

From Grace Fellowship's Statement of Faith:

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is himself the focus of divine revelation.

- Start out by reading Psalm 12:6 and Proverbs 30:5
 - *The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times. (Psalm 12:6 ESV)*
 - *Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. (Proverbs 30:5 ESV)*
- **Why do think that people want to attack the truthfulness of God's Word today?**
 - It would point out their sin. (in general- "for all have sinned", and in specific- homosexuality)
 - It claims to be absolute truth, and so other beliefs or "ways to God" would have to be wrong.
 - It makes demands. The Bible is a life changing book.
- We've talked about how the Bible is God speaking to us. What are some of the descriptive words we've used? (Authority, Clear, Sufficient, Necessary). Today we want to talk about another fun word- inerrant. And after talking briefly about that, we want to start answering the question "How do we read the Bible?"
- Inerrant- The original scriptures as they were written were without any error, or falsehood at all.
 - Why say, "as they were written"? These translations may have errors in them. Some copies may have errors in them. But the original writing must have been perfect.

- The best argument against inerrancy has to do with the fact that God used human beings to write Scripture. Have you heard the statement- to err is human? That's the idea.
 - “we reply that though it is true that a common characteristic of mankind is to err, it does not follow that men always err or that error is necessary for humanity. If such were to be the case, then it would be necessary for us to assert that Adam, before he fell, had to err or that he was not human. And we must also assert that in heaven, in a state of glorification and perfected sanctification, we must continue to err if we are to continue to be human. Not only must we ascribe such error to Adam before the fall and to glorified Christians, we would also have to apply it to the incarnate Christ. Error would be intrinsic to his 40 humanity, and it would have been necessary for Jesus to distort the truth in order to be fully human. Let us never engage in such blasphemy even though we confess the depth to which we have fallen and the high degree of the propensity that we do have to err. Even apart from inspiration, it is not necessary for a human being to err in order to be human. So if it is possible for an uninspired person to speak the truth without error, how much more will it be the case for one who is under the influence of inspiration?”

- This comes back to inspiration from last week, and having God as the author of Scripture.
 - “Therefore, the concept is that we need to have a representation of the activity of God that is in keeping with the character of God Himself. For God, in fact, any error would be a lie.” -Roger Nicole

- We will see the importance of this being God's word even more as we consider who God is, and His attributes. One thing that needs to be said now though is that the Bible teaches this about God- He never lies. In fact, He cannot lie.
 - Titus 1.2
 - Hebrews 6.18
 - 2 Samuel 7.28
 - Proverbs 30.5
 - John 17.17
 - **If we know that God cannot lie, how should that change the way we look at the Bible?** If God never lies, then every thing in this book is truth. This book is the standard of truth. If anything contradicts what is in this

book, it is a lie. I've heard of, and heard myself, too many 'christians' say something along the lines of "well, don't try and show me that in the Bible, I know what I think, and I don't care what that says." We have to see that anything that contradicts the Bible contradicts the truth.

- This does not mean that the Bible speaks about everything. But where it does speak, it is true.
- Now, some might say "Since the Bible is for faith and practice, we don't need to worry about some scientific or historical data that may be wrong." And so they are happy to say that the Bible is infallible- that is- infallible means it doesn't fail in what it sets out to do- which is train us for faith and Godliness according to 2 Tim. 3.16. But they don't want to say that the Bible is true in all that says about everything it speaks to.
 - We have to be so careful here though. Let's ask this question-
- **If we don't believe that everything in the Bible is true, what are some implications about God and what He teaches?**
 - If it is not true, and yet it says that God speaks truth and is truth, then how do we know we can trust God?
 - We make our reason and judgment a higher authority than God and His Word. We are the ones, after all, who have to make the decision about where the Bible is true and it isn't.
 - If we're to imitate God, does this allow us the freedom to lie about facts?
- *It is Infallible- and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is himself the focus of divine revelation.*
 - "for all life and godliness"
 - Salvation- we don't need anything else to learn how to be saved by God through Christ
 - James 1.18
 - We can find all we need to glorify God and enjoy Him forever in His word. To be like a tree planted by streams of living water that yields its fruit in season, we

need only the Word of God.

- That is why the Bible is our focus at church. We don't preach from any other book, or from some great thing that some great and wise man said. We focus on the book that we need, and the book that is sufficient, all by itself.
- It will **not** answer every question (ie- how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich), nor will it reveal everything we want to know (Deut. 29.29, Job, Romans 9.20), but it will answer everything we need to know about salvation, about how to live rightly in the world, about how to be satisfied and content in God, and how ultimately we are to glorify Him.
- So, why would we neglect the study of the Bible? Why would we look for some other revelation? Why would we disobey God's words to us?
 - The sufficiency of Scripture discounts something like the Book of Mormon
 - It discounts a legalistic mindset that argues that we need to prohibit things that the Bible doesn't say we must prohibit.
 - Don't add, or take away from Scripture.
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- Read from "Do You Believe?" to discuss what we do with our doctrine of Scripture.