



Sound Doctrine: Applying Core Beliefs to Everyday Life

Bibliology: Why is the Bible so Vital?

Deuteronomy 29:29

- We will be studying what is called systematic theology. It is the study and summarizing of what the entire Bible reveals on a particular subject. Here are the primary branches we will study: **Bibliology** (study of the Scriptures: its revelation, inspiration, canonicity, preservation, etc.); **Theology Proper** (study of the doctrine of God: His existence, nature, attributes, works); **Christology** (study of His Person & work); **Pneumatology** (study of His Person & work); **Anthropology** (study of man's nature, origin, constitution, destiny); **Hamartiology** (study of sin's origin, nature, and impact); **Soteriology** (study of salvation promised, accomplished, applied); **Angelology** (study of angels-demons); **Ecclesiology** (study of the church, it's origin, nature, government, ordinances, purpose); **Zoology** (the study of the Christian life: it's reception, nature, application); **Eschatology** (the study of end times events)
 - The reason you should study, know and do theology is because you were create to know God (Ecc. 3:11; Acts 17:26-27); called to be like God (Isa. 11:9; Jer. 31:34; Rom. 8:29), and commissioned to make God known (Deut. 6:1-9; John 17:23; Matt. 28:18-20).
 - We begin with bibliology because everything we need to know and do ultimately is found in God's Word and grounded in what He reveals about Himself, our existence, purpose and life now and for eternity.
 - The Bible in essence is God's self-revelation and there are 14 characteristics of God's revelation.
- ① **God's Word is irrefutable revelation** (it is ultimate and undeniable truth)
 - It is indisputable as truth in the source of its truth claims (Jn 17:17; Ps. 119:160), in the strength of its corroboration (true scientific discovery; archaeological finds; prophetic fulfillment), and in the significance of its transformational effect (untold multitudes change by God's gospel)
 - ② **God's Word is inspired revelation** (it is God-breathed truth)
 - God supernaturally transmitted "all" His flawless truth (verbalized and written down) through the intellect, personality, experiences, perspectives, feelings, and style of 40 imperfect human authors He chose to use.
 - ③ **God's Word is inscripturated revelation** (not of human origin)
 - No human author produced Scripture of his own will or powers, but only as God willed it and enabled the writers to be "carried along" by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21)
 - It wasn't a literary inscripturation (writers were not given a sensitivity to spiritual things that produced the Bible with possible errors), nor a dictated inscripturation that mechanically dictated the exact words directly from God bypassing human personalities and styles.
 - ④ **God's Word is included revelation** (formed the canon of Scripture)

- The reason there are 66 books is because God ordained there would be 66 and the church and its leaders recognized these books of truth and affirmed them. They recognized their divine qualities (consistency of doctrine and attributes of God, moral and spiritual value, beauty, power, efficacy, unity) and authoritative authors (written by prophets, apostles, or close agents).

⑤ God's Word is inerrant revelation (no errors or falsehoods)

- The original (autographs) were free from all falsehood, fraud, or deceit and every word was wholly true and trustworthy in everything it affirmed morally, ethically, historically, socially, sexually, prophetically, and scientifically (Prov. 30:5; Ps. 19:7)

⑥ God's Word is infallible revelation (never fails to accomplish its purpose)

- It will never mislead you and will always accomplish its God-directed purpose (Job 42:2; Matt. 5:18)

⑦ God's Word is incomparable revelation (it has amazing unity)

- The Bible is a unique and unparalleled collective unity of 66 books, written over a period of 1500yrs by 40 men from every walk of life in different places, times, and circumstances on 3 continents and written in 3 different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek) with hundreds of controversial subjects, and yet it has one unfolding message about the Person & ministry of JC (Jn. 5:39).

⑧ God's Word is indestructible revelation (it is eternally preserved)

- The Bible is eternal truth (Ps. 119:152; Isa. 40:8; 1 Pet 1:23) and it is "*imperishable*" seed (1 Pet. 1:23)
- God has preserved the Old and New Testaments with amazing purity throughout history and against major opposition. We have 24,000 plus manuscripts (Greek, Latin, and early versions) that provide 99.5% accuracy from the original autographs.

⑨ God's Word is insistent revelation (it is authoritative)

- It is authoritative as it commands our attention, worship, trust, love, and obedience. At least 2,500 times, we read commanding words like "*The Lord has spoken*" or "*the word of the Lord says*". God calls His word "*the commandment of God*" (Mark 7:8). It is the final authority for every domain of truth it affirms in whatever field.

⑩ God's Word is immutable revelation (it is final and unchanging)

- It has been delivered by God and it will never change because it is the "*once for all delivered to the saints faith*" (Jude 3). God repeatedly told everyone not to add or take away from His spoken word (Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19). It is His full and final revelation.

⑪ God's Word is indispensable revelation (it is essential and sufficient)

- God's people cannot live without it. It is essential for our well-being (Matt 4:4; Deut. 8:3) and sufficient to save you and grow you to full maturity and usefulness in Christ (James 1:18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Ps. 19:7-11)

⑫ God's Word is intelligible revelation (it is clear and understandable)

- It is lucid, perspicuous, and understandable. God condescended to communicate in a manner we could understand without compromising the integrity of His truth. Not everything is equally clear (Peter said Paul was hard to understand sometimes – 2 Pet 3:15-16). While accessible, we do not know everything in the Bible to its fullest degree. Our disagreements are most notably due to our finiteness and sinfulness that can blur the true meaning of Scripture.

⑬ God's Word is illuminated revelation (enlightened by the Holy Spirit)

- Your engaged brain is not enough for understanding, so God has given us then ministry of the illumination of the Holy Spirit who opens minds and hearts of understanding (John 14:26; 1 Jn 2:27; Eph. 1:18-19)

14 God's Word is influential revelation (it succeeds as God purposes)

It will accomplish what God says effectively and successfully for God's glory and our good (1 Thess. 2:13; Isa. 55:11)

Three applications:

1. Love it because you love God who wrote it for you, your good and His glory.
2. Learn it by reading, studying, believing, meditating, and memorizing it.
3. Live it by joyfully and faithfully submitting your heart to God's perfect, yet countercultural way.

Some suggested Resources:

- The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/article/the-chicago-statement-on-biblical-inerrancy/>
- Every book of the Bible in One Word (Garrett Kell)
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/every-book-of-the-bible-in-one-word/>
- Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth (John MacArthur & Richard Mayhue)
- Systematic Theology, Second Edition: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine (2nd Edition) by Wayne A. Grudem