

Should the Bible be Dragged Kicking and Screaming into the Modern Age?

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Hebrews Series

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Bible Text: Hebrews 10:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21

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In just a moment I am going to show you about a three minute video. The video is from CNN. Pierce Morgan is interviewing Joel Olsteen. Now, hold on, church. Hold on. Joel really tries to hold his own. Joel really tries to hold his own. I want you to watch the dialog between Pierce and Joel Olsteen as they go back and forth.

Don't get distracted by the issue. I want you to listen for the line where Pierce asks him about bringing the Bible into the modern age. And then at the last minute Pierce is going to talk about the last time I heard somebody talk like this was... And I want you to see who he compares these views that Joel seems to be espousing—and honestly to give him credit—he tries to do a good job. So I want you to pay close attention to this three minute video and then we are going to unpack it from the Word of God.

Change of Voice:

Is homosexuality a sin in your eyes?

Change of Voice:

Yes, I have always believed, Pierce. The Scriptures shows that it is a sin, but, you know, I am not one of those that are out there to bash homosexuals and tell them that they are terrible people and all that.

Change of Voice:

So, I suppose the obvious question is....Has your position changed at all after that, because it raised a lot of headlines, a lot of controversy? Since then more states have endorsed same sex marriage. It is becoming much less of a prohibitive kind of issue than it used to be. What is your view now?

Change of Voice:

You know, Pierce, it really never changes because mine was... mine is based out of the

Scripture. That is what I believe that the Scripture says that... that homosexuality is a sin. So it... you know, I believed it before and I still believe it now. Again, I would just reiterate what I said. I am not after.... I am not mad at anybody. I don't dislike anybody, but, you know, you know, respecting my faith and believing, you know, in... in what the Scripture says that is the best way that I can interpret it.

Change of Voice:

But, I mean, shouldn't the Scripture be dragged kicking and screaming into the modern age? I mean, we are talking before the break about the issue about eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth. Not everything in the Scriptures, really, is, in my view, conducive to modern life. I mean, like everything else, doesn't it have to move with the times? And isn't down again to people like you to interpret it in a way that evolves? When you are known as a very progressive preacher.

Change of Voice:

Sure.

Well, we want to be progressive, but something... sometimes I just... when I read it, I can't see how I would change that. Just like you wouldn't, you know, change some other main things, you know, in the Scripture. I just... I don't see how that, you know, if you don't have a basis of truth and that is what I base mine off of. Everybody else does it and I don't fault them if they don't. But this is just the way I choose to... to live my life and ... and what I teach based out of the Scripture. So I don't think... you know, I think, you know, personally, 200 years from now the Scripture is still going to say that.

Change of Voice:

Yes, but the law of the land may not and it may not in your state. And the law of the land is changing fast. And, you know, your argument about executions was: What is the law of the land in somewhere like Texas? What if Texas eventually—and at the moment it is an unlikely place, I would imagine, to bring this in, but it may change with enough pressure—Texas brings in a law that same sex marriage is permissible? How would you feel then, if it is the law of the land?

Change of Voice:

Well, you know what? I am going to respect the law and I am going to respect gay people like I do now. You know, have plenty of people that come to our church and friends, I would call, that are gay. So I am going to respect that. I think where it puts a difficult situation is me being a Christian pastor, believing the Scripture. You know, it would be against my faith to marry to gay people.

Change of Voice:

You could never do that.

Change of Voice:

No. It would be against what I believe the Scripture teaches. And so that is where I think the rub comes in of people like myself. It is not that I am against anybody or, you know, if people want to live together, that is up to them. But... but my faith when we say marriage, I mean I think about, Pierce, all through the Bible there is, you know, hundreds of marriages, but none of them are shown as between, you know, the same sex. And, again, I am not against anything, but I just believe that is what the Bible teaches and that is how we have chosen to...

Change of Voice:

Don't you feel a bit uneasy that there is sort of... The last person I had speaking like this was Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who is the president of Iran.

Change of Voice:

Now I want you to see what happened here. We have got a news anchor questioning the pastor of the largest church in Texas, perhaps, the United States and he is trying to hold to the Scripture. You keep on going back.

Now I wasn't crazy about his response, but I certainly took heart, because he kept taking him back to the Scripture. So let's be fair in here. He kept on saying the Bible. He even said 200 years from now the Bible is still going to say... and he said it. He kept on trying to hold the line.

And Pierce said, "Shouldn't the Bible be drug into the modern age kicking and screaming?" You know, aren't we going to grab Scripture and drag it into the modern age?

And then he said, "The last time I heard someone talking like this was him?"

Do you see what is going on? A fundamentalist perspective on the Scripture, which is what Joel was espousing, whether you realize it or not. That was a fundamental perspective. The Scriptures says... the Scripture says... Two hundred years from now the Scripture is still going to say that.

And he said, "The last time I heard someone talking like that was an Islamic militant fundamentalist."

That is the mindset. The more you and I hold to the inerrancy and authority of this book, the more you are going to be branded as weird, right wing, fundamental, wacko, strange.

We have got to talk about this this morning. We have got to get into here and figure out what does the Word of God say. We have got to be taught this morning.

Would you stand and read the Word of God with me?

As we are marching our way through the book of Hebrews on Sunday nights and we are in chapter 10 and we preached through 14 or so, 13 or 14 or so and I came across this reference right here in verse number 15 and I want you to notice what the author of Hebrews says in this little verse in verse 15, this small almost matter of fact statement that if we are not careful we would just run right over it as though it is a speed bump and miss the significance of what the text says. I don't want us to do that. I want us this morning to be fed and taught and educated from verse 15. I want us to be informed and instructed and receive all that the Bible says in verse 15.

Notice what the author of Hebrews says.

“Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before...”¹

Now don't miss this. The male pronoun he is... the antecedent for that is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit testifies this morning for after that he had said before... I have got a comma and now I go into verse 16.

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord...”²

Wait a minute. Verse 15 says the Holy Spirit. Verse 16 says, “Saith the Lord...”

You have got to have a triune God in order for that to work. Now let's continue.

“I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”³

When did the Holy Spirit say this before? The Holy Spirit said this before, past tense. The Holy Spirit has already said this. When did the Holy Spirit say this?

Let's pray.

Father, I need you this morning to come and be with us. I want this to be exceptionally instructional because I know that you have commanded me and us as a church and every pastor to make disciples, to produce disciples, to instruct and teach and equip the saints for the work of the ministry. And so I pray, God, that this would be an incredibly edifying time in Jesus' name. Amen.

¹ Hebrews 10:15.

² Hebrews 10:16.

³ Hebrews 10:16-17.

All right. You may be seated. I have got to warn you. This is not going to be a typical sermon. You may even feel like, oh, I feel like I am in a college class this morning. I don't want to come to college on Sunday morning. This really seems like I am really being taught this morning.

Guilty. Guilty as charged.

I am going to work my very best to keep you engaged, but you are going to have to help. You are really going to have to help me. This is going to be exceptionally instructive.

If the gay agenda is the number one thing that is going to divide churches—and I believe with all my heart that is what you are going to see in the next 25 years—if that is the number one thing, I would suggest to you that the number two thing is going to be science. The number two thing is going to be science.

Christianity Today featured an article or a series of articles on this idea of the search for the historical Adam. At the present time there are numerous scientists working all over the world to try to prove through DNA that there could never be just one human being to produce all these human beings. The attempt right now is to prove with DNA that Adam could not have been... that all the humans could not have come from a single person.

Now I want every one of us to recognize the significance of when someone whips out the word DNA. Do you know that if you are a jury member sitting on a trial and the prosecuting attorney says, "We have got DNA evidence," that right away in the back of your mind you go, "Guilty as charged."

We have been taught from all the specialists that DNA is accurate, DNA is infallible, DNA is perfect, DNA works. And so every effort is being made by the father of lies to convince us that the first 11 chapters of the book of Genesis cannot be trusted. The effort right now is to teach us...

Mike, welcome home, by the way. When did you get home? And praise the Lord. Good to have you home safe.

This historical Adam could never have existed.

This book *Saving Darwin* is entitled *How to be a Christian and Believe in Evolution*. More and more Christians are throwing in the towel on God as the Creator. More and more Christians are throwing in the towel on the accuracy of Genesis. More and more Christians are going, "If the scientists say it, they must be right." More and more Christians are doing that.

So I want to show you from the book of Hebrews how you and I need to think. I am going to teach you the way the author of Hebrews thinks. And in doing so he provides for all of us in this room a better understanding about how each of us should think about Scripture.

Notice in verse 15

“Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness.”⁴

The Holy Spirit is a testimony. The Holy Spirit is one who is testifying right now.

The author of Hebrews, like a lawyer, is having a trial and he brings to the stand then Holy Spirit and he says, “Mr. Judge, I would like to cross examine the Holy Spirit.”

And the Holy Spirit takes the stand and the author of Hebrews says, “When did you say this?”

Because the Holy Spirit testified to these words found in Jeremiah 31.

Wait a minute. We are in the Old Testament. We are into maybe five, eight, 900 years, perhaps maybe even as many as 1000 years before Hebrews. And the author of Hebrews says the Holy Spirit said these words. The Holy Spirit said:

“But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD.”⁵

Wait a minute. What is going on here? This is in Jeremiah. We know that the prophet Jeremiah said these words, that Jeremiah the prophet was standing there in his own shoes, sandals speaking these words. And he says, “This is what the Lord is saying.” And the author of Hebrews says, “This is what the Holy Spirit said.”

Jeremiah continues.

“And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD.”⁶

The Lord said these words. In fact, the author is going to show me just from verse 15 how I need to think about the Old Testament canon. Now if canon is not a word you are familiar with, it is the way we reference the canonical books or the books that are inspired. These are the books that God gave us. We might say the 39 Old Testament canonical books. We might say the new canonical books in the New Testament, 27 or we might refer to the entire canon, 66 books.

We would say, “We believe God gave us the canon.”

⁴ Hebrews 10:15.

⁵ Jeremiah 31:33.

⁶ Jeremiah 31:34.

When we say that we mean we believe God gave us the authoritative books that are accurate, inspired, trustworthy, without error. You can count on them.

So let's notice what just happened. The words that were spoken by the prophet Jeremiah were just attributed to the Holy Spirit. But there was a human being on the ground, a man just like you and I. He breathed and drank and slept, got weary, died. He was a human being. He was a man just like you and I.

Yes and no.

Yes, he was a human being just like you. Had a pulse just like you. Got weary just like you. Lost his temper just like you do. Needed to be saved just like you do. Yes, all true.

And all the college students are home. Jordan, when are you going back? This afternoon?

A hundred and thirty times Jeremiah's name is mentioned in there. I know that font is too small for you to read, but I wanted to show you how I could do a digital search through the book of Jeremiah and I wanted to know how many times Jeremiah's name is found.

Verse number one says—and I will read it to you. Let me move very close here. Look how the opening verse says.

“The words of Jeremiah...”⁷

These are the words of Jeremiah. This is Jeremiah's book. Jeremiah preached these words. Jeremiah spoke these words. Yet in Hebrews chapter number 10 verse 15 the author says the Holy Spirit said these words.

Is it Jeremiah or is it the Holy Spirit? Which one, church?

Yes, good answer. Yes is a good answer. Both is a good answer.

You say, “Everybody believes this.”

No, siree, Bob. No. That is why we are talking about it this morning. No. I will show you this morning every Baptist doesn't believe this. I will show you this morning we have Baptist churches in Fayetteville that don't believe this. We have Baptist seminaries in North Carolina that don't believe these words. They pick and choose what they like in the Old Testament. They pick and choose. They don't believe the entire book is there.

In fact, verse number 11 says very accurately, very beautifully, it says:

“Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah...”⁸

⁷ Jeremiah 1:1.

⁸ Jeremiah 1:11.

Fifty two times in the book of Jeremiah the actual phrase, “The word of the Lord came...”

Where did you get these words from? The Lord. The Lord gave me these words. Are these your own words, Jeremiah? They are not my words. They are the Lord’s words. Who are you speaking for? The Lord.

Let me tell you something right now. We don’t need not bring the Bible kicking and screaming into the modern age. It is already here. It is the standard by which we measure all things. It is truth. It does not contain truth. It is truth. It is not partial truth. It is truth. There is no mixture of error in the entire book for it is the Word of the Lord.

How can the Word of the Lord contain error? It cannot. For if it does, it is no longer the Word of the Lord.

You say, “What is the difference between our God and other gods?”

Well, here is a god right here. This is the god of Baal. Many of the heathen surrounding Israel worshipped the god of Baal. This is an artifact of the god that they would worship. Cute little guy, isn’t he? Nice little hat.

You say, “What is the difference between that god and the God of Israel?”

Let me tell you the difference. Our God speaks to us. Our God talks to us. The difference between our God and their god is they could see their god, but he would never answer them. He would never speak to them. There was never a voice. He never ever opened his mouth. He never communicated one thing. And the God of Israel, you couldn’t see him, but he sure did talk to you.

He was a voice in a burning bush, constantly communicating with Israel, constantly affirming that they are His people. A prophet was sent and the prophet spoke for the Lord. And you know he was a prophet because when he spoke, it came to pass. And so the difference between our faith and every other false religion is their gods never talk. Their gods never talk to them. No words ever come out of their mouths. No communication ever comes out. They never hear from their god.

You will remember the great story on Mount Carmel, don’t you, when they are having an awesome contest.

Hey. Why don’t you wake your god up? Maybe he is sleeping. Is he out relieving himself? I mean, what is going on? We are not hearing from him.

And you heard from the God of the Israelites. You heard from him. He spoke.

I so wish that Joel would have just used one time, “God says...” If he would have just understood just to take it one step further. He kept on saying, “The Bible...” And I

applauded him for that. He kept on saying, "Scripture." And I said, "Awesome. You are doing a good job. Can't you take it a step further and let Pierce know? Don't you understand? This is God's Word."

"Pierce, I can't go against God."

"Why can't you marry a gay?"

"Because God doesn't allow me to. God spoke to me through his Word and in his Word I must obey for he spoke to me through this Word."

Oh, I wanted Joel to take just a step further. Throw it back in his face a little harder. Push back. Push back hard.

I will tell you right now. Baptist churches everywhere are caving on this issue and the reason they are caving on this issue is because they are so scared to be identified with fundamentalism, because of Islamic fundamentalism. Islamic fundamentalism is giving fundamentalism a bad name and so some fundamentalists are walking away from this.

May I remind, you my dear church, that this church was founded in a fight for those who were giving up the Word of God, who were caving on the Word of God.

In Hebrews chapter number one verse number one:

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets..."⁹

Every single Jew understood that God speaks, that God spoke, that they heard words from God, that Moses met with God, that Abraham met with God, that Adam walked with God, that Jacob had an encounter with God, that prophets met with God, heard from God and spoke for God.

You say, "We all believe this."

Oh, I am not sure. I am not sure we all believe this. I am not sure that when push comes to shove that some of you would cave just a little bit and waver just a little bit and instead of holding a firm stand with a line drawn in the sand and say, "I shall not cross that line," that when the Postmodernist is in your face and they are saying something like, "Don't you understand that science is proving...?"

How do you know 100 years from now science won't prove that they are wrong right now? Science is always overturning something that was factual 50 years ago, 75 years ago and they would say it is definitively true and then a new truth is discovered that unturns the other truth. Where is the standard?

⁹ Hebrews 1:1.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the 66 canonical books of the Bible is the standard of truth with no error whatsoever. None. We say it is inerrant. It is without error.

Why are you using the book of Hebrews? Because the book of Hebrews contains 38 quotations from the Old Testament. In fact, I would argue to you that it is a series of sermons in which the preacher in Hebrews is exegeting Old Testament texts is what he is doing and he keeps going to the Old Testament, pulling it up, going to the Old Testament, pulling it up. I want you to see this breakdown.

Eleven of the quotes come from the law. That is the Mosaic law, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. That is 11 of them coming from the first five books of the Bible.

May I remind you that Genesis is in those first five books of the Bible? May I remind you that all of Genesis is in those first five books of the Bible?

Then he moves to a quote from a historical book. That is Joshua through Ezra. Picks up 18 quotes from Psalms. Picks up another quote from Proverbs and rounds it out from seven quotes from the prophets.

Why are you showing this to us?

Because I want you to see that the author of Hebrews was willing to go back to any one of the 39 Old Testament books, either the law or the historical books or the wisdom books or the prophets and he believed it was all the Word of God. It did not contain the Word of God. It was the Word of God. There is such a difference.

I want you to understand something right now, that these liberal or progressive pastors are like snakes in the grass. You can't pin them down. Moving all the time. Won't take dogmatic stands. Always answering back and forth in such a way that you are not quite sure what they believe. Won't narrow it down for you, won't be dogmatic, say things like, "Yeah, I believe this is the Bible. It is God's Word." All of it? Well...

And that is a segue into Liberalism.

And, by the way, when I say Liberalism I am not talking about political Liberalism. That has nothing to do with it. We are talking about theological Liberalism. Theological Liberalism is Liberalism where you cave on the fundamentals of the faith, like the inerrancy of the Word of God, like the virgin birth, like the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, like the second coming, these fundamentals of the faith that we cannot cave on. For if we do, there is nothing left.

In the book of Hebrews the author says eight different times, "God spoke," in chapter one verse one. Four different times he attributes Old Testament quotes to Jesus. Three different times he attributes Old Testament quotes to the Holy Spirit. That can only be possible if God exists as one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Not Modalism.

The author of Hebrews is fully convinced that the Old Testament books in the Jewish Bible are God's words. And before we as Baptist cast stones to our Presbyterians or Methodists or Episcopalians, let us remind ourselves that we have Baptists in this very city that are caving on that issue.

You say, "Why are you bringing that to our attention?"

Because we have Baptists leaving this church and going to another church and saying I am going there for the music.

What? Do you even know what they believe? Do you even know what that pastor believes about the Word of God? Will he give you straight answers? Will he look you right in the eyes and make eye contact with you and give you a straight answer of what he believes about the Word of God? Go on their websites and you will find statements hidden, hard to find, evasive statements.

The new name for liberal is progressive.

Did you notice how Pierce said to him, "Aren't you a progressive pastor?"

And he said, "Sure."

Stop. Time out. How do you define progressive? Are you progressive because you carry an iPhone? Put me in that category. Are you progressive because you deny the Word of God? No. Nothing progressive about me. Get out of this conversation. Ok?

So here is how the argument goes.

You Christians don't need to worry about losing Genesis. You still got 65 other books. Don't make a big deal about losing Genesis. Don't worry about losing Genesis. You still got 65 other books. What are you whining about?

The argument goes something like this, Dave. If you go in a library and you find one book that is not true, it doesn't mean the whole library is not true.

Wait a minute. That might work in a library. It doesn't work with the Bible.

Here is how their argument goes. The first 11 books should not be considered authoritative or inerrant. Instead, they were written for primitive man in a way that primitive man could understand. So Adam is not really a real man. Eve is not really a mother of all. Cain, Abel, Seth, not real people. Just a story.

Wait a minute. There is a problem with that and let me show it to you. Again, small font, but I want to show you how I am using digital search engines to prove my points.

So I go to my New Testament. I look for the word “Adam.” And here is what I find. Adam is mentioned by Luke in 3:38. Adam is mentioned by Paul in Romans, Paul again in 1 Corinthians, Paul again in 1 Timothy and then by Jude in the book of Jude. So in all I have got seven references in my New Testament to Adam.

So time out. Are you following me this morning, yes or no, church?

Hold on. If I lose, David, if I lose Adam in Genesis, I have got to lose Adam in Luke. I can't just lose Adam in Genesis, Gary, because if Adam is not a real person and Luke calls him a real person, then Luke is a liar.

But wait a minute. All that I know about Jesus Christ is found by Luke. Yes or no? And I say all. I don't mean there aren't other books, but much of what I know about Jesus is found with Luke.

But, hold on. Did Luke write just Luke? Yes or no. No. What else did he write? Acts. Hold on. So if I lose Luke in Luke, I lose Luke in Acts. If I lose Luke in Acts, I have lost the majority of my New Testament, because he is the largest author of all my books. If I lose Luke, I lose Luke and Acts.

Hold on. What about Paul? Paul chapter five verse 14.

“Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.”¹⁰

Hold on, church. Paul is the author of 13 epistles. He is my number two author. Luke is my number one author writing nearly more chapters than anybody else. Paul picks up second place. If I lose Luke and Paul, I lost my New Testament. My New Testament is gone. If I lose Luke and Paul I don't have a New Testament after that, folks.

What do we know about the gospel? It comes from Paul. It comes from Luke. It comes from Matthew. It comes from Mark. That is what I know about the gospel.

See, here is how it goes. The progressives say, “Please listen. This is so important.”

You say, “This doesn't give me more money in my checking account.”

You are right. This doesn't make my marriage better. You are right. This is far more important than that.

Pastor Steve Ryan, this isn't a gospel issue, because if I lose Adam, I lose the gospel.

¹⁰ Romans 5:14.

See, they want me to separate this, Mike, and they want me to say, “You still got your Christ. You have still got your gospel. Stop whining, you Christians. We are just taking away some of your Bible.”

Time out. Everything I know about the gospel comes from the 27 canonical books in the New Testament. I don’t have a gospel outside of Matthew through Revelation. There is no gospel, folks. That is the record of my gospel.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians chapter number 15 and teaches me about the gospel. Paul tells me that Christ rose from the grave. If Paul is a liar about Adam, the logical question is: What else are you lying about, Paul? Yes or no. Are you all following me this morning? Just imagine if we were having a trial and we called you to testify and we said, “Denis, come forward and take the stand.” And before we even get to the main issue that we want to talk about, we prove that Denis is a liar on small issues. Then when it comes time for him to testify on the big issue and I have already demonstrated he is a liar on the small issue, where are you going to go, jury, as you sit there in the box? What are you going to think, jury? Liar.

See, without Adam I don’t have a gospel anymore. Say, no, preacher, you are exaggerating.

Wait a minute. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:22:

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”¹¹

Paul juxtapositions Adam with Christ and says, “This is the first Adam and Christ is the last or the second Adam.”

So wait a minute. If I lose the first Adam, I lose it all, church. Why do you think they are attacking Adam?

For that exact reason. That is exactly why they are going after Adam, because if you lose Adam, you lose the gospel. So now all of the sudden you realize why we are talking about this on Sunday morning, because this is a gospel centered issue. Without the inerrancy of the Word of God, I don’t have a gospel anymore.

Now, let me segue one more time and take it even a step further. Amazingly, this also the author’s use of Hebrews also shows me that a translation is the Word of God.

Let me show you how I am going to do that.

David Allen, a commentary on Hebrews writes, “Another important point is the author’s exclusive use of the LXX rather than the Hebrew text.”

You say, “What are we talking about this morning?”

¹¹ 1 Corinthians 15:22.

I know you are going to feel like you are in a seminary class this morning. Just pause for a minute.

About 200 years before Christ came many Jews spoke only Greek and there became a necessity to translate the Hebrew Bible into Greek. About 70 translators were involved in that process and so there is the number 70. It was given the number Septuagint. It is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible.

When we go and we study the book of Hebrews in Greek we find that all the Old Testament renderings in Greek match the Greek renderings from the Septuagint. This shows me the author of Hebrews understood that not only was the Hebrew Bible the Word of God, a translation of the Hebrew Bible was also the Word of God.

Now this morning, folks, in your lap this morning do you have a Greek New Testament? Do you have a Septuagint in your lap? You have an English translation, don't you? And just like the author of Hebrews called the Septuagint God's Word, God's spoke, the Holy Spirit testified, you and I can have the complete confidence that when we pick up our English translation of the Hebrew and Greek we are reading God's Word.

Would you like to hear from God today? Open the book. Would you like God to speak to you today? Open the book. Would you like to have a voice speaking to you today? Read the book, the blessed book.

And here, for example, just to show you something is an example of the Septuagint. Here is a digital image of a page from the Septuagint. This is a Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible. And when we look at the Greek New Testament in the book of Hebrews we find that the author matches his quotation in Greek to the Greek Septuagint, thereby reinforcing for all of us here this morning that the translation is also the Word of God.

So the fact is that the 38 citations in the Old Testament passages match the way the Old Testament passage is rendered in the Septuagint nearly identically. The author of Hebrews believed what Peter believed.

Turn to 2 Peter chapter number one verse 21 and get your pen out. I share with you important verses and I tell you to mark them so that you will be able to remember them. Learn to mark in your Bible. Learn to put citations down. Learn to put marginal notes in your Bible. Make this blessed book a work book for you that reflects what you have been taught so that when the progressive jams an idea down your throat, you have got an answer for the progressive.

At the men's conference you learned that 2 Peter chapter number three verse 21 tells us to give an answer for the hope that lies within us. The word "answer" there is where we get the word "apologetics." Apologetics is the defense of the faith.

I would like to read back to verse 16 and then look at 21. The apostle Peter says:

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.¹²

Nothing. Ladies, please listen to me. Nothing in this Old Testament was written by male chauvinist pigs. These were holy men that spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. Their opinions, their biases, their prejudice are not present. These are God's words right here, God's words that you get to read. Nothing in this book is error. This is a blessed holy book set apart by God.

Verse 21.

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”¹³

That is the doctrine of inspiration right here that is what you just read right there.

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.”¹⁴

Hebrews chapter number two has three quotes from Psalms, one from Isaiah and then he says Jesus said these words. Words spoken by the psalmist are put in Jesus' mouth. How can the author do that?

The only way the author can do that is if God spoke through holy men. That is the only way. If God did not speak through holy men, the author is a liar.

So what did the author believe? He believed in verbal, plenary inspiration.

You say, “Why can't we just call it inspiration, pastor?”

¹² 2 Peter 1:16-20.

¹³ 2 Peter 1:21.

¹⁴ Hebrews 1:1.

Because of the liberals, because of the progressives. You ask a liberal pastor. You will ask a Presbyterian or a liberal pastor or a Baptist progressive pastor and you will say, "Do you believe in inspiration?"

And they will say, "Yes, I believe in inspiration."

And you have no idea what he means by that. You have no idea. He will say, "I was inspired when I wrote a song." That is not the kind of inspiration I am talking about. I am not talking about I was inspired when I left that message, I was inspired to write a poem, I was inspired to write something like that. That is not what we are talking about. When we say inspired we mean God breathed. We mean verbal. Verbal is words. We mean plenary. Verbal, plenary inspiration.

What does plenary mean? Complete in every respect. It is a complete prophecy.

What do you believe?

Yeah, I believe that 40 men were inspired by God the Holy Spirit to give us the words that we have and then God in his sovereignty preserved those words. He preserved them in the Septuagint. He preserved them in the Vulgate. He preserved them in the first Bible that Luther wrote. He preserved them in the William Tyndale Bible. And he has been preserving them and will continue to preserve them.

You say, "How did he preserve them?"

We have got one great example from Jeremiah. I will be very brief here.

Jeremiah gets a word from God and he came to Jeremiah and he grabs his scribe and he says, "Write these words down."

So the scribe writes the words down on a piece of parchment. Messenger takes the words to the king. The king doesn't like these words, pitches them in a fire and look at what the Scripture says.

Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, after that the king had burned the roll, and the words which Baruch wrote at the mouth of Jeremiah, saying, Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned.¹⁵

Now, Gary, Jeremiah wasn't there when the scroll was thrown in the fire. Who knew? God knew. You are not going to throw away my inspired words. That is my parchment. It has got my name on it. Pitch it in the fire and I will write another one. Pitch that one in the fire and I will write another one.

¹⁵ Jeremiah 36:27-28.

You can't destroy them. I will hide them away in caves for 2000 years and you will discover them when a little shepherd boy throws a rock in there and hears a clink on a clay pot.

Go online and read about the Dead Sea scrolls and you will find an amazing discovery. The scrolls of Isaiah hid away for a thousand years before the time of Christ, preserved beautifully. You could go and see them yourself.

Hebrews chapter number three verse seven.

The Holy Spirit said, "Wait a minute."

Hebrews chapter four verse seven David said, same quotation mark.

What do you Christians believe? We believe in dual authorship. What do you mean by dual authorship? We believe that God used men to give us the words that we have. Forty different authors over a period of 1500 years in three different languages gave us the 66 canonical books that we have right now and you can trust them all.

So here is the issues right here. The important issues are: Is the entire Bible really the Word of God? Is the entire Bible without error? You can't go up to that progressive pastor and say, "Do you believe the Bible?"

Yes, I believe the Bible.

No. You have got to ask them hard questions. What do you believe about the inspiration of Scripture? You have got to pin them to the wall.

How can so many churches come to such radically different conclusion on issues clearly addressed in the Bible? Because they don't all agree on the inerrancy and authority of the Word of God. That is how it happens.

Why have Baptists fragmented into such conservative, liberal and progressive groups? Why do we have these different symbols right here? Why do we have a cooperative Baptist fellowship in Fayetteville and why do we have two Baptist churches involved in cooperative Baptist fellowship? Because they do not believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the Word of God. That is why.

What are you talking about? I am talking about Snyder Memorial Baptist Church and First Baptist Church.

You say, "Why are you mentioning them?"

Because we are going over there. Why are you going over there? The music is better over there.

What does the preacher believe? Oh, he believes the same thing you do.

No, he doesn't. No, they don't.

You say, "Are we here to bash Baptists?"

No. We are not here to bash Baptist, but I do have a responsibility to make you aware. I have a teaching responsibility. I have a shepherding responsibility. Paul told me that I need to watch out for wolves. Progressives are wolves, folks. Progressives look like sheep, walk like sheep, smell like sheep, but they are not sheep.

The cooperative Baptist fellowship is a breakaway from the Southern Baptist Convention. Churches that are part of the cooperative Baptist fellowship give money to a larger organization. The cooperative Baptist fellowship, this is from the *Baptist Press*. The cooperative Baptist fellowship will continue funding pro homosexual organization whose booth was prominently featured at the CBF's general assembly and another group whose immediate past president suggested that homosexuals can be called to the pastorate.

How do we come to these varying conclusions? Because we throw out the authority of the Bible and we can determine that those were not holy men who spoke. What we say instead is, those were just men who had opinions and if they were in the modern age they wouldn't think the way they should think. And it is the neglecting of the inspiration of the Scripture. That is the central issue.

You say is it really a big deal? The Baptist peace fellowship of North America which was originally defunded by the CBF received a refund and now, listen to this please, will receive 5500 dollars. For what reason? In order to help produce a curriculum. What will the curriculum be titled? Rightly dividing the Word of truth, a resource for congregations in the dialog on sexual orientation.

Now listen to that. What a snake in the grass title, rightly dividing the Word of truth. Boy, doesn't that sound good? Rightly dividing the Word of truth? Man, we need to sign up for that. Let's order that curriculum.

Listen further. The resource affirms same sex partnerships, denies that the Bible condemns homosexual behavior and affirms homosexuality as an unchangeable sexual orientation.

And, oh, by the way, this is for children's Sunday school. And if you are in a Southern Baptist Church that is part of the cooperative Baptist fellowship and, brother Jeff, and you throw a tithe into that plate, part of your money went to fund this Sunday school material. And that is precisely why 40 plus years ago Berean Baptist Church left Grace Baptist in Raeford Road to start an independent fundamental Baptist church where we knew where our money was going and what it was going towards so that we were not

paying for liberal progressive seminary professors that were jamming heresy down the throats of young men.

And, oh, by the way, let me just go on the record of saying, just so everyone knows, Campbell University is one of these progressive schools. And they have a divinity school where women and men can both be ordained into the pastorates. And I promise you. It will only be a short time. They will ordain a homosexual into the pastorate. It is coming. And that is right the road, isn't it? Right up the road.

So you had better be aware of what church you are in. You had better be aware of where your are tithing dollars are going. One of the leaders Ken C Hestead, executive director of the Baptist peace fellowship said, and I quote. Listen. And I quote.

“The Bible nowhere condemns homosexuality as a sin.”

My dear brothers, what Bible is he reading?

Ken C Hestead said that the believes his organization's advocacy for gay ordination and same sex unions is out on a ledge, but it is a ledge we have gone to because of the Holy Spirit.

God forbid that the Holy Spirit ... Isn't it amazing how a cell phone goes off on such a time like that? Don't you think for a moment Satan isn't alive and well doing everything he can to distract you from this message so that you won't hear the Word of the Lord this morning, won't get properly grounded in what your world view should be, won't get a better understanding of the inerrancy of the Word of God and its infallibility, how God inspired prophets to speak in the Old Testament and then led apostles to comment and to provide commentary on that Old Testament so that we could have 66 canonical books.

So before you jump ship from this church and go to another church , or move somewhere, you better think about what church am I joining. You better take the time to get in there and investigate.

Am I going to a liberal Presbyterian church? Am I going to a conservative Presbyterian church? Because they are not all the same.

And, oh, by the way, before we throw stones outside the doors of our church, we had better remember we have got lots of Baptists that are throwing in the towels, everywhere.

So progressives are looking to define things in a more specific way. And they are looking to put statements like perfect treasure, totally true, trustworthy in their doctrinal statements so that there is no... I mean, conservatives are looking to do that so that they define themselves from the progressives. They are using things like supreme standard by which all humans conduct themselves.

So here is the question that we must wrestle with in the years to come. Is all the Bible the Word of God? Can we count on Genesis one through 11 to be true? Are the prohibitions for immoral behavior just the opinions of men or are they God's Word?

If I can't trust all of the Scripture to be God's Word, I am left with nothing but a slippery slope.

You say, "What is the big deal?"

I will show it to you. Last slide. Here it goes. If you lose that God inspired men in the Old Testament how can you trust verse number two that says, "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son"?¹⁶

If I can't trust the apostles to get it right in the Old Testament, how can I trust the Apostles concerning the work & Person of Jesus Christ? Because the truth of the matter is, none of us were there. We are all trusting that the apostles got it right.

Let's pray.

¹⁶ Hebrews 1:2.