

Doctrines 101

Lesson 1

Bibliology

PART I EXPLANATION

Introduction: The early Christians were known as ‘people of The Book’. The word Bible means book. Though the Bible is one Book, it is also a combination of 66 individual books divided into two distinct parts, the Old and New Testaments. The books of the Bible are not arranged into a strictly chronological order; they are grouped according to chronology, style, and content. There are twelve major groups in the Bible; six in the Old Testament and six in the New Testament. The six divisions in the OT are: Law, History (pre-captivity), History (post captivity), Poetry and Wisdom, Major Prophets, and Minor Prophets. The six divisions in the NT are: Gospels, History, Church Epistles, Pastoral Epistles, General Epistles, and the Apocalypse.

The Bible is called the ‘Holy Bible’ because it is a holy and separate book unlike any other. The Bible is God’s revelation of Himself to man. He has given to mankind the Creation of the world to declare His glory and Godhead but He has given special revelation, through the written Word, to reveal His great plan of redemption. Without this special revelation man would be left ignorant of the way of salvation, for faith comes by hearing the word of God.

In order to preserve this revelation, God inspired holy men to write it. Divine revelation is severely cheapened if the transmission of it contains errors. The work of inspiration is nothing short of miraculous. Though the writers of Scripture were “holy men of God,” they were still men. The Bible teaching of inspiration is that they were men moved by the Holy Ghost and that their words were “God-breathed.” Though God superintended over their writing to ensure that it was without error; He at the same time allowed their personality, background, and writing style to be retained.

Just as inspiration infallibly records the revelation of God; the words of Scripture have also been preserved for us today despite the constant attack of the Devil creating skepticism regarding their authenticity and accuracy. However, God has promised to divinely preserve His Word. Without this divine preservation, divine revelation and inspiration would be a waste. The Old Testament Scriptures have been preserved by the priesthood for generations, and are known as the Hebrew Masoretic Text (named after the Masorite priests). The New Testament Scriptures have been preserved by the church for two thousand years in manuscript or handwritten copies of the Greek originals. In addition to preserving the Scriptures He has also allowed them to be translated into multiple languages. God has providentially allowed these texts to be faithfully translated for us from Hebrew and Greek into the English language; allowing us to understand and study His Word.

Because the Scriptures are God’s revelation, inspired, preserved, and translated for us, they are authoritative to teach us what we are to believe concerning God and what duty He requires of us. While it is important to understand and value the process by which we have received the Scriptures, it is expedient to study the Scriptures themselves. We have been given this one book as our ‘sole authority for faith and practice’. We should be known as people who order their lives according to this infallible standard. There is a great hunger in the world today for the absolute truth of God’s Word and we should be living lights that practice its truths.

Definitions: *For English use the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong’s Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong’s number is in parenthesis.*

English: **Bible** –

Scripture -

Inspired -

Infallible -

Translation -

Greek: (4487) **rhema** *hray'-mah* -

(3056) **logos** *log'-os* -

(1124) **graphe** *graf-ay'* -

(2315) **theopneustos** *theh-op'-nyoo-stos* -

Hebrew: (1697) **dabar** *daw-bawr'* -

(3791) **kathab** *kaw-thawb'* -

Quotation:

“The Scripture is the library of the Holy Ghost; it is a pandect of divine knowledge, and exact model and platform of religion. The Scripture contains in it the credenda, “the things which we are to believe,” and the agenda, “the things which we are to practice.” Thomas Watson

“Our glass, to dress by (James 1); as our rule to walk and work by (Gal. 6:16); as our water, to wash us (Ps. 119:9); as our fire to warm us (Luke 24); as our food to nourish us (Job 23:12); as our sword to fight with (Eph. 6); as our counsellor, in all our doubts (Ps. 119:24); as our cordial, to comfort us; as our heritage, to enrich us.” Philip Henry

“We hold that neither man nor angel is any wise to add or detract any thing, to change or to alter any thing from that which the Lord hath set down in His Word.” John Penry

“The two testaments are the two lips by which God hath spoken to us.” Thomas Watson

“Bless God for the translation of the Scriptures. The Word is our sword; by being translated, the sword is drawn out of its scabbard.” William Gurnall

“As the title set over the head of Christ crucified, was the same in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, so are the Scriptures the same, whether in the original, or other language into which they are fully translated.” John Robinson

“Compare Scripture with Scripture. False doctrines, like false witnesses agree not among themselves.” William Gurnall

“You defend the Bible like you do a lion; by turning it loose.” Spurgeon

Confessions (Look up and read these articles)

New Hampshire Baptist Confession of Faith of 1833

Article I Inspiration of the Scriptures

London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689

Chapter 1 Of the Holy Scriptures - paragraphs 1-10

Spurgeon’s Catechism

Questions: 2-3, 40-41

PART II EXPLORATION

Key Questions (*Answer in writing*)

1. What is the major division of the Scriptures?
2. How are the books of the Bible arranged?
3. What is the original language that each testament is written in?
4. Why is divine revelation necessary?
5. How did God miraculously preserve His revelation?
6. Explain how revelation and inspiration would be a waste without preservation.
7. How did God preserve the OT Scriptures?

8. How did God preserve the NT Scriptures?

9. How does translation affect our understanding of the Scriptures?

10. Why are the Scriptures authoritative?

Key Scriptures: (*Look up these verses and fill in the blanks*)

Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is _____

Matthew 4:4 Jesus taught us that we cannot survive alone on physical food but that we needed to feed on _____
_____ that comes from the _____ of God.

Mark 7:13 The danger of religious traditions is that they serve to make the word of God of no
_____ in our lives.

John 10:35 We can depend upon the word of God in our lives because the Scriptures cannot be
_____.

Acts 13:5 The word of God is intended to be _____.

Acts 20:32 When Paul left a church he would never see again he _____ them to God and to the _____
_____ of His _____ which he knew was able to
_____ them up and was able to give them an _____.

Romans 10:17 _____ in Christ for salvation comes from _____ the word of God preached.

II Corinthians 4:2 Paul emphasized the importance of being a faithful minister or servant of God and renounced and
warned against handling the word of God _____.

II Corinthians 5:19 In God's great work of reconciling the world to Himself He has engaged us as His ambassadors
and gave us the _____ of _____.

Ephesians 6:17 The word of God is our weapon in the spiritual warfare and is called the
_____ of the _____.

I Thessalonians 2:13 In order to receive the word of God properly you must realize that it is not the word of _____
but the word of _____.

II Timothy 2:9 Even though Paul was thrown into prison and was unable to preach publicly, he realized that the word
of God was not and could not be _____.

II Timothy 2:15 We are expected to _____ God's word in order that we may be

_____ as a workman of God and to prevent being _____ of handling the word of God improperly and not _____ or interpreting it.

Titus 1:3 God has chose to reveal His word through _____ .

Hebrews 4:12 God's word is _____ or alive and _____ and is able like a sharp knife to cut through our flesh and to discern the _____ and _____ of our hearts.

I Peter 1:23-25 The word of God is compared to an _____ that lives and abides forever. The word of the Lord _____ for ever.

I John 2:14 Someone who is spiritually _____ is described as having the word of God abiding in them.

Revelation 6:9 Many souls in the past and many in the future will be _____ for their belief and obedience to the word of God.

Revelation 19:13 When Jesus returns to this earth He will be called the _____ of God.

Key Chapter(s) (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

Psalm 119

PART III EXPECTATION

Memory verse: II Timothy 3:16

Personal definition: (*Write a definition in your own words*)

Scripture –

Personal Confession: (*Study the confessions and summarize them in your own words*)

The Bible

Meditation question: (*be prepared for discussion*)

How do you determine the proper English translation of the Bible to use?

Extra Credit:

Memorize the books of the Bible (if you already have them memorized, memorize the divisions)