

## Bibliology 101: Preservation – Is What We Have “God’s Word?”

- 1. God’s Word Is Guaranteed to Last by \_\_\_\_\_**  
*Is 40:8* The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."  
*Ps 111:7-8* The works of His hands *are* verity and justice; All His precepts *are* sure.  
<sup>8</sup> They stand fast forever and ever, *And are* done in truth and uprightness.  
*Ps 119:89* Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.  
*Ps 119:152* Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.  
*Ps 119:160* The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.  
*Matt 5:17-18* "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.  
*Matt 24:34-35* "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. <sup>35</sup> "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. (Luke 21:32-33)  
*Luke 16:17* And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail.

### 2. Inspiration \_\_\_\_\_ that God’s Word Is Without \_\_\_\_\_

Because God knows everything, He cannot make a mistake. Therefore the Bible must be inerrant – without error.

Not everything in the Bible is true, but everything is truthfully recorded (e.g. the serpent’s lies in Genesis 3 are not true, but they are accurately recorded).

Five considerations from *Christian Theology* (Millard Erickson, 1985, Baker)

1. Inerrancy pertains to what is affirmed or asserted rather than what is merely reported. (p. 234)
2. We must judge the truthfulness of Scripture in terms of what the statements meant in the cultural setting in which they were expressed. ... For example, we should not expect that the standards of exactness in quotation to which our age of the printing press and mass distribution is accustomed would have been present in the first century. (p.235)
3. The Bible’s assertions are fully true when judged in accordance with the purpose for which they were written. (p. 236) [What did you pay for your car?]
4. Reports of historical events and scientific matters are in the phenomenal rather than the technical language. That is, the writer reports how things appear to the eye. (p.237)
5. Difficulties in explaining the biblical text should not be prejudged as indications of err. ...It is better to wait for the remainder of the data to come in, with the confidence that if we had all the data, the problems could be solved. (p. 237)

Inerrancy “maintains merely that whatever statements the Bible affirms are fully truthful when they are correctly interpreted in terms of their meaning in their cultural setting and the purpose for which they were written.” (p. 238)

Northridge Baptist Church – Pastor Kevin Subra – February 8, 2015

### 3. How Do We Handle Apparent Discrepancies?

**If someone claims that the Bible has errors...** (based upon *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, by Wayne Grudem)

- 1. In what \_\_\_\_\_ verse or verses do these errors occur?**  
“It is surprising how frequently one finds that this objection is made by people who have little or no idea where the specific errors are, but who believe there are errors because others have told them so.” (98)
- 2. Does \_\_\_\_\_ inspection solve the “problem?”**  
“If we believe that the Bible is indeed inerrant, we should be eager and certainly not afraid to inspect these texts in minute detail. In fact, our expectation will be that close inspection will show there to be no error at all. Once again it is surprising how often it turns out that a careful reading just of the English text of the passage in question will bring to light one or more possible solutions to the difficulty.” (98)
- 3. Have \_\_\_\_\_ offered plausible solutions to the “problem?”**  
“At this point it is helpful to consult some commentaries on the text. ... [Many] have taken time to deal with most of the alleged “problem texts” and to suggest plausible solutions to them. Furthermore, some writers have made collections of all the most difficult texts and have provided suggested answers for them.” (99)
- 4. Does knowledge of the original \_\_\_\_\_ provide a solution?**  
“There are a few texts where a knowledge of Hebrew or Greek may be necessary to find a solution, and those who do not have firsthand access to these languages may have to find answers either from a more technical commentary or by asking someone who has this training.” (99)
- 5. Are there \_\_\_\_\_ that we do not yet \_\_\_\_\_?**

“Of course, our understanding of Scripture is never perfect, and this means that there may be cases where we will be unable to find a solution to a difficult passage at the present time. This may be because the linguistic, historical or contextual evidence we need to understand the passage correctly is presently unknown to us. This should not trouble us in a small number of passages so long as the overall pattern of our investigation of these passages has shown that there is, in fact, no error where one has been alleged.” (99)

“...textual critics [those that study old Bible texts] have been able to determine the text that is substantially that of the original writings. It is evident that the hand of God has preserved the various texts through the centuries to enable scholars to collate them and reconstruct the text as closely as possible to the original writings.” (*Moody Handbook of Theology*, Paul Enns, p. 175. Moody Press, 1989)