

- a. God – divine source – truth revealed
(2 Timothy 3:16).
- b. Writer – human instrument – truth relayed
(2 Peter 1:21).
- c. Bible – divine-human product – truth recorded (John 17:17).
Matthew 1:22-23 – by the Lord, through the author, recorded in scripture.

4. The proof.

In general, this was the viewpoint of the early church fathers, the medieval theologians, and the reformers; and it is the viewpoint of many present-day evangelical Christians. Members of the Evangelical Theological Society are required to subscribe to an inerrancy viewpoint of Scripture.

It has been observed that “... a survey of the Fathers will reveal that the orthodox doctrine of inspiration prevailed throughout the history of the church from apostolic times to the rise of Deism¹⁷ and Rationalism in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, with hardly a noteworthy voice dissenting.”¹⁸

a. The character of God.

- (1) Scripture is a reliable record.
- (2) John 17:3; Romans 3:4; 1 John 5:20 – Scripture reveals a God of truth. Also Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18 – God can not lie.
- (3) 2 Timothy 3:16 – All Scripture is God breathed.
- (4) Therefore, John 17:17 – Scripture must be true.

To say that the Bible is God’s Word (“Thy word is truth,” John 17:17 cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:13) and yet that it errs, contradicts the truthfulness of God’s character.

b. The claims of Scripture.

- (1) 2 Timothy 3:16 – The fullness and fact of inspiration.
- (2) 2 Peter 1:21 – Men and method of inspiration.
- (3) Exodus 17:14; Jeremiah 30:2 – the command to record the words of the Lord.

¹⁷ At its basic level, Deism teaches that God made the universe and its natural laws, and then left it running on its own, free from any divine interference or interaction. God holds Himself aloof from the world; leaving it to the government of natural laws.

¹⁸ Norman L. Geisler and William E. Nix, A General Introduction to the Bible, (Chicago: Moody, 1968), p. 99.

- (4) Matthew 1:22; 15:4; 22:43; Acts 4:24-25; 28:25; Hebrews 3:7; – the viewpoint of biblical writers in quoting other Scriptures.
- (5) 1 Timothy 5:18 cf. Deuteronomy 25:4; Luke 10:7; and 2 Peter 3:15-16 cf. Galatians 2:11 – the viewpoint of biblical writers toward other parts of Scripture.
- (6) 1 Peter 1:10-12; 1 Thessalonians 2:13 – the viewpoint of biblical writers that they were speaking and writing God’s word.
- (7) The characteristics of Scripture as:
 - (a) Psalms 19:7 – perfect
 - (b) Psalms 119:89 – unchangeable
 - (c) Matthew 24:35 – eternal
 - (d) Psalms 19:9 – true
 - (e) Psalms 19:8 – pure

c. The confirmation of Christ.

- (1) Key references (Matthew 5:18; John 17:17).
- (2) His Words.
 - (a) Matthew 7:24 – He claimed authority for them.
 - (b) Matthew 7:29 – People recognized authority of them.

If the Bible is considered historically reliable, then Christ is authoritative and infallible and then the Bible is also authoritative and infallible.

It should be recognized that “... unless one denies the accuracy of the New Testament or the integrity of Christ, he must accept the divine authority of the Bible (at least the Old Testament), because Jesus taught it.”¹⁹

d. The consideration of New Testament inspiration.

- (1) Matthew 10:19-20; John 14:25-26; 16:13 – the promised ministry of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles.
- (2) The demonstration of authority by the Apostles (Acts 3:6-7; Hebrews 2:3-4) and their claim to give divinely authoritative teaching

¹⁹ Geisler and Nix, p. 118.

See Acts 10:41-42; 1 Thessalonians 2:13 cf. Galatians 1:1, 11-12.

- (3) Ephesians 2:19-20 cf. Acts 2:42; 2 Peter 3:2 – the authority of the Apostles as part of the foundation of the church.
- (4) Ephesians 2:20; Revelation 22:9, 18 – the prophetic gift possessed by the New Testament Apostles.

5. The objections.

The truthfulness of Scripture requires that its teachings harmonize with each other and with extra-biblical truth and that any alleged contradictions or errors in Scripture must be only apparent and not real.

a. Problems with certain passages.

(1) Acts 23:5

(a) Problem – Paul was mistaken in failing to recognize the high priest.

(b) Solution.

[1] Biblical inerrancy does not mean that biblical writers were infallible (except in recording Scripture).

[2] The Holy Spirit enabled Luke to record this incident inerrantly.

(2) 1 Corinthians 7:12, 25.

(a) Problem – Paul is supposedly disclaiming divine inspiration in 1 Corinthians 7.

(b) Solution.

Paul is writing in this passage as if to say, “I am not quoting the Lord directly on this subject, but I am speaking from Spirit directed apostolic authority.”

Cf. 1 Corinthians 7:10 with Matthew 19:6, 9.

1 Corinthians 7:25, 40; 14:37.

b. Problems with science, history, and chronology.

The correct interpretation of Scripture and the actual facts of science, history, or chronology are not contradictory since God is the ultimate origin of all true knowledge, and truth is non-contradictory. Not all of the facts pertinent to certain problem passages involving these disciplines are presently available, and if they were, then it is believed that the supposed error or contradiction could be readily resolved.