

I. Bibliology- The Doctrine of the Bible:

1. **Revelation:** “A supernatural communication from God to man, either oral or written.”
 - a. Immediate to someone.
 - b. The written Word.
 - c. Divine Revelation...why not? God can; God has; and we need it.

2. **Canonicity:** Greek- Kanon, a reed or measuring rod. It is a rule of life or doctrine.
 - a. The Canon of scriptures: the 66 books of OT and NT.
 - b. The law of OT- to have a place in the OT Canon, a book must have been written, edited or endorsed by a prophet.
 1. Deut 18:15
 2. Luke 24:27, 44
 3. John 5:39
 - c. The law of NT-to have a place in the NT, a book must have been written or endorsed by an Apostle, or received as divine authority in the Apostolic age. Mark by Peter. Hebrews by Paul. ***note- Luther rejected James, Hebrews and Revelation.
 - d. Tradition has Ezra forming the OT.
 - e. NT was formed and accepted by the churches, and later declared to be the NT Canon at the council of Laodicea, AD 363.
 - f. There were 7 books that were held back for a while, but later accepted. They are called, **Antilegomena**, and include Hebrews, James, II Peter, II and III John, Jude, and Revelation.

3. **Genuineness:** Authorship and date:
 - a. OT, settled by Jesus’ claims.
 - b. NT, The 27 books were accepted as genuine before 200 AD.
 - c. Irenaeus (AD 120- 200)); Polycarp (AD 80-166)

4. **Authenticity:** Credibility and truthfulness.
 - a. OT- established by Christ.
 - b. NT- I John 1:1, That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.
 - c. They were competent, upright, and trustworthy.

5. **Divine Authority:** Ultimately the scripture is the final authority.

- a. OT and NT- II Timothy 3:16, 17; “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

6. **Inerrancy:** “The inerrancy of scripture means that scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.”

- a. The Bible always tells the truth concerning everything it talks about.
- b. It doesn't tell us everything about something, but whatever it does say, is true.
- c. It can speak in ordinary language...”the sun rose...”
- d. It can have free quotations...an accurate reporting, not exact reporting.
- e. Doesn't have to be totally grammatically pure. Different styles.
- f. Challenges to inerrancy:

1. The Bible is only authoritative for faith and practice. Historical and scientific statements can be false. **Infallible.**
2. We have no Inerrant original manuscripts.
3. The writers accommodated their message to the false ideas of the people at the time.
4. Inerrancy overemphasizes the divine element and neglect the human element.
5. There are some clear errors in the Bible;

g. Problems when denying inerrancy:

1. Morally, If God made false statements, can we do so too...if they are small? Slippery slope.
2. Can we trust God in everything or anything?
3. Our human mind is a higher standard than God's.
4. Is the Bible wrong in some doctrines?

7. **Inspiration:**

a. Def of 3 terms:

1. Revelation: “A supernatural communication from God to man.” He is communicating to the mind of men truth not known before and incapable of being discovered by the human mind unaided. The **discovery of truth.**

2. Inspiration: The divine influence which renders a speaker or writer infallible in the communication of truth.” **The communication of truth.**
 3. Illumination: The divine quickening of the human mind in virtue of which it is enabled to understand truth already revealed. **The Understanding of truth.**
- b. II Tim 3:16- All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - c. II Peter 1:21- For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
 - d. The Nature of Inspiration: 2 Latin words- in and spiro...”to breathe in.”
 - e. The extent of Inspiration:
 1. The whole Bible is the Word of God. Every word is inspired.
 2. The verbal plenary(full, complete) inspiration.
 - f. The Theories of Inspiration:
 1. Intuitional Theory: Liken to Shakespeare or Milton...
 2. Illuminational Theory: Spiritual illumination possessed by all believers.
 3. Mechanical Theory: Writers were automatons. Mechanical tools.
 4. Dynamic Theory: Holy Spirit rules, wrote...but allowed the personality of the writers to come forth.
 - g. The Proofs of Inspiration:
 1. Internal direct: II Tim 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; “Thus saith the Lord...” over 2000 times;
 2. Externally- Miracles, prophecies, spread of the gospel, preservation of the Bible, the church, testimonies of believers...

8. Ultimate Authority:

- a. The Church as ultimate authority: The Catholic church sees itself as equal on the plane of scripture, and more so since it can interpret it.
- b. The Reason as ultimate authority: The position of Rationalism. The Bible is OK as long as human reason can accept it. Man is the judge of scriptures.
- c. The Bible as ultimate authority.