

Doctrine of the Bible

Christ and Scriptural Inerrancy

1. Jesus taught a very high view of the Bible, and embraced the theories of His day that the Scriptures were the Word of God and cannot be broken.
2. Modern Liberals insist that Jesus was wrong to hold such a high view and that is okay, for in His humanity, Jesus did not have the attribute of omniscience. He could not have known Moses did not write the Pentateuch.
3. Their position seems to be affirmed by the words of Jesus.
 - *Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*
 - *Mark 13:32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.*
4. The Catholic solution to the limitation is found in the works of Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225 – March 7, 1274), who argued that Christ only accommodated the idea of His being “ignorant”, or unformed, because of His humanity. But, if that is the case, then the veracity of Christ is at stake for the Lord pretended not to know something that He did know.
5. The teaching of docetism, a theology invented by Julius Cassianus, according to Clement of Alexandria (AD 160 - 215) contended that Jesus did not know and it did not matter for as the Logos and the Divine Son of God He only seemed (dokein) to appear in human form anyway. This of course is heresy and condemned by John.
 - *1 John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*
6. The solution to the difficulty is found in the Hypo-static Union of Christ, in that He was fully divine, but also true humanity. As true humanity, Christ was limited in His knowledge, which is why we read that He grew in wisdom and stature.
 - *Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*
7. In His human nature Jesus was not omniscient, but as a prophet He was able to receive information from God without compromising His humanity, or being omniscient.
 - Before He met Nathaniel, Jesus knew all about him. *John 1:48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. 49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.*

- The Lord knew the life story of the woman of Sychar. *John 4:29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?*
- Jesus had prophetic insight to predict the future, reflected in the Olivet Discourse.

Matthew 24:1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

3 And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. 24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25 Behold, I have told you before. 26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. 34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

8. To acknowledge the limitations of Christ in His human nature, to understand that as a prophet He could, and did, receive knowledge that only God would have, is not to give permission to teach that Jesus communicated error regarding the Bible, which is the position Liberal Theologians take.

Special Note.

Liberal Biblical scholarship says that Jesus said some things that were not historically accurate, and that is okay, for He did not know all things. He did not know that Moses did not write the Pentateuch, and so He used the language of accommodation. This is going too far. It is heresy.

9. Here is the problem. In order to be the Lamb of God who could take away the sin of the world, Jesus had to be perfect. It is not conceivable that Jesus would teach something that was not the absolutely truth. Ignorance would be no excuse. Therefore, Jesus could not have been in error on anything He said or did.
10. Jesus declared that He only spoke what God told Him to say, and claimed that He was the truth. If Jesus were proven to be wrong on any point, then all credibility is destroyed. He would not be holy. He would not be the Saviour of the world.
 - *John 12:49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.*
 - *John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

11. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees because they could not believe Him about earthly things, and so they could not believe Him about heavenly things. Liberal Biblical teachers face a dilemma. They want to honor Christ, but not believe Him. They will “*strain at a gnat*”, and “*swallow a camel*.” Liberal theologians will not trust Christ on earthly things, such as, who wrote the Pentateuch, and the trustworthiness of Scripture, but want to trust Him on heavenly things. That is foolish. If Jesus was wrong on a single point, He is discredited and all of Christendom is a farce.
 - *Matthew 23:24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.*
12. One example of a modern Liberal theologian is Karl Barth (May 10, 1886 – December 10, 1968), who called the doctrine of the divine inspiration of the Scripture, Biblical Docetism.
13. Barth believed that the true nature of Christ was compromised by over deifying His human nature, so the inspiration of Scripture is of the same sort because we know the Bible was written by human beings: Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Paul.
14. Barth said that it is axiomatic, “*errare humanum est*, “to err is human”. Barth said it was impossible for human authors to produce an inspired work of God.
15. Though it is true that we as humans do err, it does not follow that we must err in order to be human. Students in school make a hundred on a spelling test because they write an inerrant spelling test. A wife can write an inerrant grocery list that includes her every need at the moment without compromising the limits of her humanity. So God can use human individuals to convey His perfect word without compromising the limits of their humanity.
16. The Scriptures are careful to give credit to God the Holy Spirit, so that there is a dual nature of the Bible. There is the humanity of the authors, but there is the divinity of the text, which is breathed out by God.
17. Karl Barth said that the Bible becomes the Word of God through a leap of faith. The Bible says the Scripture is the Word of God by inspiration. The difference is significant. The first is a subjective experience, while the latter position is an objective reality.
18. If the Bible is the Word of God, it is without error. If the Bible is in error, it is not the Word of God.