

Sunday, January 17, 2010—Final Authority: Locating God’s Word in English—The Process of Preservation

Review

- During the first two weeks of this study I challenged you to consider the viewpoint of faith. To believe what the Bible teaches about itself.
- First, We began our study by looking at the doctrine of Inspiration:
 - II Timothy 3:16—the Bible’s claim for itself is that it was given by inspiration of God
 - We saw that the entire Bible, every word of Scripture was given by inspiration.
 - God placed his eternally settled up words into the mouth and pen of human authors who recorded God’s vary words.
 - God’s design in Inspiration was to make the living and the written word equal.
- Second, we began looking at the doctrine of Preservation:
 - Psalm 12:6-7—the doctrine of Preservation teaches that the vary words God inspired are the same words he is going to preserve. The doctrines of Inspiration and Preservation go hand in hand; you can’t have one without the other.
 - If God went to the trouble to perfectly inspire his word only to allow errors and mistakes to creep into the text it would be inconstant with His nature and character.
 - If God has not preserved His words as He said that He would (Psalms 12:6-7), then He has done two things He has never done before. First, he has wasted His own time. Second, God did not do that which He promised he would which would make him a liar.
 - It is always to be remembered that the Bible is a spiritual book which God exerted supernatural force to conceive, and it is reasonable to assume that he could exert that same supernatural force to preserve.
- Third, we learned that Preservation is necessary because of Satan’s interest in and attack upon the word of God.
 - Genesis 3 outlines Satan’s policy of evil against the word of God.
 - Step One: cause doubt to arise by questioning what God said (Genesis 3:1)
 - Step Two: doubt causes Eve to subtract from God’s word (Genesis 3:2)
 - Step Three: doubt causes Eve to add to and water down God’s word (Genesis 3:3)
 - Step Four: Satan flat-out denies and contradicts what God said (Genesis 3:4)
 - It is Satan’s policy of evil to destroy the final authority of the Word of God. He does so by creating a competing authority to the truth of God. Thus forcing you to decide and become your own authority.

- Satan desires to be worshipped. He has the ability to counterfeit God's actions, and definitely will be involved actively in attempting to destroy God's Word and/or our confidence in that Word, while seeking to replace it with his own version.

The Process of Preservation

- II Timothy 3:15—did Timothy's family possess an original copy for every book of the Bible? No, they had copies.
- What does the Holy Spirit through Paul call the copies that Timothy possessed? Scripture
- Remember that verse sixteen says that all Scripture was given by inspiration of God. So the copies that Timothy possessed in verse 15 are called Scripture. In other words, they are just as authoritative as the original manuscripts.
- How can the Holy Spirit through the pen of Paul make such a claim? Because of the doctrine of Preservation. All of this speaks to the process God used to accomplish the Preservation of his very words.
- Matthew 22:29-32—Christ had a copy of the scripture (grafe, that which is written down) and says that it is the word of God.
- It is God's design to preserve his word through a multiplicity of accurate reliable copies that are just authoritative as the originals.
- Last week I read to you for doctrinal statements which asserted that verbal inspiration and inerrancy extended to the original manuscripts only. Around 1900 fundamentalists began adding the phrase, "in the original manuscripts" to their doctrinal statements. There are many problems with this view.
 - Everyone agrees that the originals no longer exist
 - The original manuscripts have never been the issue with God. God is not interested in the originals.
- Exodus 31:18—now here is an original manuscript
- Exodus 32:15-19—Moses destroys the manuscript
- Exodus 34:27-28—God does not get made a Moses for destroying the original he simply makes a copy.
- Jeremiah 36:1-7, 22-24, 27-28
- Proverbs 25:1

- Daniel 9:2—Daniel is in Babylon studying copies of the book of Jeremiah.
- Daniel 9:11-13—Daniel also possesses copies of the Law of Moses.
- Daniel 10:20-21—what is an angel? Messenger of God. Notice what this messenger of God says about the copies that Daniel had. He calls them the “scripture of truth.” Is there error in the truth? No.
- In order for the Angles statement to be correct, the copies that Daniel had must be inerrant, infallible, and just as much the word of God as the original manuscripts.
- Luke 4:16-21—the synagogue in Nazareth possessed a copy of the prophet Isaiah.
- What does Jesus call this copy of Isaiah? Scripture. If there is anyone who knows what they are talking about it would be Christ.
- Acts 8:26-38—the Ethiopian Eunuch possessed a copy of the same book Christ read from in Luke 4.
- Notice again in verses 32 and 35 that God the Holy Spirit calls the copies the Eunuch possessed Scripture.
- II Timothy 3:15-16—Paul tells Timothy that he possessed copies of the Holy Scriptures.
- Do you understand that Paul is calling the copies that Timothy possessed in verse 15 inspired in verse 16.
- God’s design in Preservation is that the copies would be just as accurate and authoritative as the originals.

Conclusion

- Once again, as Bible believers we need to adopt the viewpoint of faith.
- Preservation is absolutely necessary because of the presence of Satan in the world and his constant attacks upon the word of God.
- It is always better to let the sound doctrines of the Word of God determine what you believe and not the wisdom of men.