

1. Scripture is given in propositional⁷ form (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; John 17:17).
 2. Scripture is inspired in a verbal⁸ and plenary⁹ sense in the original writings (Matthew 5:18; John 10:35; Matthew 24:35). As such, Scripture is inerrant in record and divinely authoritative for man's faith and practice in every matter that it teaches.
 3. The Scriptures have been reliably transmitted. As a result, the present critical texts¹⁰ (Old Testament and New Testament) in the original languages represent the original writings with extreme accuracy.
- B. God has given regenerate man the rational and spiritual ability to understand Scripture and to formulate a doctrinal system.
1. Definition of reason: The God given faculty for understanding information and developing logical thought.
 2. Limitation of reason: Human reason alone is neither divinely intended nor naturally able to develop biblical and spiritually meaningful theology apart from Divine revelation and spiritual illumination.
 - a. Divine revelation - Scripture.
 - b. Spiritual illumination - Ministry of the Holy Spirit.
 3. Relation of reason to genuine faith.

Faith and reason are not contradictory when their proper relationship is understood.

Both faith and reason are God given. Therefore, there must be an ideal relationship between the two.

 - a. Reason commends sound evidence for faith to rest upon (Acts 1:3; Romans 4:20-21; 2 Peter 1:16-21).

Genuine faith must have content or an object upon which to rest (Genesis 15:6; Acts 16:31; 27:25).
 - b. The Spirit in conjunction with Scripture may assure reason of Spiritual truth (Romans 8:16-17; 1 John 5:10-13; John 16:13).

⁷ objective statements of facts

⁸ of, relating to, or consisting of words

⁹ complete in every respect

¹⁰ A critical text of the Bible is a version that's been compiled by comparing readings from many manuscripts to determine the most accurate version.

III. Need for Systematic Theology

A. Protection against false teaching.

1. The Christian who is not firmly grounded in Bible doctrine becomes highly susceptible to false teaching (Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 13:9).
2. Many false cults and sects, which in some way associate themselves with the Bible, prey upon untaught Christian converts who are gullible and hungry for religious teaching without always having the spiritual maturity to distinguish false teaching from biblical truths (Ephesians 4:14; Hebrews 5:12-14; Acts 17:11).
3. The fundamental principle for the Christian is to be accurately taught in Bible doctrine so that he can readily detect doctrinal error (2 John 9).
4. Doctrine drawn from the Word of God is the standard by which to detect religious heresy and refute it (Titus 1:9).
5. The root of the problem is that wrong doctrine inevitably results in wrong actions or disobedience.
6. The gross sins which Paul lists in 1 Timothy 1:9-10 are described as “contrary to sound teaching.”
7. Sound doctrine will always accord with Christ's teachings and it will conform to Godliness.

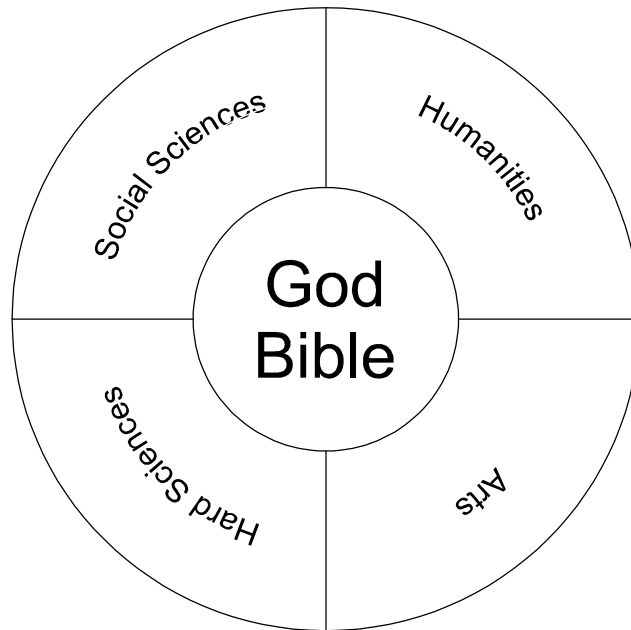
B. Doctrine provides the framework for a true and adequate world view.

1. Through knowledge of biblical doctrine, the Christian is able:
 - a. To view life holistically as God views it.
 - b. To understand and to establish a proper relationship to God and His creation.
2. Some of the most basic problems of life are answered by biblical doctrine. For example, biblical doctrine enables man to understand his origin, nature, purpose, and destiny.

C. Doctrine is the only adequate integrating factor for the other fields of knowledge.

1. The primary problem of education is to establish a proper integrating factor to interrelate other disciplines.
2. For such an integrating factor, we need to turn to the ultimate origin of truth, God Himself (John 17:3).
3. All the Bible is truth in record (John 17:17), although the Bible does not contain all that is truth.

4. There is truth discoverable outside of the Bible, but it is still God's truth.
5. Such extra-biblical truth still has at a least a general relationship to biblical truth.
6. In terms of a diagrammatic illustration, we may think of the Bible as the hub of knowledge and the various other disciplines or areas of knowledge as the spokes composing one great wheel of interrelated truth.



7. The task of showing how all the various fields of information or sciences relate to biblical truth is very difficult, but it is necessary for true Christian education.