



Introduction: The Permanence of the Written Word

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Ezra 6:18— *And they set the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their orders for the service of the God who is in Jerusalem, in accordance with the scripture of the book of Moses.*

Mark 12:10— *Have you not read this Scripture: "THE STONE THAT THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE,"*

"In Scripture itself, God ensures the sovereignty of his revelation not by making it momentary and evanescent, but by establishing it as a permanent part of the human landscape, like the pillars and altars of the patriarchs."—John Frame

Main Point: We are called to stand firm on the truth that Scripture as transmitted to and received by us is worthy of our _____ and is the basis of our _____.

Is Scripture Trustworthy?

What's at Stake?

"If the Bible contains some errors, however few or many, how can one be sure that his understanding of Christ is correct?...It would not [therefore] be impossible that there might be some error about the crucial matter of His death and resurrection...When inerrancy is denied one may expect some serious fallout in both doctrinal and practical areas." —Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology*

The Inerrancy of Scripture

"Being wholly and verbally God-given, Scripture is without error or fault in all its teaching, no less in what it states about God's acts in creation, about the events of world history, and about its own literary origins under God, than in its witness to God's saving grace in individual lives. The authority of Scripture is inescapably impaired if this total divine inerrancy is in any way limited or disregarded, or made relative to a view of truth contrary to the Bible's own; and such lapses bring serious loss to both the individual and the Church."

—The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy

"...the inerrancy of the Bible means simply that the Bible tells the truth." —Charles Ryrie

The Biblical Basis for the Doctrine

1. **We trust Scripture because it is inspired by God who is not _____ and does not _____.**

Heb. 4:12-13—¹² *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword...discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* ¹³ *And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

Num. 23:19—*God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?*

2. **We trust Scripture because of the claims of both _____.**

Psa. 119:160— *The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.*

Prov. 30:5—*Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.*

Gal. 3:16—*Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.*

1 Pet. 1:22-25—²² *Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,* ²³ *since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;* ²⁴ *for "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS,* ²⁵ *BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD REMAINS FOREVER."* *And this word is the good news that was preached to you.*

3. **We trust Scripture because of the claims of _____.**

John 17:17—*Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*

Luke 11:50-51a—⁵⁰ *so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation,* ⁵¹ *from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah*

Matt. 19:4-8—⁴ *He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,* ⁵ *and said, "THEREFORE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND HIS MOTHER AND HOLD FAST TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH"? ⁶ SO THEY ARE NO LONGER TWO BUT ONE FLESH...⁸ He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so..."*

Key Point: The clear testimony of the _____, _____, and _____ Himself is that Scripture, in all its content and claims, is true.

Excursus

What if we no longer have the original writings (autographs)?

“We affirm that inspiration, strictly speaking, applies only to the autographic text of Scripture, which in the providence of God can be ascertained from available manuscripts with great accuracy. We further affirm that copies and translations of Scripture are the Word of God to the extent that they faithfully represent the original.” —The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy

What about translations of Scripture?

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“As God invented the division of languages, he is able to overcome it for his purposes...it had always been his plan to distribute his word to all nations of the earth...Our basic stance toward translation must, therefore, be affirmative. Unlike Islam, Christianity does not believe that God’s Word is untranslatable. Rather, God speaks his Word into every language.” —John Frame

The Transmission of Scripture

1. The writings of the OT were considered trustworthy by the early _____.

James 2:23—and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “*ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS COUNTED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS*”—and he was called a friend of God.

“There are several eras of transmission for the [OT]...—The Talmudic Era (300 BC-500 AD) includes the Dead Sea Scrolls (167BC-133AD) which confirmed the accuracy of the Masoretic Texts. The Masoretic era (500-1000AD) continued reverence for the text, rules for approaching it, and the development of a vowel system.” — Christopher Cone

2. The NT authors wrote with a sense of their own _____ which they also recognized in one another’s writings.

1 Thess. 4:2,15—² For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus...¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord

1 Pet. 3:15-16—¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

3. The early church considered both the OT writings and those of the apostles to be of _____ authority.

“And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things.” — Justin Martyr, *First Apology* (2nd C.)

* **The Scriptural writings of the NT were all _____ with the apostles who had been given authority by the Lord Jesus.**

John 17:8,18—⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me...¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

* **The Scriptural writings of the NT were not chosen by a counsel, they were _____ by the church.**

John 10:27—My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

Key Point: The manuscript tradition upon which our modern text of Scripture is based reveals that God in His providence has preserved His _____ for His people.

“There are presently 5,686 Greek manuscripts in existence today for the New Testament. If we were to compare the number of New Testament manuscripts to other ancient writings, we find that the New Testament manuscripts far outweigh the others in quantity.” —Norman Geisler

Concluding Thought

- **We believe that Scripture is without _____ (inerrancy) and indeed cannot err (infallibility) because it originates with God Himself (inspiration) and so our hope in Christ is secure!**

“When we say that the Bible is inerrant, we mean that the Bible makes good on its claims...Scripture is inerrant because the personal word of God cannot be anything other than true.” —John Frame

1 Cor. 15:3-4—³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures

2 Tim. 3:16-17—¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



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