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hp||rc. HAI ā/

pantej I logoi qeou/
pepurwmenoi

omnis sermo Dei
ignitus

Every word of
God proves true

The Doctrine of Scripture

“Whether we are aware of it or not there is no more crucial issue affecting the lives of our Evangelical churches today than the doctrine of Scripture. What do we believe about this book we call the Bible? An even more searching question is, ‘What do our *practices* in our churches reveal about what we *actually* believe about the Bible?’”

Pastor Dan Caffese



Sunday Mornings 10:45 am

The Perfections and Blessing of Scripture

Pastor Dan Caffese

- November 8 Does God Speak? Has He communicated with us?
- November 15 Authority and Inspiration
He who has ears to hear let him hear!
- November 29 The Clarity of Scripture
Can we understand what He has said?
- December 6 The Necessity of Scripture
Do we need what He has said?
- December 13 The Sufficiency of Scripture
Has God left out things we need to know?
- December 27 Scripture Alone
Is the Bible Volume 1 of a series?
- January 3 The Necessity of All Scripture
Is it o’k to ignore some Scripture?
- January 10 Our Practice Shows What We Actually Believe - part 1
- January 17 The Way Ahead
The Word and Spirit





Sunday Evenings 6:00 pm

Why You Can Trust Your Bible

Pastor John Tock

- October 25 The Canon of Scripture
- November 8 The Formation of the Old Testament Canon
- November 22 The Formation of the New Testament Canon
- January 24 Related Canon Issues: Apocrypha, "Lost Books," Dead Sea Scrolls
- January 31 The Closure of the Canon
- February 14 Higher Criticism of the Canon and Text of Scripture
- February 21 The History of the Bible in English
- February 28 The Transmission and Preservation of the Scripture
- March 14 The Translation of the Scripture

Question and answer session
with all evening messages



Dan Caffese was born in 1954 in Stockton, California and raised in a rural farm setting. He graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in 1976 with a BS in Electrical Engineering. He was converted to Christ in his early twenties. He worked in the fields of electrical and software engineering for

24 years. He pastored Emmanuel Bible Church in Tempe/Mesa from 1987 to 1997. In August of 1998 he became the interim pastor of Sovereign Grace Bible Church, Phoenix, and in May of 2000 he accepted a call to be SGBC's permanent pastor. He has been married to Carole since 1977. He also enjoys the outdoors, books on physics, and losing playing word games like Scrabble with his wife.

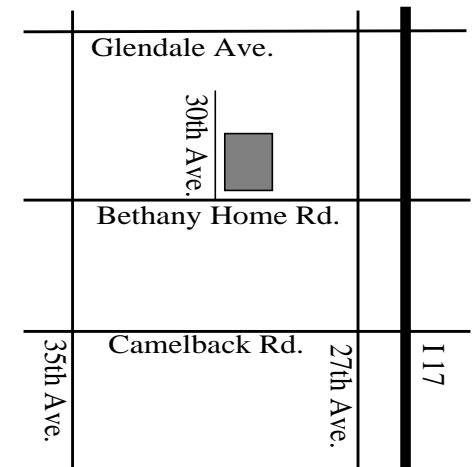


John Tock was born in Iowa and converted to Christ at age 16. He has a B.A. and a Th.B. from Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny, Iowa and a M.A. from Trinity Theological Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana. John has served as a campus missionary and a pastor for 35 years. John's wife Ann was promoted to glory in November

2006 after 36 years of marriage and five children. In July 2007 he married Allyn. They united with SGBC in January 2008. John collects turtles to remind him to be patient and persevere.



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Does God Speak? Does He Communicate With us? (1)

1. Introduction

- A. The widening inconsistency between faith and practice.
- B. What do we mean by, “The Doctrine of Scripture”?
- C. Why is this subject important? The church’s immune system.
- D. High stakes spiritual warfare

2. God has spoken - *revelation*

- A. God is capable of speaking to us, Psa. 94:7-9.
- B. God is *willing* to and has spoken to us, Heb. 1:1.
- C. God is capable of speaking to us with **clarity**.

3. God has preserved what He has spoken - *enscripturation*

The beginning and end of the process, Deut. 31:9-13 and Rev. 21:5

4. God has inspired what He has written - *inspiration*

- A. What does inspiration mean? - 2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Pet. 1:20-21
- B. The writings are the breathed out words of God.
- C. Inspiration and revelation. God’s mind on display!

5. God continues to speak to us through His written Word - *illumination*.

- A. Having God’s promises, 2 Cor. 6:17-7:1.
- B. Throughout Scripture when God talks about Himself, His plans, His will, us, He is revealing Himself to us.
- C. Illumination distinct from inspiration, Ps. 119:125, Lk. 24:45

6. God has given us hope by to speaking to us.

7. It is also a “fearful” thing that God speaks to us.

Definitions

Revelation - Those who believe in revelation believe that God is capable and willing to communicate objective truth about Himself, His world, and purposes to mankind, and that He has done so. Man, made in God’s image, is capable of knowing things *as they really are*, that is, as God knows them, but not exhaustively as God knows them. Christians believe that the highest points of God’s revelation to man are the Scriptures and His Son.

Enscripturation - The process of putting God’s words into writing, thereby preserving what He has spoken to His people throughout history. This process began at the Exodus and was completed with the writing of the book of revelation. The Canon is the result of enscripturation.

Inspiration - An act of God using words whereby His thoughts are expressed in writing. The writings (scripture) are *breathed out by God*. That is, the writings contain the very words God intended to use to express His mind to us.

Illumination - An act of the Holy Spirit enabling us to understand God’s word which he has previously written.

Inerrancy - The idea that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact. Inerrancy has to do with *truthfulness*, not with the degree of precision with which events are reported (W. Grudem).

Authority of Scripture - The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God’s words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God (W. Grudem).

Clarity - The idea that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God’s help and being willing to follow it. (W. Grudem)

The Scriptures are God's Voice, Let's Listen!(2)

1. Defining inspiration further

- A. God breathed out His words using human authors (2 Pet. 1:19-21, Ex. 4:12, Deut. 18:18-20, Jer. 1:7,9, Acts 1:16, Lk. 3:2).
- B. God breathed out His words in the common language and cultural forms of those to whom He originally spoke.
- C. The *autographs* are inspired by God.

2. Scripture records God's words therefore it is without error.

- A. What we do mean by *inerrancy*.
- B. False criteria regarding inerrancy.

3. Is it reasonable to believe that the Bible is God's inerrant word?

- A. Many arguments indicate that the Bible is an extraordinary book.
- B. The most powerful apologetic: Jesus and His resurrection (Acts 10)
- C. Jesus' "Doctrine of Scripture"
 1. The Scriptures express God's *authority* over us (Matt. 5:17-19, Jn. 10:35-36, it is written).
 2. Inspiration extends to all of the words of Scripture - *plenary inspiration* (Matt. 4:4, Prov. 30:5, Psa. 12:6).
 3. The Scriptures must be fulfilled, they will be fulfilled (Lk. 24:25-27, 44-45, 21:22, Matt. 26:54).
 4. Jesus' words are God's words (Jn. 3:34, 14:24, 17:8, Lk. 21:33).
 5. Jesus promised to inspire His apostles (John 14:26, 16:13).
- D. To not be ashamed of Jesus' words one must not to be ashamed of Jesus' "Doctrine of Scripture" (Lk. 9:26, Mk. 8:38).

4. Should I believe the Bible is God's inerrant Word to me?

- A. Yes, you are obligated to believe the Bible is God's word to you!
- B. The warnings
 1. It is foolish to reject God's speech (Jer. 8:8-9).
 2. It is rebellious to reject God's speech (1 Sam. 15:23).
 3. It is arrogant to reject God's speech (Jer. 13:15-17).
 4. It is futile to reject God's speech (Prov. 19:21).
 5. Not hearing God's voice shows your parentage (Jn. 8:47).
- C. The invitations
 1. Receiving God's loving attention (Isa. 66:1-2).
 2. Become one of Jesus' closest relatives (Lk. 8:21).
 3. To whom shall we go (Jn. 6:67-68)?

Definitions

Autographs - The original documents produced by the biblical authors. *Auto* meaning self and *graph* meaning writing referring to a document written by the author himself.

Inerrancy - The idea that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact. Inerrancy has to do with *truthfulness*, not with the degree of precision with which events are reported (W. Grudem).

Authority - The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God (W. Grudem).

Plenary inspiration - The belief that *all* the words of scripture are God's words. Plenary means full.

Clarity - The idea that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God's help and being willing to follow it. (W. Grudem)

1689 Confession, paragraph 1.8 - The Old Testament in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek (that is to say, in their original languages before translation) were inspired by God at first hand, and ever since, by His particular care and providence, they have been kept pure. They are therefore authentic and, for the church, constitute the final court of appeal in all religious controversies. All God's people have a right to, and an interest in, the Scripture, and they are commanded in the fear of God to read and search it. But as the Hebrew and Greek are not known to all such readers, Scripture is to be translated into every human language, so that as men thus acquire knowledge of God they may worship Him in an acceptable manner, and 'through patience and comfort of the Scriptures may have hope.'

Can We Understand What God Has Said? The Clarity of Scripture (3)

1. Introduction

- A. Alleged deficiencies in Scripture are often made the reason for ignoring its authority.
- B. An example of the denial of the *clarity* of Scripture

2. What is meant by “the clarity of Scripture”?

- A. The way of salvation can be plainly understood.
- B. The major story line for humanity is clear.
- C. One is to believe a doctrine because they can understand that the text of Scripture teaches the doctrine.

3. Biblical indications of the clarity of Scripture

- A. The New Testament letters were written to congregations who were expected to understand them, Phil 1:1, Rom 1:7, 15:14, Col. 4:16.
- B. Jesus expected his hearers to understand their Old Testaments, Matt. 12:3, 12:5, 22:29, 22:31, John 15:22.
- C. When God gave His word to His people it was assumed that they could adequately understand it, Deut. 6:6-7, Psalm 19:7, 119:130.
- D. The Scriptures do not sympathize with whiners, whining about a lack of clarity.

4. Sources of *our* lack of clarity

- A. Laziness and lack of interest, Deut. 6:6-7, Matt. 4:4, Psalm 1:1-2, 2 Tim. 4:2, 1 Tim. 4:13.
- B. A dislike of what God has said, 1 Cor. 2:14, 2 Cor. 4:3-4,6, John 3:19-21, 7:14-17, 2 Tim. 4:3-4.

----- To be continued in adult Sunday School -----

- C. False teachers create great confusion, 2 Pet. 3:15-16.
- D. A lust for speculation
- E. Not knowing how to read the Bible

5. The role of teachers

6. All believers will not agree on all matters

Definitions

Clarity - The idea that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God’s help and being willing to follow it. (W. Grudem)

1689 Confession paragraph 1.7 on clarity - “The contents of the Scripture vary in their degree of clarity, and some men have a better understanding of them than others. Yet those things which are essential to man’s salvation and which must be known, believed and obeyed, are so clearly propounded and explained in one place or another, that men educated or uneducated may attain to a sufficient understanding of them if they but use the ordinary means.”

On inerrancy - “We affirm that canonical Scripture should always be interpreted on the basis that it is infallible and inerrant. However, in determining what the God-taught writer is asserting in each passage, we must pay the most careful attention to its claims and character as a human production. In inspiration, God utilized the culture and conventions of His penman’s milieu, a milieu that God controls in His sovereign providence; it is misinterpretation to imagine otherwise.

So history must be treated as history, poetry as poetry, hyperbole and metaphor as hyperbole and metaphor, generalization and approximation as what they are, and so forth. Differences between literary conventions in Bible times and in ours must also be observed: since, for instance, non-chronological narration and imprecise citation were conventional and acceptable and violated no expectations in those days, we must not regard these things as faults when we find them in Bible writers. When total precision of a particular kind was not expected nor aimed at, it is no error not to have achieved it. Scripture is inerrant, not in the sense of being absolutely precise by modern standards, but in the sense of making good its claims and achieving that measure of focused truth at which its authors aimed.” - Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy

The Necessity of Scripture (4)

1. Introduction

- A. Do we *need* what God has said?
- B. Denials of the necessity of Scripture are not new.

Part 1: In order for you to be saved

2. General revelation is insufficient to lead a person to salvation.

3. Saving faith is always a response to the Word of God.

- A. No one is saved without *hearing* the gospel of Jesus Christ, Rom. 10:11-17.
- B. Only *one name* has been given whereby people must be saved, Acts 4:10-12, John 3:18.
- C. The salvation of the Gentiles is *inseparably* linked to God giving them the *light of His Word and Son*, Isa. 42:4,6, 49:5.

Part 2: In order to maintain our spiritual life individually and as a church

4. You cannot live without the Word of God.

- A. You can't live without eating, Mt. 4:4.
- B. You can't travel without light, Psa. 119:105.

5. The church cannot properly worship without God's Word.

- A. You can't worship an unknown God, Prov. 30:1-6.
- B. We must worship in Spirit and truth. God's Word is truth, John 4:24, 17:17.

6. The church cannot properly carry out its mission without God's Word.

- A. Make disciples, teaching them to observe *all things* I have commanded you, Mat. 28:18-20.
- B. Abiding in His word, power to be set free, John 8:31-32

7. The church cannot resist apostasy without God's Word.

- A. The only antidote to apostasy and belief in fables, 2 Ti. 3:16-4:5
- B. The only sword adequate for the evil day, Eph. 6:17

Our Confession of Faith

Paragraph 1.1 - The Holy Scripture is the all-sufficient, certain and infallible rule or standard of the knowledge, faith and obedience that constitute salvation. Although the light of nature, and God's works of creation and providence, give such clear testimony to His goodness, wisdom and power that men who spurn them are left inexcusable, yet they are not sufficient of themselves to give that knowledge of God and His will which is necessary for salvation. In consequence the merciful Lord from time to time and in a variety of ways has revealed Himself, and made known His will to His church. And furthermore, in order to ensure the preservation and propagation of the truth, and the establishment and comfort of the church against the corrupt nature of man and malice of Satan and the world, He caused this revelation of Himself and His will to be written down in all its fullness. And as the manner in which God formerly revealed His will has long ceased, the Holy Scripture becomes absolutely essential to men.

Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy

Article I.

WE AFFIRM that the Holy Scriptures are to be received as the authoritative Word of God.

WE DENY that the Scriptures receive their authority from the Church, tradition, or any other human source.

Article II.

WE AFFIRM that the Scriptures are the supreme written norm by which God binds the conscience, and that the authority of the Church is subordinate to that of Scripture.

WE DENY that Church creeds, councils, or declarations have authority greater than or equal to the authority of the Bible.

Has God Left Out Things We Need to Know? The Sufficiency of Scripture (5)

1. Review and Introduction

God has spoken, He has spoken clearly, we certainly need what He has said, *but, has He left out things we need to know?*

2. The Bible is able to lead you to salvation *and* equip you to do everything which pleases God for your entire life, 2 Tim. 3:15-17.

- A. Made wise for salvation by the Word of God
- B. Made complete by the Word of God
- C. Thoroughly equipped by the Word of God
- D. Thoroughly equipped for *every* good work by the Word of God

3. You can know everything you need to know to be perfect.

God has left nothing out which you need to know in order to live a blameless life before Him, Psa. 119:1 - 3.

4. A Celebration of the sufficiency of God's word

- A. Having perfection, more wisdom than enemies, more understanding than all teachers & ancients combined, Ps. 119:96-100!
- B. Light and understanding for the simple, Ps. 119:130
- C. That which restores the soul, makes the simple wise, rejoices the heart, enlightens the eyes, Ps. 19:7-8
- D. Wisdom, knowledge and understanding from the mouth of God, Pro. 2:6
- E. The truth that sets us free from sin, John 8:31-32
- F. The truth that makes us holy, John 17:17
- G. The lamp that shines in a dark place, 2 Pet. 1:19
- H. The nourishment for babes, 1 Pet. 2:2
- I. The seed that leads to spiritual life, Lk. 8:11, 1 Pet. 1:23
- J. God's fire and hammer that breaks up rocks, Jer. 23:29
- K. The most capable diagnostic of your soul, Heb. 4:12

5. Can the Scriptures thoroughly equip you to be an accountant?

- A. The Bible does not contain all knowledge
- B. An illustration

Definition Of The Sufficiency of Scripture

The sufficiency of Scripture means that Scripture contained all the words of God he intended his people to have at each stage of redemptive history, and that it now contains all the words of God we need for salvation, for trusting him perfectly, and for obeying him perfectly (Wayne Grudem).

Our Confession of Faith

Paragraph 1.4 - The Scripture is self-authenticating. Its authority does not depend upon the testimony of any man or church, but entirely upon God, its author, who is truth itself. It is to be received because it is the Word of God.

Paragraph 1.5 - The testimony of the church of God may influence and persuade us to hold the Scripture in the highest esteem. The heavenliness of its contents, the efficacy of its doctrine, the majesty of its style, the agreement between all its parts from first to last, the fact that throughout it gives all glory to God, the full revelation it gives of the only way of salvation - these, together with many other incomparably high qualities and full perfections, supply abundant evidence that it is the Word of God. At the same time, however, we recognize that our full persuasion and assurance of its infallible truth and divine authority is the outcome of the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.

Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy

Article III.

WE AFFIRM that the written Word in its entirety is revelation given by God.

WE DENY that the Bible is merely a witness to revelation, or only becomes revelation in encounter, or depends on the responses of men for its validity.

Is the Bible Volume 1 of a Series? The Scriptures Alone (6)

1. Introduction

- A. The central issue of the Protestant Reformation
- B. What do we mean by “Scripture Alone”?
- C. The sufficiency of Scripture logically infers Sola Scriptura.
- D. The Cambridge definition of Sola Scriptura

2. Biblical testimony to sola scriptura

- A. Deut. 4:2
- B. Deut. 12:29-32
- C. Prov 30:5-6
- D. Matt. 15:6
- E. Rev. 22:18-19
- F. The weighty triad defending Sola Scriptura.
 - 1. Warnings not to add to God’s word
 - 2. Declarations of the sufficiency, completeness, and perfection of God’s written word.
 - 3. How do I *know* I’m not teaching the commandments of men?

3. A long history of adding to God’s Word

- A. Clarifying what it means to *add* to God’s Word
- B. False Prophets, Jer. 23:15-17, Eze. 13:6-8
- C. Throughout the history of the church
 - 1. Roman Catholicism - oral tradition added to Scripture?
 - 2. Islam - new revelations
 - 3. Latter day prophetic voices - new revelations
 - 4. God told me to marry you! - revelatory certainty?
 - 5. There are many more to come!
- D. Is *expanding* God’s rules so we are “safer” a good idea?
- E. Misinterpretations add to and take away from God’s Word.
- F. Making Scripture answer questions it doesn’t answer.

Definition of Sola Scriptura

We reaffirm the inerrant Scripture to be the sole source of written divine revelation, which alone can bind the conscience. The Bible alone teaches all that is necessary for our salvation from sin and is the standard by which all Christian behavior must be measured. We deny that any creed, council or individual may bind a Christian’s conscience, [we deny] that the Holy Spirit speaks independently of or contrary to what is set forth in the Bible, or that personal spiritual experience can ever be a vehicle of revelation (Cambridge Declaration, April 1996, Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals).

Church Fathers on Sola Scriptura

They gather their views **from other sources** than the Scriptures; and, to use a common proverb, they strive to weave ropes of sand. Irenaeus (c. 130-c. 200)

There is, brethren, one God, the knowledge of whom we gain from the Holy Scriptures, **and from no other source**. For just as a man, if he wishes to be skilled in the wisdom of this world, will find himself unable to get at it in any other way than by mastering the dogmas of the philosophers, so all of us who wish to practice piety will be unable to learn its practice **from any other quarter** than the oracles of God. Whatever things, then, the Holy Scriptures declare, at these let us look; and whatsoever things they teach, these let us learn. Hippolytus (c.170-c. 236)

Vainly then do they run about with the pretext that they have demanded Councils for the faith’s sake; **for divine Scripture is sufficient above all things**. Athanasius (297-373)

These are fountains of salvation, that they who thirst may be satisfied with the living words they contain. **In these alone** is proclaimed the doctrine of godliness. **Let no man add to these**, neither let him take ought from these. For concerning these the Lord put to shame the Sadducees, and said, ‘Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures.’ And He reproved the Jews, saying ‘Search the Scriptures, for these are they that testify of Me.’ Athanasius

Is it o’k to ignore some Scripture? The Necessity of All Scripture (7)

1. Introduction

2. It is not o’k to ignore some Scripture because;

- A. When God enscripturates His voice He expects His people to pay attention to **all** that He has spoken.
- B. Christ exhorted His disciples *to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!*
- C. Christ taught His disciples that they were to teach others *to observe all things that I have commanded you.*
- D. Christ has told us *man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*
- E. Christ came to fulfill the law and the prophets.
- F. Christ reproved his hearers with the formulas, *have you not read and you are mistaken not knowing the Scriptures.*
- G. Christ’s apostle instructed us that *All Scripture is profitable.*

3. Reductionism - the most significant way Scripture is ignored.

- A. What is reductionism?
- B. Forming conclusions without consulting **all** God has said regarding the subject.
- C. The problem of “filling in” with our own ideas.
- D. Reductionism leads to idolatry and apostasy.

4. Additional ways we ignore Scripture.

- A. I know the will of God because....
- B. Erecting a discontinuity between the OT and NT.

5. Practical Considerations

- A. You must be familiar with all your Bible!
- B. The role of the church
- C. Do not shun or be ashamed of any portion of God’s Word!

6. Concluding remarks

- A. You need all of what God has said. And you have all of what you need!
- B. Phillip and Thomas: not grasping the sufficiency of the revelation they had been given.
- C. No one is perfect but we ought to be clear on the goals.

Our Practice Shows What We Actually Believe (8)

1. Introduction

What do our practices indicate we believe about the Bible?

2. The tools we use *are* the tools we believe in.

People resort to the tools they depend on.

3. The preaching tools we’ve chosen

- A. Do our practices demonstrate we believe in revelation?
- B. Are we going to preach our thoughts or God’s thoughts? Is it even possible to preach God’s thoughts?
- C. What would we hear if God stood behind our pulpits?!

4. The counseling tools we’ve chosen

- A. Christian psychology and the sufficiency of Scripture
- B. The problems with secular psychology
 1. The rejection of special revelation
 2. Goals of therapy very different (contrary?) from the gospel
- C. The problems illustrated by “rebirthing” - D.A. Carson

5. The three big stumbling blocks to proclaiming *all* the counsel of God and *only* the counsel of God.

- A. Don’t offend them!
- B. Attract them!
- C. Make it relevant to them!

The Way Ahead - The Word and Spirit (9)

1. Introduction

- A. Review
- B. The importance of communicating to our culture

2. Let's recover our awe and rejoicing over, and love for, the great treasure.

- A. Awe, Psa. 119:161, Isa. 66:2
- B. Rejoicing, Psa. 119:162
- C. Love, Psa. 119:96-97

3. Let's sow the right seed in our ministries.

- A. Luke 8:11-12, 1 Pet. 1:23
- B. Farming without sowing the seed? Or sowing the wrong seed?

4. Let's follow apostolic do's and don'ts.

- A. Accept being either a good or bad aroma among men, 2 Cor. 2:14-16
- B. Don't be a "bait and switch" salesperson, 2 Cor. 2:17
- C. Indispensable elements of faithful ministry, 2 Cor. 4:1-2
 - 1. Renounce practices and motives, which if known by others, would bring shame.
 - 2. Don't walk in craftiness.
 - 3. Don't adulterate the word of God.
 - 4. Manifest the truth.
 - 5. Be open to scrutiny before the consciences of others.
 - 6. Do it all in the sight of God!

5. Let's honor this marriage: The Word *and* the Spirit.

- A. Bringing people to faith in Christ is no merely human enterprise, John 6:61-63!
- B. The Spirit and power, 1 Cor. 2:4
- C. The Word coming with *much assurance* - why people finally believe in *and* act upon the Word, 1 Th. 1:5, 2:13.