

# Theology 101

## The Bible

In this new series we will take an introductory look at the fundamental doctrines of the Bible. To begin, we will study the basis for doctrine: the Bible.

### Preliminary:

- A. Theology is the study of, and expression of, truth as revealed by God in His word.
  - B. Doctrine is a practical expression of theology.
    - A. Illustration: Theology : Doctrine = Math : Pythagorean Theorem
  - C. It is important that we know what we believe! (Ephesians 4:14, I Timothy 1:3-7)
  - D. Theology is practical!
- I. The Bible is the Basis of Belief
    - A. We, as Baptists, hold that the Bible is the sole authority for faith and practice. That is, the Bible is the very basis upon which our faith rests.
    - B. The Bible, then, must be the source for all truth and all doctrine.
    - C. Other sources (personal experiences, logic, tradition, etc.) are fallible and cannot be the basis for our faith.
  - II. The Bible as Revelation
    - A. No, not just the last book of the Bible.
    - B. The Bible is how God has chosen to *reveal* Himself and His Will to His people.
      - 1. God reveals that which He wants us to know - Deuteronomy 29:29
      - 2. Truth is revealed by God according to His purpose - Romans 16:25-26
      - 3. God has revealed Himself, through prophets and His Son - Hebrews 1:1-2
  - III. The Inspiration of the Bible
    - A. II Timothy 3:16-17 - *inspiration* is literally “God-Breathed”
      - 1. That is, all Scripture is breathed, or spoken, by God
      - 2. The other times God breathed:
        - a) When He gave life to Adam - Genesis 2:7
        - b) When Christ imparted the Holy Ghost - John 20:22
    - B. L. Gaussen defined inspiration as “that inexplicable power which the divine Spirit put forth of old on the authors of Holy Scripture, in order to their guidance even in the employment of the words they used, and to preserve them alike from all error and from all omission.”
    - C. Plenary Inspiration
      - 1. Means the Bible is fully, 100% inspired.
    - D. Verbal Inspiration
      - 1. Means that every single word is inspired
      - 2. Deuteronomy 8:3, Psalm 12:6, Proverbs 30:5, Matthew 4:4
    - E. Inspiration in action
      - 1. II Peter 1:21

2. Here we have the Holy Spirit moving, guiding men on what to say or write.
3. This is how the Bible was transferred from God to man.
4. Not to mention the hundreds of times we see “Thus saith the Lord”, etc.

#### IV. Preservation of the Bible

- A. Not only did God reveal Himself through the inspired Word, He also had made sure to preserve it.
  1. God promised that His Word would last forever - Psalm 119:89, 152, 160.
  2. God promised that His Word would be incorruptible - I Peter 1:23-25
  3. God promised that His Word would stand, unchanging, immovable - Isaiah 40:8
- B. The Bible we have is the Bible God wanted us to have
  1. I don't believe God only inspired the “original manuscripts” and then the inspiration deteriorated through errors copying or translating throughout the ages.
  2. God has moved in amazing ways to keep His Word safe and pure throughout the ages.
  3. The Bible does not just contain the Word of God - it IS the Word of God!
- C. What about all these different English translations?
  1. I personally hold to the position that God preserved His Word through the Masoretic Text of the Old Testament and the *Textus Receptus* of the New Testament.
  2. I personally hold to the position that God's preserved Word for the English-speaking world is the King James Version.
  3. Other versions are riddled with errors and omissions, and they fail to compare to the majesty of the KJV's translation.
    - a) By the way, my challenge for publishers of these new translations is that they make their work public domain. They won't because they make too much money selling each new version or revision. Money is their ultimate goal, not a better Bible.
    - b) Also, take a look at *who* did the translating. Too many of them work to propagate their own agendas and positions through the translation work.

#### V. Practical Applications

- A. If we claim to love God then we should also love His Book!
- B. Read it! (I Timothy 4:13)
- C. Study it! (Acts 17:11, II Timothy 2:15)
- D. Memorize it! (Psalm 119:11)