

## **Doctrines 101**

### **Lesson 1 The Bible - Bibliology**

#### **PART I EXPLANATION**

**Introduction:** The early Christians were known as ‘people of The Book’. The word Bible means book. That is why it is called the ‘Holy Bible’ because it is a holy and separate book unlike any other book. We have been given this one book as our ‘sole authority for faith and practice’. The desire for the Christian and a church ought to be to have their lives in conformity to the written word of God. We should be known as people who order their lives according to an infallible standard. There is a great hunger in the world today for absolute truth. There is no absolute truth apart from God and especially His revealed Word. This is the only absolute from which to base our lives upon.

Though the Bible is only one Book, it is also a combination of 66 individual books. These 66 books are divided into two distinct parts, the Old and New Testaments. Another word for Testament is Covenant, and you could call them the Old and New Covenants. It is significant, that this is the major division of the Bible. It is essential to a right understanding of the scriptures to recognize, understand, and appreciate this division.

There are other divisions of the Bible that may not be so clearly recognizable. The 66 books of the Bible are not arranged into a strictly chronological order. They are grouped according to chronology, style, and content. Because of this, it is important to understand these divisions. There are twelve major groups in the Bible; six in the Old Testament and six in the New Testament. Here are the major divisions:

#### **Old Testament**

1. **Law:** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
2. **History** (pre captivity): Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles
3. **History** (post captivity): Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
4. **Poetry and Wisdom:** Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
5. **Major Prophets:** Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
6. **Minor Prophets:** Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

#### **New Testament**

1. **Gospels:** Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
2. **History:** Acts
3. **Church Epistles:** I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians
4. **Pastoral Epistles:** I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon
5. **Hebrew Epistles:** I Peter, II Peter, I John, II John, III John, Jude
6. **Apocalyptic :** Revelation

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament was written in Greek. The Old Testament scriptures have been preserved by the priesthood for generations, and is known as the Masoretic Text (name after the

Masorite priests). The New Testament scriptures have been preserved by the church for two thousand years. Because of the obvious popularity of the scriptures, there are over five thousand copies discovered of the Greek New Testament. After comparing the copies, a single text was produced which is known as the Received Text or the Textus Receptus (which was written on the heading of the preface).

From these two texts we have translated into the English language the King James Version of the Bible. (The reason that it is called the King James Version is that the King of England paid for the cost of the entire project.) It is a fascinating history to read about the intense care that was taken to produce our English Bible. The translators themselves and the technique used to produce this translation were extremely precise to ensure its accuracy.

In the time in which we live there have been numerous attacks against the Bible as an infallible guide. Many of the attacks have been subtle, others openly blasphemous. The very first temptation in the garden of Eden from the Devil began with, "hath God said?" a direct questioning of the Word of God.

Because the Devil is not able to destroy the Word of God, his attempt has been to raise doubt about it.

The primary way in which the Devil has attacked the Word of God has been to create skepticism regarding the authenticity and accuracy of the scriptures. He has done so by uncovering spurious Greek copies of the scripture and promoting a great effort to reevaluate their authenticity. This concept is known as textual criticism. Textual criticism is a name for evaluating and comparing the texts of scripture. In itself, textual criticism is not wrong. The danger with textual criticism is when it is done by individuals without a belief in the scriptures as being God's infallible Word and when it is motivated by financial gain.

The result of textual criticism has been to develop a new Greek standard for translation known as the "Critical Text". When this happened around the turn of the twentieth century, it opened a flood gate and began a race for publishers to produce a new English translation from this text that would be widely accepted. Because the Bible is the number one selling book in the world every year, whoever is able to produce such a translation would make a tremendous profit.

At last count there were over five hundred different English translations of the Bible. All of the translations except the King James Version come from the critical text. The reason for this is that if they were to translate from the "Received Text" there wouldn't be sufficient variation to allow them to copyright their translation.

While much of the defense of the Bible has focused on attacking the different translations and their variances, the real problem has been the casting of doubt upon the inerrancy (without error) and infallibility (not capable of error) of the scriptures. After "scholars" question certain texts, it subtly casts doubt upon the authority of the scriptures. This eventually leads to people with little or no knowledge of the original languages to take liberty to engage in textual criticism.

**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**

**Q** -What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify him?

**A** - The Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments (Eph 2:20 2Ti 3:16) is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify God and enjoy him (1Jo 1:3).

**Q** - What do the Scriptures principally teach?

**A** - The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man (2Ti 1:13 Ec 12:13).

**Q** - What did God reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

**A** -The rule which God first revealed to man for his obedience is the moral law (De 10:4 Mt 19:17) which is summarised in the ten commandments.

**Q** - What is the sum of the ten commandments?

**A** - The sum of the ten commandments is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbour as ourselves (Mt 22:37-40).

## **PART II EXPLORATION**

**Key Questions** (*Answer in writing*)

1. What is the major, natural 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. What are the names of the texts used to translate the King James Bible?
5. What was the first attack the Devil made upon the Word of God?
6. What is his primary attack today?

7. What is textual criticism?
8. Where do all of the English translations except the King James Version come from?
9. Why don't they translate another English version from the "Received Text"?
10. What has the primary defense of the Bible focused upon?

**Key Scriptures:**

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 \_\_\_\_\_ meaning proclaimed and explained.

Acts 20:32 When Paul was leaving a church he would never see again he \_\_\_\_\_ them to God and to the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_ which he knew was able to \_\_\_\_\_ them up or strengthen them 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 to 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 to 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)

Look up what Dynamic Equivalency means and explain why it should or shouldn't be used in the translation of the scriptures.