

“The Doctrine of Scripture”

2 Timothy 3:14-4:4

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I. Introduction

- A. Why a series on the doctrines of the Bible?
 - 1. “For the time will come...” (2 Timothy 4:3)
 - 2. “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that...” (1 Timothy 4:1)
 - 3. “But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1)
 - 4. “We should earnestly contend for the faith which was...” (Jude 3:1)
- B. Every person has a basis of authority
 - 1. For a Christian, that basis is the Bible
 - 2. Also called “holy scriptures” (2 Timothy 3:15)
 - 3. Also called “the Word of God”
 - a) (Hebrews 4:12)
 - b) Over 40 times in the New Testament
 - 4. As Christians, we believe the Bible, the Scripture, alone is the living, powerful Word of God written
 - a) Inspired
 - b) Inerrant
 - c) Infallible
 - 5. Why is belief in the Bible important?
 - a) We need authority
 - 1) A place to stand
 - 2) *“It is because we believe that the true God has revealed himself to us in Jesus and the Bible, which tell us about Him. God has spoken in the Bible, and the Bible is authoritative because God is the ultimate authority.”* –James Boice
 - b) We need expository preaching
 - 1) (2 Timothy 4:1-2)
 - 2) *“The number one reason for the decline in preaching is the loss of the belief in the authority of the Scriptures.”* – Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones
 - c) We need healthy churches
 - 1) A church cannot be healthy if it is not holy, and a church cannot be holy without the Spirit of God working through the Word of God
 - 6. Five wrong views toward the Bible
 - a) Rationalism
 - 1) Denies the possibility of any supernatural revelation. The human mind is the final authority
 - b) Romanism
 - 1) The Bible is the product of the church; therefore, the Bible alone is not the sole or final authority
 - c) Mysticism
 - 1) Experience is authoritative along with the Bible
 - d) Neoorthodoxy

- 1) The Bible is a fallible witness to the revelation of God in the Word
- 2) The words of Scripture become the words of God to us as we encounter them
- e) Cults
 - 1) The Bible and the writing of the cult's leader are equally authoritative
- C. The correct or orthodox view toward the Bible
 1. The Bible alone is the ground of authority
 - a) Because it is the Word of God
 - b) To give the Bible its rightful place is to bring glory to God, health to the church, and light to the world
 2. There are three points I want to focus on concerning the Scriptures
 - a) Their inspiration
 - b) Their inerrancy
 - c) Their authority

II. The Inspiration of Scripture

- A. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (2 Timothy 3:16)
 1. All Scripture is "God breathed"
 2. It is all Scripture, Old Testament, and New Testament
 - a) (Deuteronomy 25:4)
 - b) (Luke 10:7)
 - c) (1 Timothy 5:18)
 3. Four false views of inspiration
 - a) Natural inspiration
 - b) Dictation or mechanical inspiration
 - c) Fallible inspiration
 - d) Conceptual inspiration
 4. The orthodox view
 - a) The verbal, plenary view of inspiration
 - b) The words, all of them
 - c) (Matthew 5:18)
 - d) *"My own definition of biblical inspiration is that it is God's superintendence of the human authors so that, using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in the words of the original autographs. Several features of the definition are worth emphasizing: (1) God superintended but did not dictate the material. (2) He used human authors and their own individual styles. (3) Nevertheless, the product was, in its original manuscripts, without error."* – Charles Ryrie
 - 1) (2 Peter 1:16-21)
 5. It is the sure word (v. 19a)
 - a) "The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple" (Psalm 19:7)
 6. It is the shining word (v. 19b)
 - a) "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105)
 7. It is the Spirit-given word (vv. 20-21)

- a) The Bible is the inspired Word of God

III. The Inerrancy of Scripture

- A. “Turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Timothy 4:4)
 - 1. The Bible is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - a) God cannot err
 - b) The Bible is inerrant
 - c) It is wholly true and trustworthy
 - d) (2 Timothy 3:16b)
 - 2. The Scripture is (Psalm 19:7-9):
 - a) Perfect or sure (v. 7)
 - b) Right or pure (v. 8)
 - c) Clean, true, and righteous altogether (v. 9)
 - 3. The problem and dangers of denying inerrancy
 - a) If God can lie, so can I
 - b) If the Bible is not inerrant, can I trust anything it says?
 - c) If some is true and some is not, who is the judge of what is true or false?
 - 4. God cannot err
 - a) The Bible is the Word of God
 - b) The Bible cannot err
 - c) To hear the Bible is to hear God
 - d) To obey the Bible is to obey God
 - e) To disobey the Bible is to rebel against God
 - 1) Illustration- Billy Graham
 - 2) Stand on God’s truth

IV. The Authority of Scripture

- A. If all Scripture is given by inspiration of God:
 - 1. All Scripture is inerrant, true, and trustworthy
 - 2. Scripture is the authority
 - 3. *“The overriding reason for accepting the divine inspiration and authority of Scripture is plain loyalty to Jesus.”* –John Stott
- B. How did Jesus view the Scriptures?
 - 1. Jesus affirmed its divine authority
 - a) Illustration- Jesus tempted by Satan (Matthew 4)
 - b) (John 10:35)
 - 2. Jesus affirmed its inerrancy
 - a) “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17)
 - 3. Jesus affirmed its dependability
 - a) (Matthew 5:17-18)
 - b) (Luke 24)
 - 4. Jesus believed in their historicity
 - a) Adam and Eve (Matthew 19:4-5)
 - b) Noah and the flood (Matthew 24:37-39)
 - c) Jonah and the whale (Matthew 12:40)
 - d) Lot and Sodom (Like 17:29)

- e) Moses and the burning bush (Luke 20:37)
- f) Moses and the serpent in the wilderness (John 3:14)
- 5. Only if you reject the divine authority of Christ can you reject the divine authority of Scripture

V. Conclusion

- A. The Bible is the Word of God
 - 1. God cannot lie, so His Word is true
 - 2. You can build your life on the solid rock of Scripture
 - a) Illustration- Jesus and the two builders