

Introduction

- We believe the Bible is the very words of God spoken through human authors. It is trustworthy and without error in the original manuscripts. It is our highest authority and all points to Christ as its fulfillment. (Romans 15:4, 2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Pet. 1:21)

Word of God

- We believe these are the actual words of God.
- God has revealed Himself in natural revelation, i. e. creation.
- God has especially revealed Himself in His Word.
- They are not the mere recollection of times God spoke and acted, but the entire book are His words.
- God used human authors to communicate with us in ways we can understand.

How is Spoken?

- There is room to disagree on how the Bible was inspired.
- Some see the authors as undergoing a kind of ecstatic trance.
- Some see the authors as writing in a similar way to great artists creating masterpieces.
- Some see the authors as having the Bible dictated word for word to them.
- Some see it as a dynamic process of the human and divine working together.

Trustworthy and True

- The Bible is true in everything it affirms in the past, present, and future.
- Anything that appears to be an error can be explained and understood.
- We don't need to affirm God's Word is trustworthy based on apologetics only.
- It is true because God is trustworthy and the Holy Spirit confirms His Word.

Inerrancy

- We must learn to distinguish a different interpretation from a denial of the text.
- Someone denying what we consider a traditional teaching might deny inerrancy.
- "Paul's prohibitions against women being elders only applied to the Corinthians" versus "Paul's prohibited women from being elders because he was sexist and wrong."
- We can disagree on interpretations, but not on the trustworthiness of the text itself.

Why Original Manuscripts?

- The Bibles we have in front of us are inspired and inerrant only as much as they reflect the original message from God.
- This is what keeps us from KJV-onlyism and only reading it in the original languages.
- The Bible we have today is inspired and trustworthy.

Highest Authority

- The Bible is the highest and ultimate authority over believers.
- It has the final say and every other authority must submit to this one.
- It is the judge of our faith and our practice.
- We should and must compare all of our decisions to what the Bible says.

Other Authorities

- It does not mean that we do not have other authorities over us.
- Government, rulers, laws, parents, and elders are authorities.
- Church tradition is a lower authority but not the final authority.
- Other authorities can err, while the Bible does not.
- Other authorities must be evaluated in light of the Bible, but not discarded.
- Other authorities help us make sure we are interpreting the Scriptures faithfully.

Points to Christ

- We are not allowed to interpret the Bible to mean whatever we want.
- There are not infinite options of what the Bible could mean.
- All interpretation must point to Christ.
- We have to interpret it in light of the Revelation of Jesus.

What is at Stake?

- If God's word has errors, then what can we trust?
- Whatever/whoever decides what errors are has the ultimate authority.
- If God's word is not His words, then how can it be authoritative?
- If God's word is not authoritative, then what is?
- We cannot trust the story of the gospel, if God's Word is not true.

Takeaways

- God's Word is the final authority, but not the only authority.
- We can trust the Bible that we have in front of us.
- We can have faith that every perceived "error" has an explanation.