

Systematic Theology I — Student Handout
Instructor: Dr. Jody Jenkins

Chapter 5: The Inerrancy of Scripture

What You Should Learn From Today's Lecture:

- Define the inerrancy of Scripture in biblical terms.
- Understand why God's truthfulness requires the truthfulness of Scripture.
- Recognize that inerrancy allows ordinary language, approximations, and free quotations.
- Identify the major objections commonly raised against inerrancy.
- Explain why difficult texts do not overthrow confidence in the Bible.

1. The Meaning of Inerrancy

Definition of inerrancy:

Why God's truthfulness matters to this doctrine:

2. Inerrancy and Ordinary Human Language

Everyday speech (sunrise, rain falling, etc.):

Round numbers, approximations, and imprecise language:

3. Inerrancy and the Form of Biblical Communication

Loose or free quotations:

Grammar, spelling, and literary style:

4. Current Challenges to Inerrancy

“Faith and practice only” objection:

Objections about the term inerrancy and original manuscripts:

Accommodation to false ideas / human element objection:

5. Difficult Texts and Careful Interpretation

How believers should approach difficult passages:

Examples discussed in class:

6. Problems with Denying Inerrancy

Moral and doctrinal problems that follow:

Effects on trust, obedience, and the church:

Things to Know (Exam Review Section)

1. Inerrancy means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything contrary to fact.
2. Because God cannot lie, the words of Scripture must be completely true.
3. Inerrancy concerns truthfulness, not modern scientific precision.
4. Everyday language, round numbers, and approximations are consistent with inerrancy.
5. Free or loose quotations do not violate inerrancy if the content is reported truthfully.
6. Grammatical irregularities or rough style do not destroy inerrancy.
7. The Bible does not limit its truthfulness to “faith and practice” only.
8. The lack of original manuscripts does not overthrow inerrancy because the text has been preserved with very high accuracy.
9. Difficult texts require careful interpretation, not quick accusations of error.
10. Denying inerrancy weakens confidence in God, elevates human reason, and harms the church.
11. A question on the exam will ask if you did the assigned reading.

Closing Summary

Chapter 5 teaches that because Scripture is God’s Word, and because God cannot lie, Scripture is wholly true in all that it affirms. Difficult texts and common objections do not overthrow this doctrine, but instead call believers to careful interpretation, deeper trust, and greater confidence in the truthfulness of God’s written Word.

ASSIGNMENT

Read Chapter 5 — THE INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE