

## **Systematic Theology: The Doctrine of the Word Authority and Inerrancy of the Bible**

### **A. All the words in Scripture are God's words.**

1. This is what the Bible claims for itself.
  - Thus saith the LORD occurs hundreds of times.
  - God speaks through prophets - Deuteronomy 18:18-20.
  - All God's *graphe*, writings, are inspired - 2 Timothy 3:16.
  - God moves people to speak/write - 2 Peter 1:21.
  - Peter knew that Paul wrote Scripture - 2 Peter 3:15-16.
  - 1 Timothy 5:18 quotes Luke 10:7 as Scripture.
  - Paul knew he wrote Scripture - 1 Corinthians 14:37.
  
2. We are convinced of the Bible's claims to be God's words as we read the Bible - John 10:27.
  
3. Other evidence is useful but not finally convincing.
  
4. The words of Scripture are self-attesting.
  
5. Objection: This is a circular argument.

6. This does not imply dictation from God as the sole means of communication of His breathed out word - Luke 1:1-3; John 14:26; Hebrews 1:1.
  
7. Therefore, to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God - Luke 24:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:14.

## **B. The truthfulness of Scripture.**

1. God cannot lie or speak falsely - Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18.
  
2. Therefore, all the words in Scripture are completely true and without error in any part - Psalms 12:6; Proverbs 30:5.
  
3. God's words are the ultimate standard of truth - John 17:7.
  
4. Might some new fact ever contradict the Bible?

## **C. The Inerrancy of Scripture**

1. The meaning of inerrancy: *The Bible, in the original autographs, are completely true and without error of any kind*
  - The Bible can be inerrant and still speak in the ordinary language of everyday speech.
  - The Bible can be inerrant and still include loose or free quotations.
  - The Bible can be inerrant and have unusual or uncommon grammatical constructions.

## 2. Some current challenges to inerrancy.

- The Bible is only authoritative for faith and practice.
- Inerrancy is a poor term.
- We have no inerrant manuscripts; therefore, we can have no real inerrancy.
- The biblical writers were influenced by ideas of their day.
- What about so-called contradictions in the Bible?
  1. Misreading context, meaning of terms, total information
  2. False assumption
  3. Reasonable possible resolution
  4. Unresolved issues, a priori presupposition

## 3. Problems with denying inerrancy.

- If some parts of the Bible are in error, then all parts are suspect.
- Can we really trust God if He can't communicate His message?
- We make our own minds the ultimate standard of authority.
- Christianity is false in its claims.

## **D. Written Scripture is our final authority.**

- John 6:68

## **E. Application of Inerrancy and Authority of the Bible**

Ezra 7:10

<sup>10</sup> For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

- We need to receive the Word into our lives, believe what it says, obey it and teach it to others