

Doctrine of the Bible

Jesus and the Word of God

1. The question of the authority of the Bible is, ultimately, a question of Christology.
2. The Christian has confidence in the Bible because of an unshakable confidence in the word of God in the person of Jesus Christ.
3. Because Christ controls His people by His Spirit, and through His Word, the Bible must be trusted. To distrust the Bible is to distrust the Person and work of Jesus Christ.
4. Some Christians say they believe they can hear the Word of God through the church, even though they might no longer believe in the infallible, and inerrant, Scripture.
5. The problem with that position is, “Which church? The Baptist Church? The Catholic Church? The Presbyterian Church?”
6. There is also another question. “What is the Lord’s view of Scripture?” The view of Jesus regarding the Scripture is not difficult to discern.
7. Jesus believed in the Biblical record.
 - Jesus believed in The Story of Adam and Eve. *Matthew 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female.*
 - Jesus believed in The Story of Jonah and the Great Fish. *Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*
 - Jesus believed in Moses and the Prophets. *Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*
 - Jesus believed in prophesy being fulfilled. *Luke 4:17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

8. Jesus believed in the inspired, infallible, inerrant, and unchangeable Word of God.

- The Bible is Inspired. *2 Samuel 23:1 Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, 2 The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. 3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.*
- The Bible is Infallible because the Scriptures are based upon His perfect knowledge.

Psalms 139 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. 2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. 3 Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. 5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. 7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. 13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. 15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. 17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee. 19 Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. 20 For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. 21 Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? And am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? 22 I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies. 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

- The Bible is Inerrant. *Psalms 119:160 Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.*
- The Bible is Unchanging. *Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

9. In the 21st century church, despite the affirmation of Christ regarding the reliability of the Bible, modern scholarship is still willing to challenge Him.
10. To see what Jesus believed about the Bible, we have to go to the Bible, and when that is done, the fallacy of circular reasoning becomes a logical problem. The attempt is made to prove the Bible is the Word of God by assuming that the authority on which the answer is based is already the Word of God.
11. The solution to the dilemma is to affirm that the answer needed is linear, not circular, and is very logical. The following points are made.
- First, the Bible has historical value.
 - Second, the Bible is basically reliable in what it teaches has been proven, or verified, by objective data in the area of geography, history, archeology, and science. The spade of the archeologist has conclusively proven, to the unbiased mind, that the Bible is basically reliable (*Sir William M. Ramsay: Archaeologist and New Testament Scholar A Survey of His Contribution to the Study of the New Testament* by W. Ward Gasque).
 - Third, if the conclusion could be reached that Jesus lived, and He was a prophet, then it would be of value to discover what Christ, as a prophet, thought of Scripture. What Jesus needed was not simply discernment, but truth. "Discernment is the ability to tell what is true from what is ALMOST true" (C. H. Spurgeon). Almost is simply not good enough when it comes to truth, nor is "almost" good enough when it comes to prophecies. There must be absolute truth, or be stoned. *Deuteronomy 18:20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.*
 - Fourth, Jesus of Nazareth accepted, and embraced, the prevailing view of the Jews, that it was the Word of God, and it was inspired of God. He did so by appealing to the Word of God. *Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.* Jesus believed in the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures. *John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*
12. Modern twentieth century liberal scholars, such as Karl Barth, Emil Brunner, C. H. Dodd, and others, do not dispute that Jesus believed in the verbal, inerrant, and infallibility of the Bible, but insist He was wrong, because, they say, in His humanity, Jesus simply accepted the contemporary, and thus erroneous cultural religious views of His day. They point to His limitation in His humanity.
- *Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*
13. Of course, Jesus did not always speak, or live from His human nature, and so Jesus said things that have to be true.

- Jesus said that Moses wrote about Him. *John 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.*
- Jesus said that Abraham rejoiced to see His day. *John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.*

14. Here is the conclusion. Jesus did not have to be omniscient in His humanity, but He did have to be sinless. If Jesus taught something that was not true, for whatever reason, He would cease to be qualified as the spotless Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world.

15. Either Jesus was correct in affirming the Bible to be the infallible, inerrant, Word of God, or else He was delusional, or a liar, either of which disqualifies Him of being called, “Worthy”.

16. For someone to pretend or claim to have more knowledge than they have, is a sin. It is a serious matter to be a teacher. It is more serious to lead people away from the truth.

- *James 3:1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.*
- *Matthew 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*

17. Jesus said He only taught what God revealed to Him. If that was not a true statement, Jesus lied.

- *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.*

18. Jesus went on to say that He was the truth.

- *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.*

19. It is not the reputation of Moses or Isaiah which is at stake, but the reputation, authority, credibility, and redemptive work of Christ.