

SCIENCE AND FAITH

Part 3: Biblical Faith

D. Timothy Anstine, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Chemistry
Northwest Nazarene University

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BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

Truth – the way things really are

- **John 14:6** – “I am the Truth”
- **John 1:14 & 17** – grace AND truth
- **John 17:17** – Sanctify in the truth
- **Ephesians 6:14** – “gird your loins with truth”

Why start with Truth?

If there is Truth, then my search for it will lead to an accurate understanding of reality and my reasoning will have grounds on which to validate various other truth claims.



THE WORD OF GOD

Current view of truth:

Upper Story: Values, Private Sphere
(Personal Preferences, Nonrational, Noncognitive, Religion)

Lower Story: Facts, Public Sphere
(Scientific Knowledge, Rational, Verifiable, Science)

“Human reason was regarded as perfectly competent on its own for understanding the state, society, economics, philosophy—in fact, everything outside of theology. Thus the Christian mind itself began to be split. God’s Word was limited to the upper story, but was deemed irrelevant and unnecessary in directing the lower story.” (Pearcey)

A man of divided allegiance is unstable (**James 1:8**)



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Validation

- How could one verify or validate the Truth claims of a religious text?
 - All religious texts, while describing how one gains access to “God” (or becomes God) also intersect two other disciplines: history and science.
 - The Bible:
 1. Soteriology – salvation through Jesus
 2. History – man in and through time
 3. Science – insights into the natural world (the creation account)

Access to God	Various truth claims concerning access to God could be validated and substantiated (notice: not “proved”) based on the accuracy of its scientific and historic mentionings.
Scientific Claims	
Historicity	



THE WORD OF GOD

1. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
 - **2 Timothy 3:16** – “All scripture is inspired by God”
 - 1. Scripture: “all scripture” this includes the New Testament (**2 Peter 3:16**)
 - 2. Inspiration: “God breathed”
 - *Plenary Inspiration* – excludes all defect in the utterance of the inspired message.
 - *Verbal inspiration* – extends to the very words and forms of expression of the divine message.
 - 1. 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

1. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
 2. Inerrancy vs. infallibility
 - “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*)
 - “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, *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*)



THE WORD OF GOD



1. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
3. 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”

“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.” (Clark H. Pinnock, *Biblical Revelation—The Foundation of Christian 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*)

THE WORD OF GOD



1. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
3. Errors in the Bible?
 - **2 Samuel 8:4** – “And David captured from him **1,700** horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers; and David hamstringed the chariot horses, but reserved enough of them for 100 chariots.”
 - **1 Chronicles 18:4** – “And David took from him 1,000 chariots and **7,000** horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers, and David hamstringed all the chariot horses, but reserved enough of them for 100 chariots.”
 - Is it 1,700 or 7,000 horsemen?
 - In **2 Sam**, the word *rekeb* was advertently omitted by a scribe.
 - It would thus read: “And David captured from him 1000,7000 horsemen” thus the number was reduced incorrectly to 1,700.
 - Using text criticism, the correct number is 7,000 horsemen.

THE WORD OF GOD



1. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
3. 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 L. Archer, fluent in Latin, Greek, French, German, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Arabic; also studied in Syriac and Akkadian, and Egyptian)

THE WORD OF GOD



1. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
4. Modern views of scripture
 - Approaches to the Bible have not been dominated by truth, but by the predominant philosophical views of the day.
 - Current biblical criticism (very different from textual criticism) began with the Enlightenment (man's reason over God's revelation) where Baconian methodologies (inductive reasoning) became the standard.
 - 1. **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.
 - Espoused by: Rudolf Bultmann and Walter Brueggemann

THE WORD OF GOD



1. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
4. Modern views of scripture
 2. **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.
 - Espoused by: Karl Barth and Emil Brunner

THE WORD OF GOD



1. A brief history on the importance of the written word.
4. Modern views of scripture
 3. **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.
 - Espoused by: Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, Earl Radmacher, Carl Henry, JI Packer, John Warwick Montgomery, James Montgomery Boise, Francis Schaeffer, Gleason Archer, Ray Stedman, RC Sproul, Norman Geisler, JP Moreland, etc....

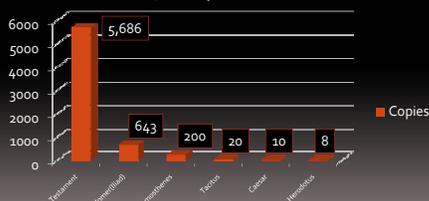
THE WORD OF GOD



1. A brief history on the importance of the written word.

5. 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*)



THE WORD OF GOD



1. A brief history on the importance of the written word.

6. Conclusion.

- Considering all textual criticism of the vast fragments of the NT make it 98.3 to 99.9% pure!
- "if we compare the present state of the New Testament text with that of any other ancient writing, we must declare it to be marvelously correct. Such has been the care with which the New Testament has been copied—a care which has doubtless grown out of true reverence for its holy words—such has been the providence of God in preserving for His Church in each and every age a competently exact text of the Scriptures, that not only is the New Testament unrivalled among ancient writings in the purity of its text as actually transmitted and kept in use, but also in the abundance of testimony which has come down to us for castigating its comparatively infrequent blemishes." (Dr. Benjamin B. Warfield *An Introduction to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament*)

THE WORD OF GOD



1. A brief history on the importance of the written word.

6. Conclusion.

- Considering all textual criticism of the vast fragments of the NT make it 98.3 to 99.9% pure!
- "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." (Geisler and Nix, *Unshakable Foundations*)
- "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*)

BIBLICAL FAITH



2. The Written Word of God is the foundation of faith.

1. **Romans 10:17** – "faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."
 - "word" here is $\rho\eta\mu\alpha$ – specific sayings concerning Jesus
 - *rhēma* – that which is or has been uttered by the living voice, a thing spoken, a word; a series of words joined together into a sentence (**John 3:34**)
 - A declaration of one's mind made in words.
 - **Ephesians 6:17** – "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word (*rhema*) of God"
2. **Matthew 4** – Jesus' perfect modeling of faith in action.
 - Summary: faith is active belief in the Truth of God as revealed through His written Word.

BIBLICAL FAITH



2. The Written Word of God is the foundation of faith.

3. Two tragic errors concerning faith.

1. **Hebrews 4:2** – "did not profit them"
 2. **John 5:39-40** – "you search the Scriptures"
 - "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*)
- #### 3. Study in order to handle accurately the word of truth.
- **2 Timothy 2:15** – "word" here is *logos* (same as **John 1**)
 - The *rhema* reveals the *Logos* and the *Logos* illuminates the *rhema* – you can't have one without the other!

BIBLICAL FAITH



FAITH

TRUTH
(*rhema—logos*)

Faith always stands on what we believe to be true.
Biblical faith never acts apart from biblical Truth.