

Foundations:

Class Schedule:

October 2 –

- Introductions to material, each other, and me.
- How do we know what we know? Revelation
 - What is general revelation?
 - What is special revelation?

October 9 –

- What is Scripture and how does it function?
 - Authority of the Bible
 - Canon of the Bible
 - Transmission and Translation of the Bible

October 16 –

- How do we interpret the Bible?
 - Literalism
 - Allegorical
 - Deconstructionism
 - Calvinist interpretations

October 23 –

- What is the “Doctrine of God” and what does that mean?
 - Does God exist?
 - What is God like?
 - Is God the Creator?

October 30 –

- Let’s talk about Suffering!
 - Cultural View
 - Biblical View

November 6 –

- Biblical Views of Suffering...Part Two!

November 13 –

- Doctrine of Humanity and Doctrine of the Fall (Gen. 3)
 - Created for Relationship
 - Turned to our own way

November 20 –

- What is the Fallout of the Fall?
 - Ending our study with a Bang...

Here We Go!

October 16 –

Review:

- What is Revelation?**
- What is General Revelation?**
- What is Special Revelation?**
- What is Progressive Revelation?**
- What is Personal Revelation?**

What is Scripture and how does it function?

INSPIRED:

1. Inspiration – “God breathes into”. This suggests a type of double authorship...

-The Bible is the Word of God – 2 Timothy 3:16

-This claim of inspiration is specifically for the OT.

-The Bible is the word of humans...

-It is written in a particular time and place and in a particular language. People wrote it without knowing the extent of what they were writing.

Church leaders throughout History have weighed in on this...

-Tertullian said that Scriptures were dictated by God.

-Augustine said that the human authors were “pens of the Holy Spirit.”

-John Calvin said the authors were God’s “amanuenses.” This means, persons performing a function by hand, either writing down the words of another or performing manual labor.

Easy way to remember and keep straight:

Revelation relates to the origin and giving of truth.

Inspiration relates to the receiving and recording of truth.

So, inspiration is the result, not the process.

Each Book of the Bible has a Historical Location

Each Book has a Literary Style – Psalm, Epistle (letter), Gospel, History...

There are varying theological emphases among the books.

One book does not even mention the name of God. Ecclesiastes...

So, The Bible is the Word of both God and human beings...akin to the incarnation. Jesus was God with us...

So we look at both aspects – the divine and the human.

We can study the Bible with a critical eye, investigate and evaluation...

But we can not pretend to be the Bible's critique.

AUTHORITATIVE:

2. In the last 100 years, a group has emerged that doubts the Authority of Scripture. The Jesus Movement with ideas based on the heel of the Enlightenment. They believe that nothing supernatural happened. Given that, how could we understand the Bible?

Rationalism and Modernism might make us think...

-history is a closed continuum of cause and effect, with no possibility of divine intervention.

-The universe is a self containing system, in which miracles are impossible.

-Religion is a human phenomenon.

So then **we take** a **Reverent Approach to Scripture**.

Read scripture holding that what it expresses is true and inspired.

That is the assumption for this course, that the Bible is the Inspired word of God and thus useful.

John Calvin said, "Scripture does not gain its authority from man, but from God."

Authority of the Bible!

IF inspiration is the process, then authority is the result.

But we struggle with authority.

We want to be like God, where we know or establish good and evil.

Historical Church has expressed authority...

- A. The Roman Catholic Church says that Christ rules his church through what they call the Magesterium, the teaching authority give to the pope and his college of bishops both in the present and in past traditions. The Orthodox church is similar, minus the Pope.

- B. The liberal church says that Christ rules his church through the individual reason and conscience, illumined by the Holy Spirit, or through the consensus of educated opinion. They often add experience to reason, wanting to unite the rational and emotional.
- C. The authority of experience is also claimed by the Pentecostal expressions... "I just felt it."
- D. The Anglican view is that Christ rules through the three-fold cord of Scripture, tradition, and reason. Authority is dispersed, not central.
- E. Methodists view Authority the same, except they add the Holy Spirit to reason, tradition, and Scripture to form the Quadrilateral.
- F. Presbyterians say that Christ guides the church through the Scripture. Traditions are subordinate to scripture. Reason and experience are useful, but always subordinate to Scripture.

The Roman Catholic, the Liberal Church, the Anglican, and the Presbyterian traditions claim the Holy Spirit speaks and guides us, but they differ on how.

Roman Catholics believe that the Spirit guides through the bishops and assume they are successors to the apostles.

Liberals insist that it is the individual whom the Spirit leads into truth. We can go beyond scripture because the Spirit is still leading. More Lights

Read John 16:12-13

In each case, who is the "YOU"

It is the Apostles through whom we get the NT.

Thus, we believe that these books of the NT are guiding us into truth.

PERSPICUITY

Means to SEE THOUGHT...there is a certain transparency to the Bible.

2 Peter 3:16 says that not all Scripture is easy to understand

Acts 8 reminds us of that with the story of the Eunuch who needed help understanding.

The Bible is simple enough for all to grasp the message.

Westminster Confession of Faith:

All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, not alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or another, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them. (6.007)

That which is important can be seen clearly!

SUFFICIENT:

Scripture is sufficient!

In the Reformation, they used a phrase – Sola Scriptura...Scripture alone.

The Confession of 1967:

The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the Word of God written. The Scriptures are not A witness among others, but the witness without parallel. The church has received the books of the Old and New Testaments as prophetic and apostolic testimony in which it hears the word of God and by which its faith and obedience are nourished and regulated. (9.27)

REVIEW:

Inspiration

Authority

Perspicuity

Sufficiency

CANNON:

How did we get our Bible?

Canon comes from the Greek for “Standard” or “Measure of Truth.”

39 Books of the OT had been collected by Jesus Time and he quotes from those – but most of all from Isaiah and Deuteronomy.

The Christian Church adopted that part of the Canon.

Apocrapha – means “Hidden”

There are 15 writings that came from what we know as the inter-testamental period (Roughly 300 to 100 BC.) Neither the Jews or the Apostles quote from them.

The New Testament was brought together by the Bilezikian copy. It was decided by looking at which books the early church writers began using as their bases for decisions. Tradition playing a role!

The first recognized list of Books of the NT was a list of 27 by Bishop Athanasius in his Easter Letter in 363.

The Canon was approved or rather CONFIRMED in 393 (Council of Hippo) and again in 397 (Carthage). For these synods did not confer power to the Canon, but reconfirmed what was already there.

Justin Martyr – in the early 2nd century mentions the “memoirs of the apostles” or the Gospels as they were called by believers.

Even before that in about 140 AD, Marcion became the first Christian leader in history to propose a Christian Canon. He included in it what was already being circulated – 10 of the epistles of Paul, and the Gospels.

So, within 100 years, there was an approved “standard” in place for believers. This continued to grow over the next 60 years as copies of the other books were circulated.

Transmission and Translation of Bible - Next week!

Homework:

Monday, October 17 – Read Mark 1:21-28

Why do you suppose Jesus started his public ministry in a synagogue? What events took place there? What impact did they have? What two things about Jesus amazed people? Why?

What does it mean to teach “with authority”?
What is the nature and source of Jesus’ authority?

What characterizes this evil spirit?

Tuesday, October 18 – Read Mark 1:29-34

How did Jesus’ healing of this woman compare with his exorcism of the evil spirit? How do you know it was a miracle? An eyewitness account? By whom?

Why did the people wait until after sunset to bring the sick? Why are the demons silenced?

How do you think that Jesus could use you to heal hurts today?

Wednesday, October 19 – Read Mark 1:34-39

What about Jesus’ prayer most impresses you: The hour? The solitude? His priorities?

What impact did prayer have on Jesus’ decision (vs 38)?
On His ministry (vs 39)?

Thursday, October 20 – Read Mark 1:40-45

Why might the leper be unsure of Jesus’ willingness to heal him?
Why was leprosy such an awful disease (Leviticus 13)?
What is significant about how Jesus healed him?
Why did he disobey Jesus’ command to keep silent? What would you have done?

How has Jesus made his compassion tangible to you? When have you offered his healing touch to the “lepers” or “untouchables” in your community? Why not now?