

# Believing Bibliology: Session Three

## Textual Criticism – Introduction and History

“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”

—Psalm 119:89—

- I. Introduction to Textual Criticism
  - a. Definition
  
  - b. Why Textual Criticism?
  
- II. Textual Criticism in the OT and NT Traditions
  - a. Old Testament: Issues
    - i. Letter Confusion
    - ii. Vowel Pointing
      1. Example in English: “PRPTTN” vs. “CRTN”
    - iii. Relation of Hebrew to Greek Septuagint (LXX)
  - b. New Testament: Four Periods
    - i. Before 1700
      1. Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536)
  
      2. Theodore Beza (1519-1605)
  
      3. *Textus Receptus*
  
    - ii. 1700s to Mid-1800s
      1. Textual “Families”

2. Alexandrian

3. Western

4. Byzantine

iii. Mid- to Late-1800s

1. “Critical Texts”

2. B. F. Westcott and F. J. A. Hort

3. “Canons” of Textual Criticism

4. Critics of Modern Textual Criticism

iv. After 1881

### III. Conclusion

#### Helpful Resources

- Critical Text
  - o James White
  - o Mark Ward
- Traditional Text
  - o Jeff Riddle
  - o Christian McShaffrey
  - o Brett Mahlen
  - o Dwayne Green