

How to Study the Bible

Unit 1: Introduction – Lesson 2: Bibliology (The Doctrine of the Word of God)

Revelation

- **The Source:** God is the revealer of all knowledge because he is the **source** of knowledge.
 - He does so at his own divine discretion.
- **The Means:** God reveals knowledge via two primary means:
 1. **General Revelation:** God's self manifestation through nature, history, and the inner being of the human person.
 2. **Special Revelation:** God's manifestation of himself to particular persons at definite times and places, enabling those persons to enter into a redemptive relationship with him.
- **Scriptural Basis:** Ps. 19:1-4; Rom. 1:20; Matt. 11:25-26; Matt. 16:13-17; Gal. 1:11-12; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:2

Inspiration: A term referring to the fact that the words of Scripture are **spoken by God**.

- Aspects of Inspiration:
 - **God-breathed:** A more proper understanding of the biblical concept given the weak meaning of the word in contemporary vernacular.
 - **Verbal Plenary Inspiration:** The Bible possesses a self attesting credibility that the actual words recorded in scriptures are Holy Spirit inspired (spoken by God) and that this inspiration extends to all parts of the bible.
 - **Canon:** A list or collection of books deemed genuine and inspired.
- **Scriptural Basis:** 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Pt. 1:20-21

Inerrancy: Scripture in the original autographs does not affirm anything that is **contrary to fact**.

- **Nature of Inerrancy:**
 - Though we believe the bible does not affirm anything contrary to fact, nuances must be accounted for in certain areas: Observational Language, Quotations, Grammar
- **Problem with Denying Inerrancy**
 - Causes us to question God's character:
 - Renders entire bible untrustworthy.
 - Denying inerrancy makes our human minds a higher authority of truth.
- **See *The Chicago Statements on Biblical Inerrancy for scriptural basis and reasoning for inerrancy*. [Link below](#).**

Authority: All of 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.

- **Scriptural Basis:** Num 22:28; Deut 18:18; Jer 1:9; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18; 2 Tim. 3:16

Clarity: The Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be **understood** by all who will read it seeking God's help and being **willing** to follow it.

- **Scriptural Basis:** Ps 19:7, 119:105, 130; Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- **Tied to Illumination:** The work of the Holy Spirit by which he makes the scriptures understandable and applicable to the believer's life.
 - **Scriptural Basis:** John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:10-14; Eph. 1:17-19

Sufficiency: Scripture contains all the words of God he has intended his people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains **everything we need** God to tell us for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly.

- **Scriptural Basis:** Ps. 1:1-3; James 1:18; 1 Pt. 1:23; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Rev. 22:18-19
- **Sufficiency of Scripture:**
 - To know God
 - To recognize our sinfulness
 - To be saved
 - To know what to believe regarding critical issues.
 - To obey in righteousness
 - To be sanctified
 - To worship God properly
 - To defend our faith
 - To live in peace
- Practicality of Sufficiency of Scripture
 - Encourages us in all we do and think as we pursue God.
 - We don't need to look outside of scripture to find life-saving truth.
 - Not required to believe anything about God or his redemptive work that is not found in Scripture.
 - No modern revelations from God that hold authority of scripture.
 - We aren't held to any other standard other than what God commands in Scripture either explicitly or by implicitly.
 - We can be content with all God has given us in his word.

References: Most of the information presented in this lesson can be found in the following text books:

- Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013.
- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.
- Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy: http://www.danielakin.com/wp-content/uploads/old/Resource_545/Book%20,%20Sec%2023.pdf