

## **Biblical Theology**

### **Unit 1: Doctrine of Scripture – Lesson 3: Inerrancy and Authority**

#### **Inerrancy**

- Definition: The inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.
  - There may be nuances of language, numbers, literary genres, etc., but none of these affect the truthfulness of scripture.
- Applied Meaning / Examples of Inerrancy
  1. **Observational Language**: Descriptions from the viewpoint of human observation. (Explanations of Nature, Numbering of Individuals, etc.)
  2. **Quotations**: Authors had less concern for word-for-word quotations than contemporary authors.
  3. **Grammar**: Inconsistencies with contemporary grammatical rules do not detract from truthfulness.
- Denying Inerrancy
  - Causes one to question God's perfection.
  - Renders entire bible untrustworthy
  - Places human mind as highest authority of truth.
- Defending Inerrancy of Scripture
  - Hermeneutics is the most critical component in assessing and defending scripture's inerrancy. (Interpretation of original intent / meaning is critical – Context)

#### **Authority**

- Definition: The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.
- Basis of Biblical Authority
  1. **Scriptural**
    - When God speaks, he announces his authority. (*Numbers 22:28; Deuteronomy 18:18, Jeremiah 1:9; 1 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:20-21*)
  2. **Logical**
    - If God has authority over all things, if the Bible is God's word, if he cannot lie (*Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18*) it renders his truth authoritative.
  3. **Spiritual**
    - Requires the work of the Holy Spirit (*1 Corinthians 2:13-14, John 10:27*)

#### **Conclusion**

- God Cannot Lie
- Entirety of Bible is True w/out Error
- God's words are ultimate authoritative standard of truth
- To disobey or disbelieve the bible is to disobey or disbelieve God.
- No new facts have ever or will ever be discovered to contradict the bible.

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Define the following terms:
  - Inerrancy:
  
  - Scriptural Authority:
  
2. Do you struggle with the idea that the Bible is inerrant? What causes you to struggle with this; is it specific events or circumstances that are unbelievable or a struggle with the idea that there are no errors regarding so much information? Give examples.
  
3. How can we satisfy our struggles with inerrancy and defend it to those who object to inerrancy?
  
4. Who/what are scripture's greatest competitors regarding authority?
  
5. What is the key ingredient in the life of the believer that satisfies any discomfort one may feel in regard to the full inerrancy and authority of the Bible?

## **Reading Assignment**

*Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem – Chapter 6-8: Characteristics of Scripture: Clarity, Necessity, Sufficiency*