

Why the Bible is Trustworthy, Unique and Enough – Class #4

Adult Equipping – Oct. 3rd, 2021

Class Introduction

- Goal: The goal of this class is to demonstrate that the Scriptures are *trustworthy, unique* and *enough* so that followers of Christ will eagerly engage God's Word in humility and sincerity.

Psalm 119 Reading and Prayerful Reflection

- Ps. 119:37-44

Trustworthy: Purity – Are the Scriptures credible and free of error?

Q: If it were possible, how might the Scriptures have been corrupted?

Definitions

Truth

Inerrancy

"Inerrancy means that when all the facts are known, the Scriptures in their original autographs and properly interpreted will be shown to be wholly true in everything that they affirm, whether that has to do with doctrine of morality or with the social, physical or life sciences." (Paul Feinberg)

Infallibility

Review

- How do the last two classes on Scripture's authority and inspiration intersect with the idea that the Bible is inerrant or infallible?

Transmission & Preservation of God's Word (Textual Credibility)

- "The fidelity of the New Testament text depends upon the multiplicity of manuscripts, whereas in the Old Testament the accuracy of the text results from the ability and reliability of the scribes who transmitted it." (Norman Geisler, *A General Introduction to the Bible*)

Old Testament

New Testament

Scriptural Support for Inerrancy

OT: Ps. 12:6, 19:7-9, 119:137-138, 140, 142, 151, 160; Prov. 30:5-6

NT: Mt. 22:29-32; Jn. 17:15-17; Lk. 11:29-32; Jn. 21:24, 1 Jn. 1:1-2; 2 Ptr. 1:16-20; Jms. 1:18

Exercises & Questions for Reflection:

1. *Use a few different translations when reading the Bible this week. What do you notice? Is the meaning similar even though the words might be different? Consider reading the Preface/Intro to your translation of Scripture.*
2. *Pick one of the following assumed discrepancies of the Bible and research it. Where is the conflict? What type of standard is being used to determine that it's a challenge to inerrancy? Is that standard reasonable? Why or why not?*
 - a. *David's Census: 2 Sam. 24:1-9 / 1 Chron. 21:1-5*
 - b. *Details of Peter's denial: Mt. 26:34, 74-75; Mk. 14:30, 72; Lk. 22:34, 60-61; Jn. 13:38, 18:27*
 - c. *Who is Matthew quoting? Mt. 27:9-10*
 - d. *Matthew's "out of context" quotation of Hosea: Mt. 2:14-15*
3. *What do evangelicals mean when they say the Bible is without error? How does inerrancy square with the truth that the Bible is genuinely written by humans in a certain historical and cultural context?*