



## "The Exclusive Source Of Truth On Which We Stand–Pt.2"

*5 characteristics of the Word of God that solidify the Scriptures as the exclusive source of all Christian knowledge:*

(Gen 1:27-28, 2:16-17)

I. The Word of God as God's Divine Revelation–Various (4/12/26)

### **II. The Word of God as God's Manifested Authority–Various**

#### 1. The Source of all Truth

(Is 42:8-9, 44:6-8; Luke 4:31-32, 9:35; Matt 28:18-20)

#### 2. The Clarity of the Content

(Ex 24:3; John 8:42-47; 1 Thess 4:1-3)

#### 3. The Repercussions of any Denial

(Deut 28:1-2, 15; Josh 5:6; Ps 106:24-27; Jer 11:6-8; Dan 4:28-33; Luke 12:5; John 5:22-27, 12:47-50; Luke 6:46-49; John 14:23-24)

The authority of God is, then, the authority of what God is, which is made known in his self-disclosure, since only in his revelation can God be known. Revelation is therefore the key to God's authority, so that the two, revelation and authority, may be regarded as two sides of the same reality. In revelation God declares his authority. (1)

Because God has made himself known in his word, a commitment to a high view of Scripture is of paramount importance. The Bible both reflects and reveals the character of its Author...Those who have a high view of Scripture will have a high view of God. And vice versa—those who treat the Word of God with disdain and contempt possess no real appreciation for the God of the Word...Consider the following [five exchanges of authority] which represent war against the pure gospel:

1. Roman Catholicism exchanged the authority of Scripture for the authority of religious traditions...[and] sacramentalism;
2. Higher criticism exchanged the authority of Scripture for the authority of human reason...[through] rationalism and empiricism;
3. Modern cults...[and] Pentecostalism exchanged the authority of Scripture for the authority of personal revelations and ecstatic experiences;
4. Clinical psychology exchanged the authority of Scripture for the authority of [man-made theories about human behavior] and clinical therapies;
5. [Pragmatic] churches exchanged the authority of Scripture for the authority of felt needs and marketing schemes. (2)

The words of Scripture are "self-attesting." They cannot be "proved" to be God's words by appeal to any higher authority. For—if an appeal to some higher authority (say, historical accuracy or logical consistency) were used to prove that the Bible is God's Word, then the Bible itself would not be our highest or absolute authority: it would be subordinate in authority to the thing to which we appealed to prove it to be God's Word. If we ultimately appeal to human reason, or to logic, or to historical accuracy, or to scientific truth, as the authority by which Scripture is shown to be God's words, then we have assumed the thing to which we appealed to be a higher authority than God's words and one that is more true or more reliable. (3)

[God's authority ensures that] God's demands are absolute in at least three senses: (1) They cannot be questioned. The Lord God has the right to demand unwavering, unflinching obedience...(2) God's demands are absolute also in the sense that it transcends all other loyalties, all other demands. The Lord God will not tolerate competition; he demands exclusive loyalty...(3) God's demand is also absolute in that it governs all areas of life...We must never shut the Lord out of any compartment of our lives; there must be no areas kept to ourselves. (4)

<sup>1</sup> H.D. McDonald, "Bible, Authority of" in *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, Walter A. Elwell, ed., 2nd [rev.] ed, Baker Reference Library (Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2001), 154.

<sup>2</sup> John MacArthur, "Why A Book On Biblical Inerrancy Is Necessary" in *The Inerrant Word: Biblical, Historical, Theological, and Pastoral Perspectives*, John MacArthur, ed. (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2016), 11-14.

<sup>3</sup> Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England: Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan Academic, 1994), 73.

<sup>4</sup> John M. Frame, "Scripture Speaks for Itself" in *The Scripture Cannot Be Broken: Twentieth Century Writings on the Doctrine of Inerrancy*, John MacArthur, ed. (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2015), 118-119.