

BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Bibliology I

Inspiration, Authority, Inerrancy

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Inspiration of Scripture

Preparation of the Biblical Writers

- ✓ Characteristics of all people
- ✓ Relational, linguistic beings
- ✓ Unique perspectives prepared by divine providence
- ✓ Had a personal perspective: time, place, education, etc.
- ✓ Human author's research/writing supernaturally supervised (e.g., Luke 1:1-4)

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Inspiration of Scripture

Superintendence of the Biblical Writers

- ✓ 2 Peter 1:19–21
- ✓ Primacy of the prophetic word
- ✓ Origin of Scripture = Holy Spirit
- ✓ “Carried along by the Holy Spirit” = to bear or carry

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Inspiration of Scripture

Inspiration of the Documents

- ✓ “God Superintended the human authors of the Bible so that they composed and recorded without error His message to mankind in the words of their original writings” (C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 81).
- ✓ Verbal plenary inspiration—all the words together are inspired.

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Inspiration of Scripture

Inspiration of the Documents

- ✓ Meaning of Inspiration—2 Timothy 3:16, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”
- ✓ “Scripture” (*graphē*, γραφή)—Old Testament as a whole plus the coming New Testament
- ✓ *graphē*, γραφή = “writing”, not the writers.

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Inspiration of Scripture

Inspiration of the Documents

- ✓ “Breathed out” or “Inspired”
theopneustos (θεόπνευστος) = “God-breathed”
- ✓ The product of the breath of God (e.g., Gen 2:7 and Job 33:4)

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Inspiration of Scripture

Biblical Theme of Inspiration—Old Testament

- ✓ Direct speech from God (Exod 20:14; Gen 12:1–3; Exod 3:1–4:23)
- ✓ Prophetic Speech (God’s words spoken by human beings; e.g., 1 Kings 20:13; 2 Sam 12:1ff)
- ✓ Written words from God (Exod 17:14; Jer 30:2; Dan 12:4)

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Inspiration of Scripture

NT Perspectives on OT

- ✓ OT writings thought of as God’s speech (Matt 1:22)
- ✓ Individual words and letters of OT relied upon (Matt 22:44–45)
- ✓ Minor details from OT prophecies seen to be fulfilled in Christ (Matt 2:5 from Micah 5:2—Bethlehem)
- ✓ All the OT said to worthy of belief (Luke 24:25)
- ✓ NT use of OT always honors the the OT context (i.e. it never redefines it)

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Inspiration of Scripture

NT as words of God

- ✓ Direct speech from God—baptism of Christ, transfiguration, conversion of Saul (Acts 9), Peter's vision (Acts 10)
- ✓ NT records God's speech through Christ and the apostles

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Inspiration of Scripture

The Bible's claims are the greatest authority of inspiration

- ✓ Extra-biblical evidence has value but cannot ultimately "prove" the Bible true by empirical standards (Heb 11:6; but Acts 1:3; John 10:37–38)
- ✓ The Bible is the ultimate authority about itself—"The Bible is true because it says that it is."
 - ❖ Circular reasoning?

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Inspiration of Scripture

"It should be noted that there are certain special cases where circular reasoning is unavoidable and not necessarily fallacious ... There are some situations where the conclusion of an argument must be assumed at the outset by anyone participating in the debate. Here is an example: 1. Without laws of logic, we could not make a valid argument. 2. We can make a valid argument. 3. Therefore, there must be laws of logic. This argument is perfectly reasonable, and valid, but it is subtly circular ... we have tacitly assumed what we are trying to prove. But it is absolutely unavoidable in this case ... This line of reasoning turns out to be the most powerful argument for the biblical worldview, since all non-biblical circles of knowledge are ultimately arbitrary and inconsistent."

Dr. Jason Lisle, *Discerning Truth*, 27

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Inspiration of Scripture

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 - ❖ Circular reasoning?
- ✓ The Holy Spirit is the ultimate witness to the inspiration of Scripture

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Authority of Scripture

- ✓ If God is all-powerful and all-knowing, then all that He says is authoritative. If what He says is revealed in Scripture, then Scripture is authoritative.
- ✓ Objective vs. Subjective authority
 - ❖ Subj = acceptance by community of faith
 - ❖ Obj = authoritative without my acceptance
- ✓ The Holy Spirit reaffirms the authority of Scripture (internal testimony; 1 Cor 2:4–14; 1 Thess 1:5)

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Authority of Scripture

Objective Authority of Scripture Confirmed

- ✓ Historical
- ✓ Rational
- ✓ Intertextual

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Authority of Scripture

Subjective Authority of Scripture Reaffirmed

- ✓ 2 Corinthians 2:4-14
 - ❖ Theme: Spirit's Power for Belief
 - ❖ Context: Apostles = "We"; Corinthians = "You"
 - ❖ Spirit persuades through the Word (2:4)
 - ❖ Faith rests on God's power (not man's; 2:5)
 - ❖ Spirit gives Scripture's content (2:10)
 - ❖ No one can believe the Scripture without the Spirit (2:14; 1 Thess 1:5)

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Authority of Scripture

Implications for Objective Authority

- ✓ Be hearers of the Word
- ✓ Be doers of the Word (James 1)
- ✓ Scripture is the referee, the divine umpire on all matters
- ✓ Only the biblical gospel is authoritative and powerful (Rom 1:16)
- ✓ The wishes of the Head of the Church are expressed in Scripture
- ✓ The local church is compelled to examine its own functioning in light of Scripture.

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Inerrancy of Scripture

- ✓ Broad Definitions
 - ❖ Inerrant = without error
 - ❖ Infallible = cannot fail
- ✓ Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy, (1978) XI: "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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Inerrancy of Scripture

- ✓ Inerrancy Further Defined
 - ❖ “The inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.” (Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 90)

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Inerrancy of Scripture

Biblical Basis for Inerrancy

- ✓ The Bible’s teaching on inspiration (2 Tim 3:16)
- ✓ The Bible’s teaching concerning its own authority (Matt 5:17–18)
- ✓ Scripture’s use of Scripture
 - ❖ Whole arguments on one word (“Lord” in Matt 22:43–44)
 - ❖ Tense of a verb—“I AM” to demonstrate resurrection (Matt 22:32)

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Inerrancy of Scripture

Biblical Basis for Inerrancy

- ✓ The Bible’s teaching concerning the character of God
 - ❖ God cannot lie (Titus 1:2)
 - ❖ God is truth (John 14:6)
 - ❖ God’s Word is said to be truth (John 17:17)
 - ❖ “Thus says the Lord” brings an atmosphere that assumes inerrancy
 - ❖ No demonstrated errors in Scripture

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Inerrancy of Scripture

Other Issues Related to Inerrancy

- ✓ Applies to all parts of Scripture as originally written
- ✓ Derived inspiration of copies
- ✓ Doesn't mean everyday speech cannot be used
- ✓ Free quotations do not imply error
- ✓ Doesn't guarantee an exhaustive account of any single account or episode
- ✓ Understand the author's rationale.
- ✓ Don't place a standard on Scripture that you don't even hold to.
