

Men of the Word: Systematic Theology

GOD'S WORD, Part 1

10/18/19

The Battle for the Bible

*The Bible contains the Word of God.
The Bible changes with the times.
The Bible doesn't really mean what it says it is.
The Bible is just another book.*

The Bible is the very Word of God.

Attacks on God's Word

Peter Enns - *"The Bible is not reliable and factual in its historical narrative. What the Bible says happened didn't happen. Much of the Old Testament reads like fairy tales. Furthermore, many of its theological descriptions, even about God, and ethical instructions are disturbing, wrong, contradictory, and at times even immoral and barbaric. Consequently, the Bible is not inerrant, clear, or sufficient, nor should we consider parts of it inspired at all."*

Matthew Barrett - *"We cannot buy in to the Enlightenment illusion that we can come to Scripture neutral, unbiased, and perfectly objective. No one comes to Scripture neutral. Neutrality is not our goal. Accuracy and precision with the Scriptures is our goal. We come to scripture and allow its own voice to affirm and correct our pre-understanding of what Scripture is and how it should be read."*
(*God's Word Alone*, p. 146)

Dangerous Times to Come

2 Tim. 3:13

2 Thess. 2:11.

2 Tim. 4:4

2 Peter 3:14-18

Ps. 119:89 "Forever, O Lord, your Word is firmly fixed in the heavens."

I. THE ORIGIN OF GOD’S WORD.

*“Our aim is to formulate a biblical doctrine; we are to appeal to scripture for information about itself, just as we should appeal to it for information on any other doctrinal topic.”
(J.I. Packer)*

The church submits to the Bible’s teaching by submitting to the entire scope of the Bible’s teaching. Failure to submit to the whole counsel of God “leads to one-sidedness and error in theology and pathology in the religious life.” (Herman Bavinck)

A. God’s Word is From God .

B. God’s Word is Inspired.

*“The foundation of our religion is the written word, the Scriptures of God.” –
Huldrych Zwingli*

When Scripture speaks, God speaks.

Rom. 9:17

Gal. 3:8

II. THE NATURE OF GOD'S WORD.

A. God's Word is Authoritative .

"The Reformation of the sixteenth century was founded upon the authority of the Bible, yet it set the world aflame." – J. Gresham Machen

This means all the words are God's Words and disobeying or not believing any part of Scripture means disobeying or not believing God.

B. God's Word is Inerrant .

Means the Bible is 100% true in everything it affirms in its original manuscripts. It is never wrong. Contains no errors, completely correct.

C. God's Word is Infallible .

Means the Bible will never mislead anyone. will never lie. *No possibility of error.*

D. God's Word is Sufficient .

This means the Bible contains all the words of God He wanted us to have for salvation and growth, everything we need for trusting and obeying Him.

E. God's Word is Clear .

Regarding everything we need to know for salvation.

First, the doctrine of perspicuity/clarity primarily refers to the clarity of the bible on the major doctrines, especially those relating to salvation.

Second, the clarity of scripture doesn't necessitate plain affirmative statement of the doctrine.

Third, precision versus accuracy.