

Men of the Word
Semester One, Class 8
May 14, 2013

Men of the Word

Schedule

Men of the Word
Semester One, Class 8
May 14, 2013

Semester 2 - Fall 2013

- Intertestamental Period
- New Testament Survey
- Theology Proper – The Doctrine of God
 - How can God be known?
 - Defending Trinitarianism
 - Attributes of God
- Students will be memorizing NT Biblical Knowledge

New Testament Flashcards

- Install Flashcards Deluxe app
- Choose "Add a deck"
- Choose "Shared Library"
- Search for and choose the "Men of the Word Semester 2" deck
- Use the *Advanced Settings* options to mix and match which flashcard categories to use

Semester 3 – Jan.-May 2014

- Christology
 - Prove the Deity of Christ
 - What is the Kenosis?
 - The Humanity of Christ
- Anthropology and Hamartiology
 - Do we have a free will?
 - The doctrine of inherited sin
 - What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

Semester 4 – Fall 2014

- Soteriology
 - Lordship
 - Doctrines of election, atonement, regeneration, justification, etc.
 - Doctrines on preservation and perseverance
 - Arminianism vs. Calvinism

Semester 5 – Jan-May 2015

- Pneumatology
 - Deity of the Holy Spirit
 - Role of the Holy Spirit in conversion
 - What does it mean to be baptized in the Holy Spirit
 - The gift of tongues
- Eschatology/ Angelology
 - Various views on the rapture
 - Timeline of events in the future
 - Millennial Views
 - Casting out demons

Semester 6

- Ecclesiology
 - Qualifications for leadership
 - CBC Distinctive – The Role of Women in the church
 - Church Discipline
 - Priorities in the life of the church

The Attributes of Scripture

Authority

“The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God’s words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.” Grudem

By authority of the Bible we mean that the Bible, as the expression of God’s will to us, possesses the right supremely to define what we are to believe and how we are to conduct ourselves. Erickson

Men of the Word
Semester One, Class 8
May 14, 2013

Clarity - Perspicuity

God is fully in control of His communications to human beings. When He intends to communicate with a human being, he is always able to do it successfully. But another name for successful communication is *clarity*. An unclear word is one that does not succeed, that fails to accomplish its purpose. But we know that God's word always accomplishes its purposes (Isa 55:10-11) Therefore, his word is always clear. Frame

Isaiah 55:10–11

10 “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

11 **So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.**

Clarity - Perspicuity

As a logical corollary to the Bible's representation of its revelatory and inspired nature, the purpose of this entire activity on God's part was to reveal his ways and works in a comprehensible manner to those to whom his revelation originally came. He "spoke and wrote" in order to be understood. And the prophets, apostles, and indeed Jesus himself, addressed their messages to all the people, and never treated them as intellectual pygmies who were incapable of understanding anything of what they said.

Reymond

Necessity

The necessity of Scripture means that the Bible is necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God's will, but is not necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God's character and moral laws. Grudem

Men of the Word
Semester One, Class 8
May 14, 2013

Necessity

Westminster Confession

I. Although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men unexcusable; yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of His will, which is necessary unto salvation. Therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manners, to reveal Himself, and to declare that His will unto His Church; and afterwards for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the Church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing; which makes the Holy Scripture to be most necessary; those former ways of God's revealing His will unto His people being now ceased.

The Sufficiency of Scripture

Definition

- The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contained all the words of God he intended his people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains everything we need God to tell us for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly. Grudem
- “The Bible is a finished and complete revelation entirely sufficient for its divinely intended purpose. It need not be supplemented by reason, experience, tradition, other religions, or anything else. It does not wait to be sufficient until it *encounters* the individual nor does it cease to be sufficient when rejected or ignored by the same.” McCune

Definition

- The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men. Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the word [already implied in I/v]; and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered by the light of nature and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the word, which are always to be observed. (WCF, I/vi) Reymond

Men of the Word
Semester One, Class 8
May 14, 2013

Tradition in the New Testament

Mark 7:6–13

6 And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

7 ‘BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, **TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.**’

8 “**Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.**”

9 He was also saying to them, “**You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.**

10 “For Moses said, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER’; and, ‘HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH’;

11 but you say, ‘If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God),’

12 you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother;

13 thus **invalidating the word of God by your tradition** which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.”

Men of the Word
Semester One, Class 8
May 14, 2013

Tradition and the Catholic Church

Catechism of the Catholic Church on page 82 says:

The Catholic Church “does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scripture alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.”

The Catholic Claim

The Bible nowhere teaches that it is the sole authority in matters of belief. In fact, the Bible teaches that Tradition – the oral teachings given by Jesus to the apostles and their successors, the bishops – is a parallel source of authentic belief. {2 Thes. 2:15; 1 Cor. 11:2}

Tradition and the Catholic Church

The Bible actually denies that it is the complete rule of faith. John tells us that not everything concerning Christ's work is in Scripture (John 21:25), and Paul says that much Christian teaching is to be found in the tradition that is handed down by word of mouth (2 Timothy 2:2). He instructs us to "stand fast, and hold the traditions which you have learned, whether by word or by our epistle" (2 Thessalonians 2:15). We are told that the first Christians "were persevering in the doctrine of the apostles" (Acts 2:42), which was the oral teaching given long before the New Testament was written – and centuries before the canon of the New Testament was settled." Karl Keating, *Catholicism and Fundamentalism*, p. 136

Men of the Word
Semester One, Class 8
May 14, 2013

Sola Scriptura

Sola Scriptura has to do with the sufficiency of Scripture as our supreme authority in all spiritual matters. Sola Scriptura simply means that *all truth necessary for our salvation and spiritual life is taught either explicitly or implicitly in Scripture.*

It is not a claim that all truth of every kind is found in Scripture. The most ardent defender of *sola Scriptura* will concede, for example, that Scripture has little to say about DNA structures, microbiology, the rules of Chinese grammar, or rocket science.

...there are many important questions on which Scripture is silent. *Sola Scriptura* makes no claim to the contrary. Nor does *sola Scriptura* claim that everything Jesus or the apostles ever taught is preserved in Scripture. It only means that everything necessary, everything binding on our consciences, and everything God requires of us is given to us in Scripture. MacArthur

Responding to Catholic Claims

2 Timothy 2:2

The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Acts 2:42

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer

Men of the Word
Semester One, Class 8
May 14, 2013

Paul and Tradition

1 Corinthians 11:2

Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you.

2 Thessalonians 2:15

So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.

2 Thessalonians 3:6

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

CBC Distinctive

The Sufficiency of Scripture

We believe that God has provided us in the Scripture with everything necessary to nurture and sustain spiritual life. That means we are committed to teaching and to counseling directly and exclusively from the Word of God. We do not believe that secular psychology has any legitimate role in the sanctification of the believer.

Christian Counseling

- Christ-centered
- Church-centered
- Bible-based

The Shortcomings of Extra-biblical Insights

- Man's Finite Knowledge
- Depravity of Human Nature

Psalm 19:7-11

- 1. Is *perfect* (whole, complete, sufficient, lacking nothing) and therefore able to restore (transform, renew, restore) the soul (the inner man, the real self)—v. 7.
- 2. Is a *sure* (trustworthy, reliable, dependable) witness and therefore able to make wise the simple (people who lack a proper understanding of life, of God, of themselves, of others)—v. 7.
- 3. Contains the precepts (principles, guidelines, rules for character and conduct) that are *right* (correct, in accord with what is just and good, appropriate and fitting) and therefore able to cause the heart (the totality of man's inner non-physical self) to rejoice (to experience a sense of well being, serenity, tranquility, and peace)—v. 8.

Psalm 19:7-11

- 4. Is *authoritative* (it gives mandates and directives that are always correct) and pure (clear, untainted with evil or error) and therefore able to bring light into man's chaos and confusion, to replace man's ignorance and lack of understanding with clear direction, perspective and insight—v. 8.
- 5. Is *clean* (uncontaminated, free from impurity, defilement) and *enduring* (permanent, unchanging, relevant, up to date, never outdated, never in need of alteration) and therefore able to produce the fear of the Lord (a wholesome and incredibly practical and positive reverence for God)—v. 9.

Psalm 19:7-11

- 6. *Provides insights* about God, man, life, and everything needed for living and godliness that are altogether true (they correspond to and accurately reflect reality, they tell it like it really is) and righteous (they reflect that which is right, good and holy, that which is truly just and fair) and therefore lead men to understand and practice what is truly real and right—v. 9.
- 7. Being “more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold” is able to produce in us a kind of *prosperity* that is more valuable than all the material riches of the world—v. 10.

Psalm 19:7-11

- 8. Being “sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb” is able to remove the sourness, acidity, and bitterness caused by sin and to produce in us a *sweetness* of life that surpasses anything the world can provide—v. 10.
- 9. Possessing all of the previously noted qualities, is able to infallibly *warn and protect* us from the numerous dangers and disasters of life caused by ignorance of what is truly right—v. 11.
- 10. Possessing all of the previously noted characteristics, is able to *preserve* us from temptation, sin, error, false teaching, and every other threat to the health and well being of our inner man—our thoughts, emotions, affections, and attitudes—v. 11. Wayne Mack