

## JESUS IS THE TRUTH

- **Matthew 7:24-27** – The Wiseman Builds his house on **Truth**
  - **John 14:6** – Way, Truth, Life
  - We are to build our lives on the truth of the gospel.
  - Faith acts on what is true. (**Rom 10:17**)
  - “The just shall live by faith” (**Rom 1:16,17**)

The Just

By Faith

Shall Live

The Way

The Truth

The Life



## THE WORD OF GOD

**Ephesians 6:17** – “the sword of the Spirit”

“...the enemies of the Bible have tried to destroy its significance through intellectual attacks or ridicule. In our own time, the primary means of attack has been to undermine its significance in the minds of people, to attack and ridicule the Bible in the media, in the arts, in schools and universities, and even in churches that practice a liberal, humanistic theology. With clever words and subtle arguments, the devil speaks through people of prominence and intelligence to blunt, twist, and disable the testimony of the Scriptures.”

*(Stedman, Spiritual Warfare)*

## THE WORD OF GOD

1. “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”
  - “the word of God”
    - “word” here is ρημα – specific sayings concerning Jesus
    - *rhēma* – that which is or has been uttered by the living voice, thing spoken, a word; a series of words joined together into a sentence (**John 3:24**)
    - A declaration of one’s mind made in words.
    - Romans 10:17 – the foundation of our faith!
    - Active use of the sword of the Spirit as the word of God has almost vanished in everyday Christianity.
      - How often do you quote a verse in response to a lie?
    - What has happened to bring this tragic reality to the church?

## THE WORD OF GOD

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  1. Modern views of scripture
    - Approaches to the Bible have been dominated not by Truth but by the predominant philosophical views of the day.
    - Most Biblical Criticism began with the Enlightenment – reason and Baconian methodologies became the standard
    - **The Modernist (Liberal) view**
      - Typically rejects the idea that the Bible is divinely inspired in a unique way. Some go so far as to regard the Bible as purely a product of human invention.
        - Rudolf Bultmann and Walter Brueggemann

## THE WORD OF GOD

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  1. Modern views of scripture
    - **The Neo-orthodox view**
      - Summarized by saying that the Bible is “the word of God” but not “the words of God”. It is only when one reads the text that it becomes the word of God to him or her.
      - The Bible contains demonstrable errors (in matters of history and science, at least) and therefore full inerrancy cannot be sustained with any kind of intellectual integrity.
        - Karl Barth and Emil Brunner

## THE WORD OF GOD

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  1. Modern views of scripture
    - **The Orthodox view**
      - The Bible as originally given by God was free from error. Scripture was completely authoritative and trustworthy in all that it asserts as factual, whether in matters of theology, history, or science.
        - Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, Earl Radmacher, Carl Henry, JI Packer, John Warwick Montgomery, James Montgomery Boise, Francis Schaeffer, RC Sproul, Norman Geisler, and Gleason Archer.

## THE WORD OF GOD

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  2. Inspiration – “God breathed” (**2 Timothy 3:16**)
    - Plenary Inspiration – that kind of inspiration which excludes all defect in the utterance of the inspired message.
    - Verbal inspiration – that kind of inspiration which extends to the very words and forms of expression of the divine message.
    - Inerrancy – “when all the facts are known, the Scriptures in their original autographs and properly interpreted will be shown to be wholly true in everything that they affirm, whether that has to do with doctrine or morality or with the social, physical, or life sciences.” (Paul D. Feinberg, *Inerrancy*)

## THE WORD OF GOD

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  3. Inerrancy
    - **Inerrant vs. Infallible** – “The Bible is inerrant if and only if it makes no false or misleading statements on any topic whatsoever. The Bible is infallible if and only if it makes no false or misleading statements on any matter of faith and practice.” (Stephen T. Davis, *The Debate about the Bible: Inerrancy versus Infallibility*)
    - Objective vs. Subjective Inerrancy
      - Subjective inerrancy emphasizes the need to understand the text from the author’s point of view – grammatical and historical context.
      - **Matt 13:31-32** – “this is smaller than all other seeds”

## THE WORD OF GOD

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  4. Errors in the Word of God?
    - **2 Samuel 8:4** vs. **1 Chronicles 18:4**
      - In **2 Sam**, the word rekeb was advertently omitted by a scribe.
      - It would have made it 1000, 7000 – thus it was reduced to 1,700.
      - Using text criticism, the correct number is in **1 Chronicles**.
    - **Matt 12:4** – Jesus was somehow mistaken?

## THE WORD OF GOD

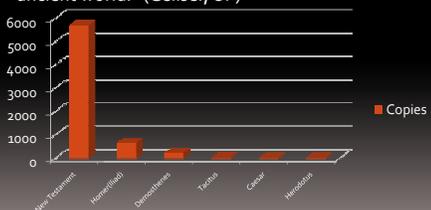
2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  4. Errors in the Word of God?
    - “The real question at issue in regard to scribal error is whether an accumulation of minor slips has resulted in the obscuring or perversion of the message originally intended. Well-trained textual critics operating on the basis of sound methodology are able to rectify almost all the misunderstandings that might result from manuscript error. ... The question in regard to the text of the Bible centers on the data of textual criticism. Is there objective proof from the surviving manuscripts of Scripture that these sixty-six books have been transmitted to us with such a high degree of accuracy as to assure us that the information contained in the originals has been perfectly preserved? The answer is an unqualified yes.” (Gleason Archer, fluent in Latin, Greek, French, German, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Arabic; also studied in Syriac and Akkadian, and Egyptian)

## THE WORD OF GOD

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  5. Locked by history.
    - History is similar to origin science in its goal of establishing the probability of singular events from the past.
    - In Law, the trustworthiness of a witness is necessarily an important point at issue if his testimony is to be received.
    - Time and place are crucial.
    - “The verification process of the historical method is legal in nature in that the investigation involves establishing the truth or falsehood of eyewitness accounts.” (Geisler, *UF*)
    - The Bible is based on historical evidence that can be tested and found to be true or to be false.
    - **Luke 3:1-2** – These events are open to examination.

## THE WORD OF GOD

2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
  6. The evidence.
    - “there is more abundant and accurate manuscript evidence for the New Testament than for any other book from the ancient world.” (Geisler, *UF*)



Text	Copies
New Testament	6000+
Homer/Iliad	1000
Demosthenes	500
Tacitus	200
Caesar	100
Herodotus	500

## THE WORD OF GOD



2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
7. Conclusion.
  - Considering all textual criticism, the vast fragments of the NT make it 98.3 to 99.9% pure!
  - "The great mass of the New Testament, in other words, has been transmitted to us with no, or next to no variations." (Warfield)
  - "The interval then between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established." (Nix and Geisler)

## THE WORD OF GOD



2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
7. Conclusion.
  - "it is incumbent on consistent Evangelicals to show two things: (1) the infallible authority of Scripture is rendered logically untenable if the original manuscripts contained any such errors and (2) no specific charge of falsehood or mistake can be successfully maintained in the light of all the relevant data. ... infallibility without inerrancy is not a viable option at all, for it cannot be maintained without logical self-contradiction." (Gleason Archer)

## THE WORD OF GOD



2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
7. Conclusion.
  - "Inerrancy is to be regarded as an essential concomitant of the doctrine of inspiration, a necessary inference drawn from the fact that Scripture is God's Word." (Pinnock)
  - "If one believes the Scripture to be God's Word, he cannot fail to believe it inerrant. Inerrancy has been the constant teaching of the Fathers, Protestant and Catholic theologians, and recent popes, because it is a necessary conclusion from the fact of divine authorship." (Pinnock)

## THE WORD OF GOD



2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
7. Conclusion.
  - Liberal theology: "It is true that no Christian who believes that the Bible errs can hold that the Bible *alone* is his authority for faith and practice. He must hold to some other authority or criterion as well. That authority, I am not embarrassed to say, is his own mind, his own ability to reason." (Stephen T. Davis, *The Debate about the Bible: Inerrancy versus Infallibility*)
  - All this to say: there is overwhelming evidence for the plenary and verbal inspiration and, by extension, the subjective inerrancy of the Word of God!

## THE WORD OF GOD



2. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
7. Conclusion.
  - "I believe that the Bible is completely, entirely and verbally the word of God. I refuse to stand above and criticize it; I insist rather, on standing below it and letting it criticize me." (John Warwick Montgomery (who holds ten earned degrees in philosophy, theology, and law, ) *Damned Through The Church*)

## THE WORD OF GOD



3. Using the Sword of the Spirit.
  - **2 Timothy 3:16,17** – "all scripture"
  - **2 Peter 3:16** – all is scripture.
  - **2 Timothy 2:15** – "handling accurately"
  - How do we handle the Word accurately?
    - **Matthew 4** – "it is written"
    - Do you know where to find certain verses that are relevant to where you are being attacked?
    - Then STUDY to find them!!!

## THE WORD OF GOD



### 3. Using the Sword of the Spirit.

- The great warning!
- **Hebrews 4:2** – “the word they heard did not profit them”
- **John 5:39,40** – “you are unwilling”
  - “The reason the Bible is powerful is that it is not the mere words of men, however insightful they may be, or even (do not misunderstand me here) the unique and inerrant Word of God, as important as that is. It is because God speaks to people through the Bible by the Spirit of Christ, and because that Word is life-giving and life-transforming.” (James Montgomery Boise, *Romans*)
- The *rhema* reveals the *Logos* and the *Logos* illuminates the *rhema* – you can’t have one without the other!