



SURVEY OF THEOLOGY
Bibliology
Grace Institute - Pastor Jim C. Davis

Lecture Five: Inerrancy

- 1A. Definitions
 - 1B. Infallible – “Incapable of error”; not liable to fail, go wrong, make a mistake, etc.
 - 2B. Inerrant – “not erring; making no mistakes; infallible” --Webster
 - 3B. Inerrant – “The Bible is inerrant in all that it affirms – it tells the truth, and it does so without error in all its parts and with all its words.” –Ryrie*
- 2A. Errantists
 - 1B. Redefine the terms
 - 1C. Inerrancy = total content of the Scripture – they deny this
 - 2C. Infallibility = what they view as the revelatory/doctrinal/faith & practice content or salvific purpose of the Scripture
 - 2B. Quotes
 - 1C. “The Bible is infallible, as I define that term, but not inerrant. That is, there are historical and scientific errors in the Bible, but I have found none on matters of faith and practice.” –Stephen T. Davis, *The Debate About the Bible* pg. 115
 - 2C. “Given these understandings, neo-evangelicals prefer to speak of the ‘infallibility’ rather than the ‘inerrancy’ of Scripture. Infallibility refers to the Scripture’s complete trustworthiness and its ability to accomplish its purpose. Scripture is infallible, in this view, because it will not deceive humans about matters of Salvation.” Donald K. McKim, *What Christians Believe about the Bible*, p93
 - 3B. Its Importance

If it is a Biblical teaching, then to deny it is to deny part of the truthfulness of the Bible. But consider this: If the Bible contains some errors, however few or many, how can one be sure that his understanding of Christ is correct? Or the Holy Spirit, salvation, etc.? If inerrancy falls, other doctrines will fall too. When inerrancy is denied, one may expect some serious fallout in both doctrinal and practical areas.
 - 1C. Some Biblical/doctrinal errors may include:

- 1D. A denial of the historical fall of Adam
- 2D. A denial of the facts of the experiences of the prophet Jonah
- 3D. An explaining away of some of the miracles of both the OT and NT
- 4D. A denial of the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch
- 5D. A belief in two or more authors of the Book of Isaiah
- 6D. A flirting with or embracing of liberation theology with its redefining of sin (as social rather than personal) and salvation (as political and temporal rather than spiritual and eternal).

2C. Some lifestyle errors may include:

- 1D. A loose view of seriousness of adultery
- 2D. A loose view of homosexuality
- 3D. A loose view of divorce and remarriage.
- 4D. “Cultural reinterpretation of some of the teachings of the Bible (e.g. teaching on women, teaching on civil obedience.)
- 5D. A tendency to view the Bible through a modern psychological grid.

4B. Inerrancy and the Teachings of Christ

- 1C. Matthew 4:1-11. Every word is important, not just part of a statement (cf. Satan’s quote of half of verse in **Ps. 91:11-12**)
- 2C. Authentication of Old Testament events and people as historical fact:
 - 1D. Adam and Eve (Mt 19:3-5; Mk.10:6-8)
 - 2D. The flood of Noah’s day (Mt 24:38-39; Lk 17:26-27)
 - 3D. Destruction of Sodom, Lot and his wife (Mt. 10:15; Lk 17:28-29)
 - 4D. Jonah and the great fish (Mt 12:40)
 - 5D. Isaiah (Mt. 12:17), Elijah (Mt. 17:11-12), Daniel (Mt. 24:15), Abel (Mt. 23:35), Zechariah (Mt. 23:35), Abiathar (Mk. 2:26), David (Mt. 22:45), Moses and his writings (Mt. 8:4; Jn 5:46), Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Mt. 8:11, Jn 8:39).

3C. Matthew 5:17-18 “Not one ‘jot’ (י), or one ‘tittle’ (כּ) will pass away from

the law until all is accomplished.” י כּ

4C. John 10:31-38 “One” is neuter. Therefore, He is saying He is one in essence with the Father, not that He is the same person as the Father.