

Theology Matters

Inerrancy - 3/15/2021

I. Why Theology Matters

- A. What you really believe impacts how you really behave!
- B. That is why the Apostle Paul began with Doctrine/Belief and then Duty/Behavior.
- C. “Ideas have consequences, bad ideas have victims.” – Chuck Coleson

II. Introduction: Why this Doctrine? Why Now?

- A. It is in the first point of the WOL doctrinal statement, and rightly so!
- B. There has been a relentless attack (by Satan) on the authority of Scripture during virtually every generation for the last 300 years (since the enlightenment).
 - “The most serious and intense struggle in which the Christian Church has ever engaged is the war over the Word of God. If this war could be lost, our faith and hope in God would be destroyed, and every witness for Christ would likewise be destroyed.”
 - 1. Earliest Attack on God’s Word – Genesis 3:1
 - 2. Satan’s Two-Fold Onslaught on the Church
- C. Dr. Bookman’s relatively recent devotion on this matter resulted in some interest and some questions. – so it is always great to “scratch the itch,” figuratively speaking.

III. WOL Statement of Faith

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are **verbally inspired** of God, and they are **without error** in the original writings, and they are the supreme and final authority for faith and life.

- A. The Words of Paul - 2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - 1. When the Bible speaks ...

2. “Chronological Snobbery”

“...the uncritical acceptance of the intellectual climate common to our own age and the assumption that whatever has gone out of date is on that account discredited.”

-Lewis, *Surprised by Joy*, 254.

3. Progressive not Regressive

“If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man.”

-Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 28.

B. The Words of Jesus

- John 10:35 -
- John 17:17 -
- Matt. 19:4-5 -
- Matt. 16:4; Lk. 11:29-30 -
- Matt. 24:15 -

IV. The Arguments Against Inerrancy

- A. The Bible contradicts itself (typically related to the Synoptic Gospels)
- B. The Bible contradicts known “facts” of history.
- C. The critics/skeptics with anti-supernatural biases have been answered ad nauseam.

V. Why Inerrancy Matters

- A. The denial of inerrancy results in no certainty of what God has said in whole or in part.

- B. The denial of inerrancy results in the preacher/counselor/discipler having no basis of authority in his preaching/counseling/discipling.
- C. The denial of inerrancy results in no valid basis for ethics and morality as well as matters of Christian living.
- D. The denial of inerrancy eventually results in the loss of all other doctrines.

VI. Illustrations of the Devastating Consequence of Denying Inerrancy

- A. Union Theological Seminary
- B. Princeton Theological Seminary
- C. Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
- D. American Baptist (ABCUSA)

VII. Glimmers of Hope

- A. The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy
- B. The Southern Baptist Resurgence
- C. The Evangelical Theological Society

VIII. Conclusion: Inerrancy Matters

- A. What you REALLY believe impacts how you REALLY behave!
- B. Praise God for the heritage of WOL!
- C. In a culture that is changing ever so quickly, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to the Word of God that is never changing.

“If God is trustworthy, we are saved. If he is not, we are doomed... Put positively, our confidence in the total truthfulness of the Bible is rooted in our confidence that God himself is completely and totally trustworthy.” -Mohler, *Five Views on Inerrancy*, 43.

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