

MidWeek Study: Church Essentials: The Bible

Pastor Mike Ruel: Week 1

INTRODUCTION

- The Bible is an _____ of the church.

DEFINE TERMS

- What is the Bible?
 - The Bible is God's _____.
 - It's not only what God wants us to know, it's what we _____ to know.
 - "The Bible is primarily God's revelation to mankind concerning what he expects us to know about himself and his actions. Revelation is the process by which God makes this truth about himself known to man and has two classifications."¹
 - _____ Revelation: God reveals something about the divine nature through the created order.²
 - _____ Revelation: God's divine self-revelation evidenced specifically in salvation history and culminating in the incarnation as understood through Scripture.³
 - The Bible is the primary means of Special Revelation
 - Special revelation is required for salvation
 - Bible = Greek BYBLOS and Latin BIBLIA = book
 - A few very important words used to define the Bible:
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - _____ ("...Breathed out by God" THEOPNEUSTAS)

¹ Wegner, From Text to Translation, 28

² Pocket Theological Terms Dictionary

³ Pocket Theological Terms Dictionary
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- “Supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit on selected individuals which rendered them instruments of God for the infallible communication of his mind and will.”⁴
- Specifically, verbal plenary inspiration⁵ -
 - Verbal - God’s inspiration extends to the very (actual) words of Scripture
 - Plenary - Every part of the Bible is fully inspired, not just the parts that have to do with salvation or our spiritual lives.
 - "God inspired the _____ Bible, but God gave writers freedom to write according to their own personalities, but then having them write exactly what he intended to have written. This balances human and divine elements in scripture, and maintains HS as ultimate author and reflects the personality of the authors.”⁶
- _____ (“...profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness”)
 - God, as the author, is the one who gives Scripture its authority
 - The church and/or church tradition does not give Scripture its authority!
 - Thus God’s word carries God’s authority and must be obeyed.
 - God’s Word is also then the highest authority in the church
 - Sola Scriptura (not SOLO Scriptura]
- _____ (“...that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work...”)
 - The Bible doesn’t tell us how to change the brakes on our car, but instead tells us HOW God wants us to do all things.
 - 2 Peter 1:3
- God never lies, so therefore the Bible is also _____ / _____⁷
 - Hebrews 6:18, Titus 1:2
 - If God IS truth, then he cannot speak any lies or falsities whatsoever.
 - Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy:

⁴ Hodge, citation needed

⁵ Timothy Paul Jones, How We God the Bible, 12

⁶ SBTS Mdiv Intro to OT, class notes

⁷ Taken from the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy: <https://defendinginerrancy.com/chicago-statements/>. Also on the Highlands website: <https://www.highlandsbiblechurch.org/about/what-we-believe/>
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- Article XI. WE AFFIRM that Scripture, having been given by divine inspiration, is infallible, so that, far from misleading us, it is true and reliable in all the matters it addresses.
- Article XII. WE AFFIRM that Scripture in its entirety is inerrant, being free from all falsehood, fraud, or deceit.
- Article XIII. WE AFFIRM the propriety of using inerrancy as a theological term with reference to the complete truthfulness of Scripture.
- IOW, Scripture is 100% true in what the intended meaning of the author is.
 - Ex. John 10:9 - “door” is a metaphor- the true meaning is that Jesus is the way to salvation.
 - “To whatever extent precision was necessary to express God’s truth, Scripture tells us the truth with precision.”⁸
- From our Doctrinal Statement:
 - We believe in the inspiration and inerrancy of the Scriptures. Meaning, the Bible (the sixty-six books of the Old & New Testaments) is complete in every respect, and is the verbally inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21). We believe it is without error in the original writings, true, authoritative and sufficient for faith and life (Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:17).
- The Bible is split into the _____ Testament and the _____ Testament
 - What is a “testament?”
 - _____ - one covenant in two expressions:
 - Old Covenant: Abraham
 - New Covenant: Christ
- How was Scripture initially written?
 - _____ - the original copies of Scripture
 - Manuscripts/copies - scribes’ copies of the autographs. How many exist?
 - OT - thousands (in Hebrew, Greek, and others)
 - “Early in the history of Israel, clans of professional copyists emerged to preserved the sacred writings of their people.”
 - Ex. Masoretic Texts, Dead Sea Scrolls, etc.

- Modern collections of the copies are in _____, to reflect the original language of the people.⁹
- NT - approx 25,000 copies:
 - ~5,800 in Greek
 - ~10,000 in Latin
 - ~9,300 in other languages
 - Modern collections of the copies are in _____, to reflect the original language of the first century.
- Often overlooked is God's preservation of his Word
- OT¹⁰
 - The OT developed over a _____ years with dozens of authors, editors, compilers in many genres (literary types) including God himself writing the Moral Law!
 - OT writers utilized many different writing methods - stone, wooden panels coated in beeswax and eventually papyrus, leather, parchment (stretched animal skins)
 - The OT spans more than 3,000 years of history over many empires.
- NT
 - The NT developed over the course of a few _____ by about ten men writing on parchment and papyrus and covers about a century of history under a single empire.

⁹ Though some small parts are in Aramaic, like parts of Daniel for example and some words in the NT

¹⁰ Jones, 27, summary of the chart displayed