

Practical Theology – Lesson 6 – “Scripture”

“The Nature of the Word of God”

Overview

- The Nature of The Word of God
 - The Bible and the Believer
- Inspiration, Inerrancy, Authority, and Timeliness
- Natural/Literal Interpretation
 - Questions of church authority, open/closed canon
- Original Authorship, Manuscripts, Canon
 - Original Languages and Modern English Translations

The Nature of the Word of God

- Hebrews 4:12 Living God, Living Word – Prayerful Reading
- II John 2:27 Discernment by the indwelling Spirit (Careful with this verse: Understood context is knowledge from the Scriptures, II John is one of the very last Books written, ~ 90 AD).

NWBC Statement of Faith

Old and New Testaments

Old Testament Application: Not under previous dispensations, but knowledge of God, history of God and man, perspective, promises, prophecies, proverbs, praises

New Testament Application: From Acts 2 forward, by context but almost universally, directly applies to the Church, to this very day

Verbally Inspired = actual words, not just ideas, does not mean verbal dictation, sometime ‘plenary’ is included = all, the whole body of. It means the Bible is the Word of God, not of Man.

II Timothy 3:16-17 (14-17)

Final authority for Faith and Life = No other means of salvation or rule for life

Inerrant in the Original Writings: It means we accept that our modern translations are imperfect, however, we have very strong confidence in the Scriptures we have today.

It should be noted for both the Old and New Testaments that none of the original writings are available, and there is in every case gaps of hundreds of years between the originals and the earliest copies available to us today. (Example of manuscript-based conflict: 2 Chronicles 36:9 v 2 Kings 24:8) Most MSS have 8 (years) in Chronicles, Alexandrian MSS has 18, same as in 2 Kings)

Infallible and God Breathed – Living Word – not just inspired in authorship, but ‘illuminated’ by the Holy Spirit to the believer, Infallible as real-time communication from God (Holy Spirit).

II Peter 1:20-21 (19-21) – No private interpretation – Scripture has distinct meaning, personalized application, but not personalized meaning.

John 16:12-15 – Jesus promises understanding by the guidance of the (then future coming of) Holy Spirit – this passage reflects directly in:

I Corinthians 2:10-13 (7-13) Question of context – Paul and apostles only or all believers? Vs 14-16 clarify that this applies to all believers.