

The Bible

I. How we got the Bible

1. Written by men as they were borne along by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:18-21; Acts 1:16; 1 Cor. 2:9-13).
2. All Scripture is “God-breathed”, inspiration KJV (2 Tim. 3:16).
3. The ‘writings’ were inspired, not the man.
4. We have the Word of God in so much as our translation represents the original text.
5. Thus, there are no contractions in Scripture.
6. Of ≈ 6,000 New Testament manuscripts, 99.9% agreement.
7. The Word ‘of’ God, ‘of’ is a genitive of quality: God’s quality of Word: not from God, contains lies; not belonging to God.
8. Everything recorded in the Bible was said/done.
 - 1) Not everything said is true (Gen. 3:4).
 - 2) Not all that is spoken is authoritative to us.
9. The Bible is God’s revelation to mankind.
 - 1) It is not all He could reveal (Heb. 5:11).
 - 2) It is all He wants revealed.

II. Interpreting what the Bible is communicating: hermeneutics

1. Objective: *the desire to ascertain what God intended to communicate, not adding or subtracting from His meaning.*
 - 1) The Word of God is progressive in nature (Acts 6;8; 12:34; 19:20). Not all the Word of God was written.
 - 2) There is one interpretation (2 Pet. 1:20).
 - 3) This means interpretations are objective, not subjective.
2. Elements of a consistent hermeneutic:
 - 1) **Literal**—what the author(s) are communicating.
 - i. Understanding figurative speech is literal.
 - ii. If the direct meaning does not make sense, it is figurative: metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole.
 - 2) **Historical**—what the word/term would mean to the reader at that time (1 Cor. 6:20).
 - 3) **Grammatical**—what the original text actually says (Acts 8:37).
 - 4) **Contextual**
 - i. Words derive their meaning by context (Phil. 2:12 *cf.* 15).
 - ii. Taken out of context you can get hung (Jn. 13:27; Mt. 27:5; Lu. 10:37).
 - 5) **Can not contradict** with any other Scripture (Is. 66:3 *cf.* 1 Tim. 4:4).