



9:00 Live Sunday School at FBJ

Can you trust the Bible? Part 1 The Authority and Inerrancy of Scripture

I. What is the Authority of the Bible?

A. Every Christian falls into one of these three categories when they decide what the authority of Scripture is in their lives. We get these categories from *Fundamentalism and the Word of God* from Dr. J.I. Packer.

1. Evangelical

- To know God's mind is to know His Word
- It is inerrant – there are no mistakes
- It is the inspired Word of God
- It is sufficient for all I need to know – not what I want to know

2. Traditionalist

- Ecclesiastical/church authority makes the decision
- “What the church says, God says”
- Believes the Bible comes from God but it isn't sufficient
- The Bible alone isn't enough

3. Subjectivist

- I am my own God-given authority by using my reason, my conscience, my open mind
- I then measure those ideas against: history, philosophy, religion, science

B. Authority of Scripture in Practice – Joshua 10: 6-15

II. The Inerrancy of Scripture

A. Two things to Consider:

1. God Cannot Lie (Numbers 23:19/Titus 1:1-2)
2. His Word is truthful and reliable (Psalm 12:6/Proverbs 30:5)

B. Dr. Wayne Grudem in Systematic Theology: “The inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact...the Bible always tells the truth.”

C. Inerrant Does NOT mean...

1. You can't use ordinary language or terms
2. You can't use loose quotes

D. The other/Subjectivist view: The Bible is errant and that is OK. For example:

1. Bible has authority for faith and practice only – don't worry about the factual inconsistencies
2. We don't have the original manuscripts so how do you know the Bible is real?
3. There are clearly mistakes in the Bible – but that is OK

E. Why does it matter if the Bible is perfect? The Evangelical Answer (from Tim Challies)

1. We turn God into a liar.
2. We lose trust in God – what's real and what's not?
3. My brain is greater than God's truth.
4. We can't determine doctrinal issues.

III. My "Take Away"(s)

- The authority and the inerrancy of Scripture is in your court to decide.
- Questioning is healthy. Doubting? Not so much.
- I don't have to know every answer.

Questions? Comments? Thoughts? nick@nickwalters.org