

## Basic Bibliology

*“We believe the Holy Scriptures, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God, His only special revelation to man, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed.”*

(2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Psalm 119:89; Isaiah 40:8; I Peter 1:24-25; Matthew 5:18).

- Grace Bible Church Constitution

- I. Inspiration: *“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.”* (Charles C. Ryrie, A Survey of Bible Doctrine, Chicago: Moody, 1972, p. 38)
- A. \_\_\_\_\_ : (the words),  
Jeremiah 1:9 -  
Matthew 5:18 -  
Galatians 3:16 ;  
Matthew 22:32 -
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ (the whole)
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ : Scripture is incapable of error. It achieves its ends, it is a reliable testimony, it provides an authoritative norm for faith and practice, it speaks through the infallible Spirit of God by whom it was given.
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ : The Bible in the original autographs and properly interpreted is entirely true and never false in every area of knowledge it speaks on.
- E. Erroneous views of inspiration
- 1) *Intuitive or natural theory*  
*“Inspiration is the superior intuitive insight of the natural man into moral & religious truth. It involves man’s speculation about God apart from divine help.”*  
OBJECTION: 1 Cor. 1:21; 2:9-16. The wisdom of man does not comprehend God. This view is naturalistic, humanistic, rationalistic and unbiblical.
  - 2) *Mystical or illumination theory*  
*Inspiration is merely an elevation of the religious perceptions of the believer. Every believer has this illumination to an extent, but some have a greater degree than others.*  
OBJECTION: A confusion of inspiration with illumination. The inspiration of the biblical writers is unique in relation to the experience.
  - 3) *Neo-orthodox*  
*Inspiration is a human production of a fallible record. It contains a witness to divine revelation. It is personal and not propositional.*  
OBJECTION: If the Bible is a fallible record then it could be a false witness, but the Bible presents itself as propositional truth - John 17:17; John 14:6
  - 4) *Conceptual Theories*  
*Inspiration extends to the very concepts or thoughts of Scripture but not to the very words.*  
OBJECTION: Accurate communication of thought requires accurate communication of words. The Bible claims to be accurate in word (Matt. 4:4; John 6:63) and even in letter (Matt 5:18).
  - 5) *Fallible Inspiration theory*  
*Scripture is inspired, but not infallible*  
OBJECTION: 1) Who determines what is in error and what is not and what is the basis for that determination? 2) The Scriptures claim to be infallible, they can not be broken (Mt 5:18; John 10:35).

6) Dynamic/Partial theory & Limited inerrancy.

*Scripture extends only to matters of faith and practice (salvation & living), but not to other areas of knowledge - i.e. culture, geography, science, history, etc.*

OBJECTION: 1) Matters of faith and practice and inseparable intertwined with other areas and the Holy Spirit did not vary his operation when the Biblical writer moved from one area of knowledge to another. 3) Scripture itself does not distinguish between areas of knowledge. It claims to be true.

7) Dictation Theory

*Inspiration involves God's use of the biblical writers as passive instruments - they were like typewriters on which God wrote.*

OBJECTION: Some parts were dictated (Thus saith the Lord...) but this theory does not account for the individual personality of each writer or for the differences in literary styles.

## II. The Veracity of the Scriptures

### A. Claims of Scripture to be the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16

2 Peter 1:21

O.T. Exodus 17:14; Jeremiah 30:2

N.T. 1 Peter 1:10-11; 1 Thess. 2:13

1 Tim 5:18 cf. Deut 25:4; Luke 10:7; 2 Peter 3:15-16

Matt. 1:22; Acts 4:24-25; Heb. 3:7

### B. The Scriptures claim to be

Perfect, Ps 19:7

Right, Ps 19, 8,9

Pure, Ps 19:8

Unchangeable, Ps 119:89

Eternal, Mt 24:35

True, John 17:17; Ps 19:9

### C. Credibility/Qualifications of New Testament Writers

1) Writers such as Matthew, John & Peter

2) Writers such as Mark and Luke

3) Writers such as Paul & John (Revelation)

4) The Holy Spirit & N.T. Writers - John 14:26

5) Willingly allowed their teachings to be checked with other scriptures for harmony - Acts 17:11; 1 Cor 15:3,4

6) Claimed divine authority for their teaching: Gal. 1:1,12; 1 Tim 4:11; Titus 2:15; 2 Peter 3:2

7) Their writings were to be preserved, circulated and read by other believers as authoritative. See Col 4:16; 1 Thess 5:27 cf. Deut 31:26; 2 Thess 3:14

The Scriptures are either true - or they are false. They are not a mixture. You cannot pick and choose.

#### D. Internal Verification

The Bible backs itself up. You can not deny the truthfulness of some passages without consequence to other passages. Consider the following:

- 1) Authorship of Pentateuch by Moses. Ex 17:14; Ex 24:4) cf. Matt. 19:8; John 5:46
- 2) Authorship of Isaiah. Isaiah 6:9 & Isaiah 53:1 cf, John 12:38-41
- 3) Authorship of Daniel the Prophet (6th Century B.C.) Daniel cf. Matthew 24:15.
- 4) Historicity of the events in Jonah, Jonah 1:1, 2 Kings 14:25 cf. ) Matt 12:39-41; 16:4.
- 5) Creation of the universe: Gen 1:1 cf Mark 13:9
- 6) Creation of man as male and female: Gen 1:27; 2:7 cf Matt 19:4,5
- 7) Man's fall and the personality of Satan: Gen. 3 cf John 8:44
- 8) Noah's flood: Gen. 6-8 cf. Luke 17:26,27; 2 Peter 3:5,6
- 9) Historical existence of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: Gen. 11-49 cf. Matt. 8:11
- 10) Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and rescue of Lot: Gen 19 cf. Luke 17:28-30, 32
- 11) Moses at the burning bush: Ex. 3 cf. Mark 12:24-26
- 12) Manna in the wilderness: Ex. 16 cf. John 6:32
- 13) The tabernacle: Ex 25ff. cf. Luke 6:3,4
- 14) Lifting up serpent in the wilderness: Num 21:9 cf. John 3:14

#### III. Canonicity of the Books of the Bible

*The books of the Protestant Bible meet certain standards which qualify them as parts of God's complete written revelation to man."*

Authorship: Prophet or Apostle or someone writing under their authority?

Content: Is the book of sufficient \_\_\_\_\_?

Universality: Is the book \_\_\_\_\_. (O.T. - as set by time Ezra, Used by Jesus & apostles. N.T. Accepted by early churches

Inspiration - did the book give internal evidence for \_\_\_\_\_.  
Apocrypha & pseudographical writings do not meet this standard

#### IV. Transmission of the Bible

O.T. Scribes - extremely accurate. Confirmed by Dead Sea Scrolls

Greek Manuscripts

Ancient translations - including Septuagint

#### SUGGESTED REFERENCE WORKS:

*Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, Volumes 1 & 2 by Josh MacDowell

*Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible* by John W Haley;

*Both/And: A Balanced Apologetic* by Ronald B Mayers

*The Justification of Knowledge* by Robert L. Reymond

*He is There and He is Not Silent* by Fancis A. Schaeffer

*Know Why You Believe* by Paul E.Little

*Many Infallible Proofs* by Henry Morris

*Nothing by Truth* by Brian Edwards

*Sola Scriptura* by John MacArthur

Check out website links at [www.GraceBibleNY.org/links](http://www.GraceBibleNY.org/links)