

Systematic Theology Pt. 6

Bibliology (E)

“Inerrancy”

Since the Bible is divine in origin, and is given by inspiration of God, it follows logically that the Bible will manifest some divine characteristics. These earmarks of the divine, set the Bible apart from all purely human books.

I. The Sanctity of the Bible

A. God is Holy

- “As an attribute of God, holiness means that He is totally set apart from all that is sinful or evil in His creation”
- Ex. 15:11 “I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy.
- Rev. 4:8 “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”

B. God’s word: The Bible is Holy

- 2 Tim. 3:15 “And that from a child...” “Holy Scriptures....”
- So it can.....
 1. Make us wise unto Salvation! 2 Tim. 3:15
 2. Sanctify us! John 17:17
 3. Sanctify the church. Eph. 5:26

II. The Authority of the Bible

“As the word of God, the Bible has divine authority.”

1. It is the final authority for faith and practice. 2 Tim. 3:16-17
2. It has authority over all human teaching and tradition. Matt. 15:1-6
3. The “Scripture is sometimes used interchangeably with God Himself. What the Bible say’s god say’s”.

So it (the Bible) speaks with His authority.”

What God Says

Genesis 12:3
Exodus 9:16
Genesis 2:24
Psalm 2:1

What God Says

Isaiah 55:3

The Bible Says

Galatians 3:8
Romans 9:17
Matthew 19:4-5
Acts 4:24-25

The Bible Says

Acts 13:34

Psalm 16:10
Psalm 2:7
Psalm 97:7
Psalm 104:4
Psalm 95:7

Acts 13:35
Hebrews 1:5
Hebrews 1:6
Hebrews 1:7
Hebrews 3:7

4. The Bible came from God's Mouth- Matt. 4:4 "...it is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

III. The Infallibility of the Bible

- The word "infallible" is not used in scripture of itself; however, other statements are used of the Bible that imply its infallibility.
- First - What does it mean?
- Answer - "Unfailingness" or "What cannot err" or "Be Broken"
- What divine authority cannot be broken? See John 10:34-35 "The Scripture cannot be broken."
- The Bible is indestructible.
- Isa. 40:8 - "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."
- Ps. 119:89 - "Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens."

History is a testimony to the Bible's durability. It has been banned, burned, and banished, but it continues to stand!

IV. The Inerrancy of the Bible

1. The Meaning of Inerrancy

- The Bible is "without error," "wholly true".
- *"By this word we mean that the Scriptures possess the quality of freedom from error. They are exempt from the liability to mistake, incapable of error. In all their teachings they are in perfect accord with the truth."* -E.J. Young

- *"The terms inspiration, infallibility, and inerrancy are all related. Inspiration means "breathed out by God," "what comes from God Himself" (see 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Infallibility means "what has divine authority," "what cannot be broken" (John 10:34-35). Inerrancy means "what is without error," "wholly true." What is inspired is infallible, since inspired means to be breathed out by God, and what is*

God-breathed cannot be in error. Likewise, what is infallible, since it has divine authority, must also be inerrant- a divinely authoritative error is a contradiction in terms.” -Norman Geisler

2. The Biblical Basis for Inerrancy

“As the Bible is firmly rooted in the God whose Word it is; each member of the Trinity is involved in its inerrancy. Thus, three arguments can be stated, one in terms of each member of the Godhead. That the Bible is without error is clear from these three arguments.” -Norman Geisler

A. The Argument From God the Father

The logic is simple and irrefutable:

1. God cannot err.
2. The Bible is the Word of God.
3. Hence, the Bible cannot err.

Hebrews declares emphatically: “God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged” (Heb. 6:18). Paul spoke of “a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time” (Titus 1:2). Romans asserts: “Let God be true, and every man a liar” (John 17:17). And the psalmist declared to God: “All your words are true” (Ps. 119:160). If God cannot err and the Bible is the Word of God, then it follows necessarily that the Bible cannot err.

B. The Argument From God the Son

The argument from the divine authority of Christ is powerful. Basically, it is this: If Jesus is the Son of God, then the Bible is the Word of God (which cannot err). Hence, to deny the Bible is the Word of God is to deny that Jesus is the Son of God. The Scriptures teach that Jesus is the Son of God (Matt. 16:16-17; Mark 14:61-62; John 1:1; 8:58; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:8). Therefore, the Bible is the Word of God, which cannot err.

C. The Argument From God the Holy Spirit

The third person of the Trinity is called “the Spirit of truth” (John 16:13), who cannot err (cf. 1 John 4:6).

1. He who is the Source of truth cannot be in error.
2. The Bible is an utterance of the Spirit of truth.
3. Therefore, the Bible cannot be in error.

The authors of Scripture were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21), and they uttered God-breathed writings (2 Tim. 3:16) that are said to have come “from the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4). Remember what David said: “The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue” (2 Sam. 23:2). But if this is the case, then the Bible can no more utter an untruth than can the Spirit of truth Himself.

3. The Importance of Inerrancy

“How important is this doctrine then? If it is biblical teaching, then to deny it is to deny part of the truthfulness of the Bible. But consider this: If the Bible contains some errors, however few or many, how can one be sure that his understanding of Christ is correct? Perhaps one of those errors concerns something about the life of Christ. It would not be impossible that there might be an error about the crucial matter of His death and resurrection. What then would happen to one’s Christology? It would be changed, perhaps even so drastically that there would be no Christian faith to embrace.” -Charles C. Ryrie