

## Doctrine of the Bible

### Authority and Authorship

1. One of the principles of the Reformation is Sola Scriptura, “Scripture alone.”
2. The teaching of the Reformation, and of the church, is based upon the authority of Scripture.
3. The word authority (exousia, ex-oo-see’-ah) means the right to impose an order. Jesus taught with authority.
  - *Matthew 7:29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*
4. With authority comes authorship. In relation to the Bible, the desire is to discover by what authority the Scriptures are given.
5. If the author of the Bible is God, then what He instructs men to do through His Word is binding.
6. Historically the church has declared the Bible to be the Vox Dei, “the voice of God.” The Bible is the Verbum Dei, “the Word of God.”
7. While the Bible was not penned by God as far as its composition or origin, for men were instrumental in its formation. Individuals were set apart to preserve the gospel.
  - *Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God.*
8. The gospel of God refers to the source of gospel. The phrase is not just about the content of the gospel, but about the One who possesses the gospel. God is the source of the gospel.
9. When Zacharias was told that he was an old man and could not possibly bear a child in his old age, Gabriel assured him he could conceive with his wife because he, Gabriel, came from God, and had the right, the authority, the power to speak a word of promise. The source of Gabriel’s message had the highest possible authority.
  - *Luke 1:19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.*
10. When Biblical authority is questioned, God is asserted to be the ultimate source of the Scriptures.
  - *2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

11. Some people believe the concern over the inspiration, and infallibility of Scripture, is a meaningless argument that distracts from faith.

***Special Note.***

The highest source of authorship is not demanded of other ancient writers, such as Plato, Aristotle, Herodotus, Xenophon, or Euripides. But it is demanded of the Scripture because they purport to be from God. The stories of the Bible are so fantastic, such as the resurrection, they must be proven to be true.

12. If the authors of the Bible made mistakes, then their claims about sin, salvation, and the resurrection are suspect.

13. It is true, that, just because a book claims to be the Word of God, does not mean it is the Word of God. Saying something, does not make it so. There are many pseudepigraph books.

- *2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*

14. There are people who are evil because they deceive others. Deception is the distortion of truth. The Christian world must esteem truth, as the Biblical authors did. Timothy was told to “consider the source”.

- *2 Timothy 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

- *2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

15. All of the graphe, all of the sacred writings, referring to the Old Testament primarily, but also to the New Testament writings, were theopneustos, “God breathed.”

- *2 Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*