

BIBLIOLOGY

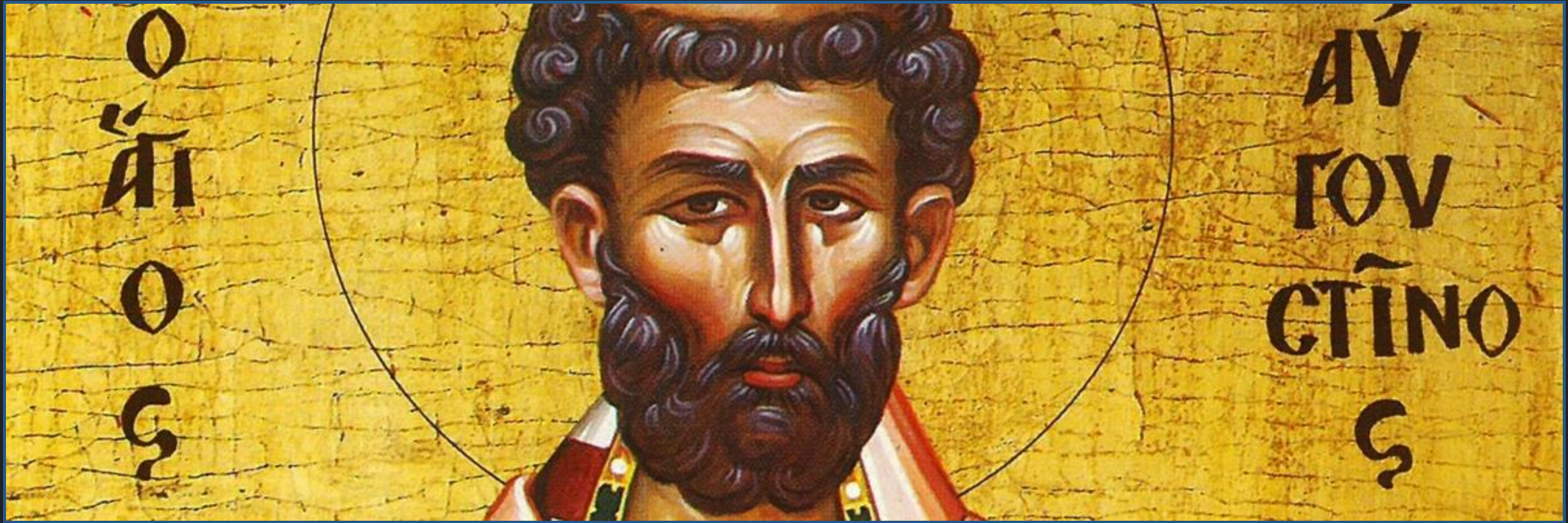
The Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility of Scripture



Institutes of
Theology

SEMESTER 3

2025

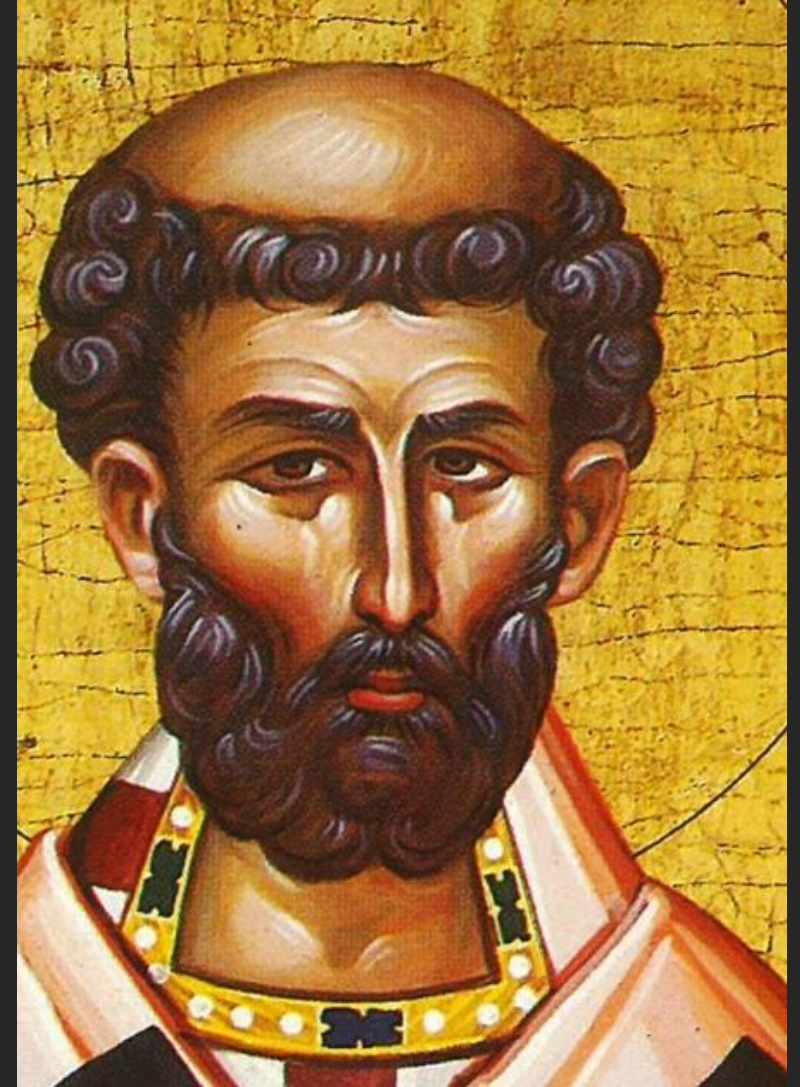


AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

354–430 AD

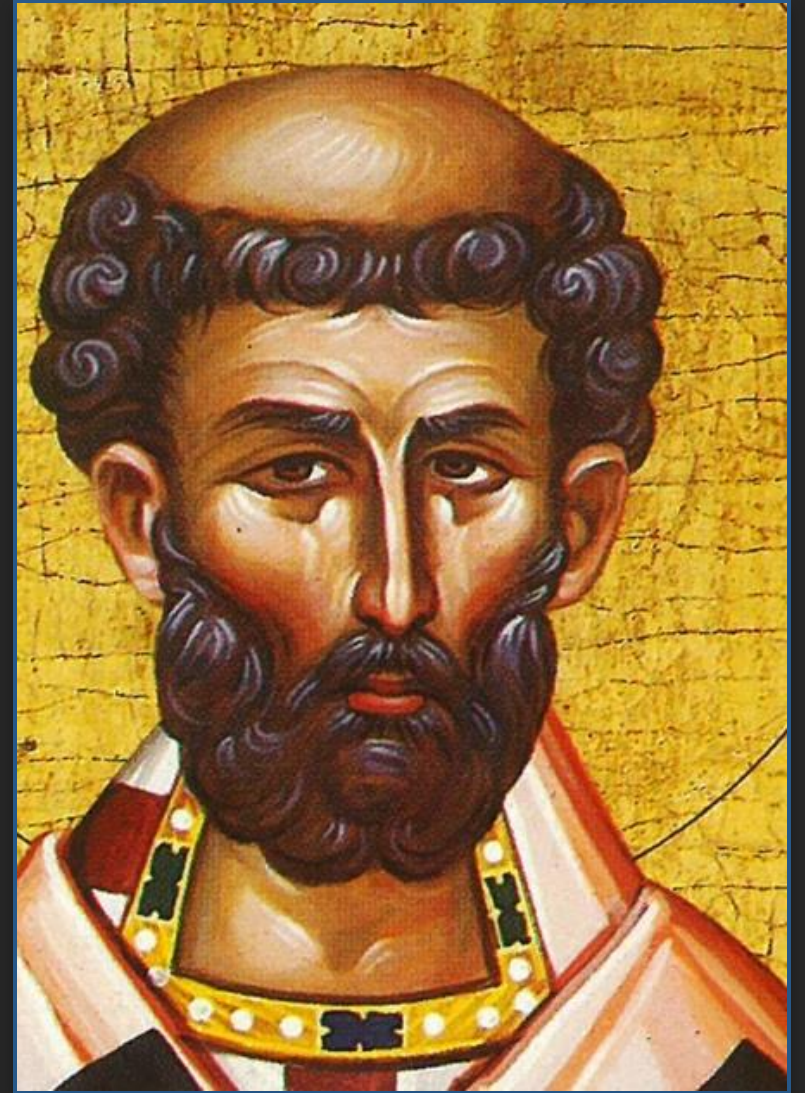
Augustine's Doctrine

- He helped organize and explain several biblical truths and concepts:
 - The Doctrine of the Trinity
 - The Doctrine of Original Sin
 - The Doctrine of Salvation (Predestination)



Augustine's Books

- On the Trinity
- Confessions
- The City of God



Augustine and the City of God

I. The City of Man: Unbelievers (Psalm 1:1; 4–6b)

- A. Unbelievers follow the advice of the wicked (v. 1)
- B. Unbelievers follow the sins patterns of the wicked (v. 1)
- C. Unbelievers associate with the resources of the wicked (v. 1)
- D. Unbelievers perish when God judges the wicked (v. 4–6)

Augustine and the City of God

- I. The City of Man: Unbelievers (Psalm 1:1; 4–6b)
- II. The City of God: Believers (Psalm 1:2–3; 6a)
 - A. Believers delight in the Word of God (v. 2)
 - B. Believers meditate on the Word of God (v. 2)
 - C. Believers produce fruit consistent with the Word of God (v. 3)
 - D. Believers have an intimate relationship with God (v. 6)

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The Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility of Scripture

I. The Necessity of Scripture

A. A Definition of Necessity



James Renihan, *To the Judicious and Partial Reader*

“True theology is erected on the Word of God. It rests on exegesis, collates the results of that task, and carefully articulates the results.”



1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

1. Scripture is the only rule for salvation, sanctification, and obedience to the Lord.
 - “The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience”



1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

2. God is pleased to make Himself known to all people at all times in *general* revelation.
 - “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 inexcusable; yet they are not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and His will which is necessary unto salvation.”



1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

3. God is pleased to make Himself known in *special* revelation.
- “Therefore it pleased the Lord at sundry times and in diversified manners to reveal Himself, and to declare (that) His will unto His church; and afterward 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”



1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

4. God is pleased to document *special* revelation in Scripture.
 - “to commit the same wholly unto writing; which makes the Holy Scriptures to be most necessary, those former ways of God's revealing His will unto His people being now completed.



Francis Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*

“God indeed was not bound to the Scriptures, but he has bound us to them.... The doctrine was always the same; nor has it been changed by the mode of revelation or delivery, nor by the mutations of time.”



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The Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility of Scripture

I. The Necessity of Scripture

A. A Definition of Necessity

B. The Attacks Against Necessity

i. Charismaticism—new revelation and experience





A BIBLICAL CASE FOR
CESSATIONISM

WHY THE MIRACULOUS GIFTS
OF THE SPIRIT HAVE ENDED

TOM PENNINGTON
FOREWORD BY JOHN MACARTHUR

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The Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility of Scripture

I. The Necessity of Scripture

A. A Definition of Necessity

B. The Attacks Against Necessity

- i. Charismaticism—new revelation and experience
- ii. Catholicism—the magisterium and tradition
- iii. Individualism—the modern self



Carl Trueman, *Strange New World*

“The modern self is one where authenticity is achieved by acting outwardly in accordance with one’s inward feelings.... We might even say that the very notion of ‘personal lifestyle choice’ is a symptom of a society where expressive individualism is the normative way of thinking about self and its place in the world.”



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I. The Necessity of Scripture

A. A Definition of Necessity

B. The Attacks Against Necessity

C. The Biblical Foundation for Necessity (Prov. 22:19–21;
Rom. 15:4; 2 Pet. 1:19–20; 2 Tim. 3:15)



Robert Mounce, *Commentary on Romans*

“Verse 4 contains a principle of great significance for the twentieth-century believer. Everything that was written in Scripture in days gone by was written for us. Not only did it serve the needs of its own day but it is still relevant in the modern world. Scripture is relevant because it speaks to our deepest needs.”



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Rom. 15:4; 2 Pet. 1:19–20; 2 Tim. 3:15)



John Calvin, *Commentary on 1 Peter*

“[Peter’s] object only was to teach us that the whole course of our life ought to be guided by God’s word; for otherwise we must be involved on every side in the darkness of ignorance; and the Lord does not shine on us, except when we take his word as our light.”



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Rom. 15:4; 2 Pet. 1:19–20; 2 Tim. 3:15)

D. The Categories for Necessity



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The Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility of Scripture

D. The Categories for Necessity

i. For Salvation (Jas. 1:19–22)



Augustine, *Commentary on James*

“Neither I nor any other preacher can see into your hearts ... but God is looking, for nothing can be hidden from him.... Do not deceive yourselves by coming eagerly to hear the Word and then failing to do it. If it is a good thing to hear, it is a much better thing to do. If you do not hear, you cannot do, and therefore you will build nothing. But if you hear and do not do, then what you are building will be a ruin.”



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The Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility of Scripture

D. The Categories for Necessity

- i. For Salvation (Jas. 1:19–22)
- ii. For Sanctification (John 17:17; **Heb. 5:12–14**)
 - a) The Source of Sanctification: Scripture
 - b) The Progress of Sanctification: From Infancy to Maturity



Martin Luther, *Commentary on Hebrews*

“For because of the time, they ought to have been teachers if they had been watchful and eager in the understanding of the Scriptures. Now, however, they have been sluggish and have not worked that land of promise flowing with milk and honey, that is, Holy Scripture.”



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D. The Categories for Necessity

- i. For Salvation (Jas. 1:19–22)
- ii. For Sanctification (John 17:17; **Heb. 5:12–14**)
 - a) The Source of Sanctification: Scripture
 - b) The Progress of Sanctification: From Infancy to Maturity
 - c) The Goal of Sanctification: Wisdom



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The Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility of Scripture

D. The Categories for Necessity

- i. For Salvation (Jas. 1:19–22)
- ii. For Sanctification (John 17:17; Heb. 5:12–14)
- iii. For Spiritual War (Eph. 6:13–17)



Charles Hodge, *Commentary on Ephesians*

"If Satan is really the prince of the powers of darkness, ruler and god of this world; if he is the author of physical and moral evil; the great enemy of God, of Christ and of his people, full of cunning and malice; if he is constantly seeking whom he may destroy, seducing men into sin, blinding their minds and suggesting evil and skeptical thoughts; if all this is true, then to be ignorant of it, or to deny it, or to enter on this conflict as though it were merely a struggle between the good and bad principles in our own hearts, is to rush blindfold to destruction."



Tom Pennington, *Sermons on Ephesians*

“The sword of the Spirit is the knowledgeable use of the propositions of Scripture to defend against Satan.”



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The Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility of Scripture

D. The Categories for Necessity

- i. For Salvation (Jas. 1:19–22)
- ii. For Sanctification (John 17:17; Heb. 5:12–14)
- iii. For Spiritual War (Eph. 6:13–17)
- iv. For the Mortification of Sin
 - a) To identify your sin (Rom. 7:7)
 - b) To cleanse you from your sin (1 John 1:9)
 - c) To promote your (progressive) sanctification (Eph. 4:25–32)



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D. The Categories for Necessity

- i. For Salvation (Jas. 1:19–22)
- ii. For Sanctification (John 17:17; Heb. 5:12–14)
- iii. For Spiritual War (Eph. 6:13–17)
- iv. For the Mortification of Sin
- v. For the Administration of the Church (1 Tim. 3:14–15)
- vi. For the Advancement of the Gospel (Rom. 10:11–17)



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The Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility of Scripture

I. The Necessity of Scripture

A. A Definition of Necessity

B. The Attacks Against Necessity

C. The Biblical Foundation for Necessity (Prov. 22:19–21;
Rom. 15:4; 2 Pet. 1:19–20; 2 Tim. 3:15)

D. The Categories for Necessity

E. The Arguments for Necessity



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The Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility of Scripture

E. The Arguments for Necessity

- i. The Triune God (Deut. 6:4–9)
- ii. The Prophet Teaching (Josh. 1:8; Neh. 8:1–2)
- iii. Jesus Christ (Matt. 4:1–11; Luke 4; Luke 24:27, 44–45)
- iv. The Apostles (Acts 1:20–23); 1 Tim. 5:17–18)
- v. The First-Century Church (Acts 17:11)
- vi. The Church Age



John Chrysostom

“This belief ... has ruined you, because you need it much more than they do. For those who live in the world and each day are wounded are the ones who have the most need of medicine.... The things that are contained in Scripture—do you not think they are highly necessary?”



John Calvin

“Scripture is the school of the Holy Spirit. Just as nothing is omitted that is both necessary and useful to know, so nothing is taught except what is expedient to know.”



John Gill

“[The biblical writings] related all things necessary to salvation, every thing that ought to be believed and done; and are a complete, perfect standard of faith and practice.”



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The Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility of Scripture

I. The Necessity of Scripture

II. The Relevancy of Scripture

A. A Key Definition

B. The Primary Arguments



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The Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility of Scripture

II. The Relevancy of Scripture

A. A Key Definition

B. The Primary Arguments

- i. The Character of God (1 Tim. 1:17)
- ii. The Nature of Scripture (Ps. 119:89; Isa. 40:8; Matt. 5:18; Luke 21:33)
- iii. The Duty of Church Leaders (2 Tim. 4:1–2)
- iv. The History of the Church



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I. The Necessity of Scripture

II. The Relevancy of Scripture

III. The Infallibility of Scripture



John MacArthur

“Infallibility means unable to mislead or fail in accomplishing the divinely intended purpose.”



Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (11)

“We affirm that Scripture, having been given by divine inspiration, is infallible, so that, far from misleading us, it is true and reliable in all the matters it addresses.”



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The Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility of Scripture

- I. The Necessity of Scripture
- II. The Relevancy of Scripture
- III. The Infallibility of Scripture
- IV. The Appropriation of Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility



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The Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility of Scripture

IV. The Appropriation of Necessity, Relevancy, and Infallibility

- A. In your own soul
- B. In your family
- C. In your church
- D. In your career
- E. In your community
- F. In your country



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