

Systematic Theology session 6
Scripture: God-Breathed, Part 4

- The infallibility and inerrancy of Scripture.
 - B. B. Warfield on inspiration, linking it with infallibility: “Inspiration is that extraordinary, supernatural influence (or passively, the result of it,) exerted by the Holy Ghost on the writers of our Sacred Books, by which their words were rendered also the words of God, and therefore, perfectly infallible.”
 - *Inerrancy*: The Bible is completely truthful and accurate in every respect about all it affirms.
 - *Infallibility*: The Bible is completely trustworthy as a guide to salvation and the life of faith and will not fail to accomplish its purpose.
 - The Bible is incapable of teaching falsehood or error in anything that it affirms.
 - The Scriptures are internally consistent; the Bible does not contradict itself.
 - Those who deny inerrancy come from a position of unbelief, because the natural person does not, and cannot understand the things of God. The things of God are foolishness to the natural person.
 - The error of thinking the Bible inerrant on spiritual matters, but not historical matters.
 - The matters of salvation are tied to historical events in the Bible.
 - The Scriptural accounts of historical events are true.
 - The rejection of inerrancy by society because people have pet sins that Scripture condemns.
 - Inerrancy must not be pushed beyond what we demand of language, where inerrancy is rejected because Scripture uses figures of speech. People sometimes stumble over the doctrine of infallibility because they don't recognize figures of speech when they see them.
- The authority of the Scriptures.
 - The authority of the Scriptures does not come from any human or church; the Scriptures carry their own authority.
 - Any creeds or confessions that churches hold to only have derivative authority, and only as they are accurate summaries of Scripture.
 - The Roman Catholic Church's claim that their church, or tradition, is a second source of infallible authority, is false.
- The perspicuity of Scripture.
 - “Perspicuity” means clear or transparent; the opposite of opaque.
 - Perspicuity is an attribute of Scripture. Hermeneutics would be pointless if Scripture were deliberately opaque.
 - What perspicuity *IS*: Scripture has sufficient clarity that it can, and should, be profitably studied and applied by every believer. This does not require the mediation of priests, an infallible church, or infallible unwritten tradition.
 - What perspicuity *IS NOT*: It is not a denial that some passages are more difficult than others. It is not a denial that there are mysteries that we will not fully understand. It is not a denial that we need to do the work of studying and interpreting Scripture. It does not mean that teachers in the church are unnecessary, or that we have nothing to learn from those who have gone before us. It does not mean that the unsaved will automatically understand and accept what Scripture has to say.
- The illumination of Scripture by the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to what is spiritual, enabling us to understand, believe, and benefit from what the Bible reveals.