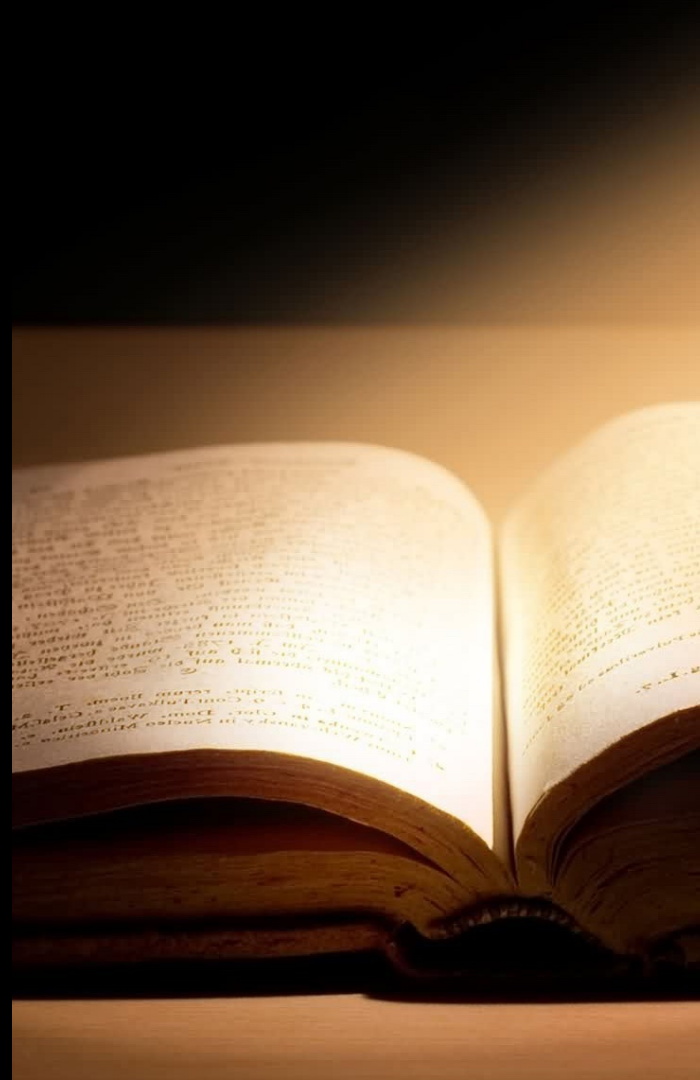


The Authority of Scripture

Rocky Wyatt | September 25, 2016

Attributes of Scripture

- Authority
- Clarity (Perspicuity)
- Necessity
- Sufficiency



Authority Defined

“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



Authority Defined

As creator and source of all truth, God has the right to command belief and obedience from all human beings... All Scripture is historically authoritative, that is, it tells us correctly what God expected or required from specific persons at particular times and places. Some of Scripture is also normatively authoritative. That means that those parts of Scripture are to be applied and obeyed in the same fashion in which they were originally given.

- Erickson



Authority Defined

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



Internal Evidence for the Authority of God's Word

1. When the prophet says, "Thus says the Lord."
2. God is often said to speak "through" the prophet.
3. The New Testament claims that "all Scripture is inspired." 2 Timothy 3:16
4. The New Testament claims prophecy was accomplished through the work of the Holy Spirit.
5. The New Testament quotes from the Old Testament as authoritative.
6. The claims of the apostles.
7. Jesus testified to the authority of the Scriptures



Theories of Inspiration

- The Intuition Theory
- The Illumination Theory
- The Dynamic Theory
- The Dictation Theory
- The Verbal Theory
- The Partial Inspiration Theory
- The Natural Inspiration Theory



Inspiration Defined

“plenary inspiration” – plenary means “full” – It indicates the belief that the Bible is fully inspired. Charles Hodge in his well known Systematic Theology says he means by this that the Bible is all from God; it is the word of God *in toto*, and there is no admixture of human error in its production.



Inspiration Defined

“verbal inspiration” – is often used to declare that God superintended the very choice of the words in the Holy Volume so that it may be truly said to be entirely God’s word without admixture of human error. This may also be expressed by insisting that the Bible is ‘true throughout’ or by specifying that it is without error in fact, doctrine, or judgment.

- R. Laird Harris



Inspiration Defined

The act of the Holy Spirit in which He superintended the writers of Scripture so that, while writing according to their own styles and personalities, they produced God's Word written, authoritative, trustworthy, and free from error in the original writings... the inspiration of Scripture extends to the actual words (verbal) and to every part of the entire (plenary) Bible.

- Paul Enns



External Evidence

1. Unique in its circulation
2. Unique in its consistency
3. Unique in its translation
4. Fulfilled prophecy
5. Historical accuracy
6. Changed lives



God Establishes the Authority of His Word

The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, and obeyed, depends not upon the testimony of any man, or Church; but wholly upon God (who is truth itself) the author thereof: and therefore it is to be received, because it is the Word of God.

Westminster Confession of Faith



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- Westminster Confession of Faith



God Establishes the Authority of His Word

“...the article states the sole reason why the Bible ought to be believed and obeyed: because God, who is truth itself, is in a unique sense its author, and therefore because it is the very Word of the one living and true God. In sum, it receives its authority from heaven; it requires no earthly advocacy in regard to the issue of its authority. Its authority is intrinsic and inherent; that is, it is self-validating. In no sense is its authority derived from human testimony.”

- Dr. Robert Reymond



Rejecting the Authority of God's Word

- Matthew 13:13-15
- Romans 1:21
- Romans 11:8
- 2 Corinthians 4:4
- John 5:38-40



Acknowledging the Authority of God's Word

The Roman Catholic Church's position is that it is through the church that we come to understand the Bible and to be convinced of its divine authorship.

Human reason says that a person can come to understand the Bible's meaning and its divine origin because of its unique qualities – prophecy, supernatural character, miracles, etc.

We come to understand the divine origin of the Scriptures because of the working of the Holy Spirit.



Acknowledging the Authority of God's Word

- 1 Corinthians 2:14-16
- 2 Corinthians 4:5-6
- John 10:27
- 1 John 5:20



Authority Defined

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- Grudem

