, the first 9 chapters of Genesis are not

meant to be taken as a literal historical account of the creations, but rather as an allegorical explanation of how God made all things.

- **The developing ethic view:** The ethics of the Bible are meant to be seen as developing over time, therefore the ethics of the Old Testament are out of date and have been replaced by the New Testament ethic, summed up by the statement love your neighbor as you love yourself.
- **The modernized ethic views:** Biblical ethics are generally good but need to be critically analyzed on a case by case basis to accommodate modern developments.

Part 7: Concluding Thoughts:

- Every word of scripture is God breathed.
- Even though God used human instruments to give us His word, every word that they wrote was ultimately from His mouth.
- God cannot lie nor does He need to learn something new, therefore, everything that He speaks is true.
- Everything that scripture affirmed was true then, is true now, and will be true forever.
- To doubt the truthfulness of any affirmation in scripture is ultimately questions God's character.
- Inerrancy is a watershed issue for Christians. To compromise on the conviction of inerrancy will ultimately lead to the reader, not the author being the ultimate judge of what is true.