

How to Interpret the Bible

Sunday School Class – May 4, 2014

Last Week's Introductions:

I. What the Bible is.

Last Week's Introductions:

I. What the Bible is.

II. What the Bible says about itself.

2 More Introductions:

I. The Bible is inerrant.

2 More Introductions:

I. The Bible is inerrant.

- Without fault or error.

2 More Introductions:

I. The Bible is inerrant.

- Without fault or error.
- Inspired by the Holy Spirit.

2 More Introductions:

I. The Bible is inerrant.

- Without fault or error.
- Inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- Written down by the prophets of God.

2 More Introductions:

I. The Bible is inerrant.

- Without fault or error.
- Inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- Written down by the prophets of God.
- Always accurate.

2 More Introductions:

I. The Bible is inerrant.

- Without fault or error.
- Inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- Written down by the prophets of God.
- Always accurate.
- Always trustworthy.

2 More Introductions:

- I. The Bible is inerrant.**
- II. Why do we believe that the Bible is inerrant?**

2 More Introductions:

I. The Bible is inerrant.

II. Why do we believe that the Bible is inerrant?

- How does this impact the way we interpret?

2 More Introductions:

I. The Bible is inerrant.

II. Why do we believe that the Bible is inerrant?

- How does this impact the way we interpret?
- What difference does this make in how we approach the Scripture?

Reasons Why We Affirm Inerrancy:

- I. We affirm inerrancy because Jesus affirmed inerrancy.**

Reasons Why We Affirm Inerrancy:

- I. We affirm inerrancy because Jesus affirmed inerrancy.**
 - Jesus consistently treated historical statements in the Old Testament as if they were true.

John 10:34-35

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I SAID, YOU ARE GODS’?

³⁵ If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

Matthew 5:17-18

¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

¹⁸ For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Reasons Why We Affirm Inerrancy:

I. We affirm inerrancy because Jesus affirmed inerrancy.

- Jesus consistently treated historical statements in the Old Testament as if they were true.
- Jesus believed that everything in Scripture will be accomplished because everything in Scripture is perfect. It is without error.

Reasons Why We Affirm Inerrancy:

“It should be clear that, throughout the Gospel material, Jesus’ view of the Old Testament is unchanging....the evidence is abundantly clear: To Christ the Old Testament was true, authoritative, inspired. To Him the God of the Old Testament was the one living God, and the teaching of the Old Testament was the teaching of this living God. To Him what scripture said, God said.”- John Wenham

Reasons Why We Affirm Inerrancy:

II. We affirm inerrancy because the Apostles affirmed inerrancy.

Reasons Why We Affirm Inerrancy:

II. We affirm inerrancy because the Apostles affirmed inerrancy.

- It has been estimated that 10% of the New Testament is a quotation from the Old Testament.

Reasons Why We Affirm Inerrancy:

II. We affirm inerrancy because the Apostles affirmed inerrancy.

- It has been estimated that 10% of the New Testament is a quotation from the Old Testament.
- They all had an extremely high respect for God's Word in the Old Testament. They all believed that it was infallible and inerrant.

Reasons Why We Affirm Inerrancy:

III. We affirm inerrancy because the Character of God affirms inerrancy.

Reasons Why We Affirm Inerrancy:

III. We affirm inerrancy because the Character of God affirms inerrancy.

- If the Holy Spirit is God and the Holy Spirit inspired the Bible, then the Bible must reflect God's Character.

Reasons Why We Affirm Inerrancy:

III. We affirm inerrancy because the Character of God affirms inerrancy.

- If the Holy Spirit is God and the Holy Spirit inspired the Bible, then the Bible must reflect God's Character.
- Because God is true, because the Holy Spirit is true, then the Bible is true.

Titus 1:2

² in the hope of eternal life, which God,
who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

I John 5:6

⁶ This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

John 17:17

¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Reasons Why We Affirm Inerrancy:

III. We affirm inerrancy because the Character of God affirms inerrancy.

- If the Holy Spirit is God and the Holy Spirit inspired the Bible, then the Bible must reflect God's Character.
- Because God is true, because the Holy Spirit is true, then the Bible is true.
- God's Word does not err, because God's Spirit does not err.

Reasons Why We Affirm Inerrancy:

IV. We affirm inerrancy because the Church has always affirmed inerrancy.

Reasons Why We Affirm Inerrancy:

IV. We affirm inerrancy because the Church has always affirmed inerrancy.

- The unanimous testimony of church history up until the last hundred years or so is that the Bible is inerrant.

“Most disastrous consequences must follow upon our believing that anything false is found in the sacred books: that is to say that the men by whom the Scripture has been given to us and committed to writing, did not put down in these books anything false. If you once admit into such a high sanctuary of authority one false statement, there will not be left a single sentence of those books, which if appearing to any one difficult in practice or hard to believe, may not by the same fatal rule be explained away as a statement, in which, intentionally, the author declared what was not true.” – Augustine

“For our faith rests upon the revelation given to the apostles and prophets who wrote the canonical books, and not on revelation (if there be such a thing) made to other teachers. Whence Augustine says in his letter to Jerome: ‘Only to those books which are called canonical have I learned to give honor so that I believe most firmly that no author in these books made any error in writing.’ ” – Thomas Aquinas

“You are so to deal with the Scriptures that you bear in mind that God Himself is saying this. Scripture must reign as queen, all must obey and be subject to her, not teachers, judges, or arbiters over her; but they must be simply witnesses, pupils and confessors of it, whether they be pope or Luther or Augustine or an angel from Heaven.”

– Martin Luther

John Calvin –

- “The sure an infallible record.
- The inerring standard.
- The pure Word of God.
- The infallible rule of His holy truth.
- Free from every stain or defect.
- The inerring certainty.
- The certain and unerring rule.
- Unerring light.
- The inviolable Word.
- The infallible oracles.
- The Word that has nothing belonging to man mixed with it.”

“God took this care with respect to the books of the Old Testament, that no books should be received by the Jewish church and delivered down in the canon of the Old Testament, but what was His word and owned by Christ. We may therefore conclude that He would still take the same care of His church with respect to the New Testament, what the Bible says, God says.”

– Jonathan Edwards

How does the inerrancy of the Bible impact our interpretation of the Bible?

- **Inerrancy is derivative not creative.**

How does the inerrancy of the Bible impact our interpretation of the Bible?

- **Inerrancy is derivative not creative.**
 - The inerrancy of the Bible derives from its closeness to the original writings.

“[Inerrancy] is to be understood of the Scriptures, as the original languages in which they were written, and not of translations...only the original is authentic; and not translations, and transcriptions, and copies of them, though ever so perfect: and to the Bible, in its original languages, is every translation to be brought, and by it to be examined, tried, and judged, and to be corrected, and amended.....

Bless God, therefore, and be thankful that God has, in His providence, raised up such men to translate the Bible into the mother-tongue of every nation, and particularly into ours and that he still continues to raise up such who are able to defend the translation made, against erroneous persons, and enemies of the truth; and to correct and amend it in lesser matters, in which it may have failed, and clear and illustrate it by their learned notes upon it.” – Charles Spurgeon

How does the inerrancy of the Bible impact our interpretation of the Bible?

- **Inerrancy refers to accuracy, not precision.**

How does the inerrancy of the Bible impact our interpretation of the Bible?

- **Inerrancy refers to accuracy, not precision.**
 - There were times when the authors of Scripture were being precise and there were times when they were not, but they were always being accurate.

How does the inerrancy of the Bible impact our interpretation of the Bible?

- **Inerrancy accommodates human language, it does not ignore it.**

How does the inerrancy of the Bible impact our interpretation of the Bible?

- **Inerrancy accommodates human language, it does not ignore it.**
 - The Bible uses all of the figures of speech that normal language uses and it remains inerrant.

“We affirm that God in His Word of inspiration utilized the distinctive personalities and literary styles of the writers whom He had chosen and prepared...We deny that it is proper to evaluate Scripture according to standards of truth and error that are alien to its usage or purpose.” – The Chicago Statement on Inerrancy

How does the inerrancy of the Bible impact our interpretation of the Bible?

- **Inerrancy refers to science and spirituality.**

How does the inerrancy of the Bible impact our interpretation of the Bible?

- **Inerrancy refers to science and spirituality.**
 - Inerrancy refers to all of the Bible or inerrancy refers to none of the Bible.