The Revelation of the One True God

The Revelation of God through Holy Men

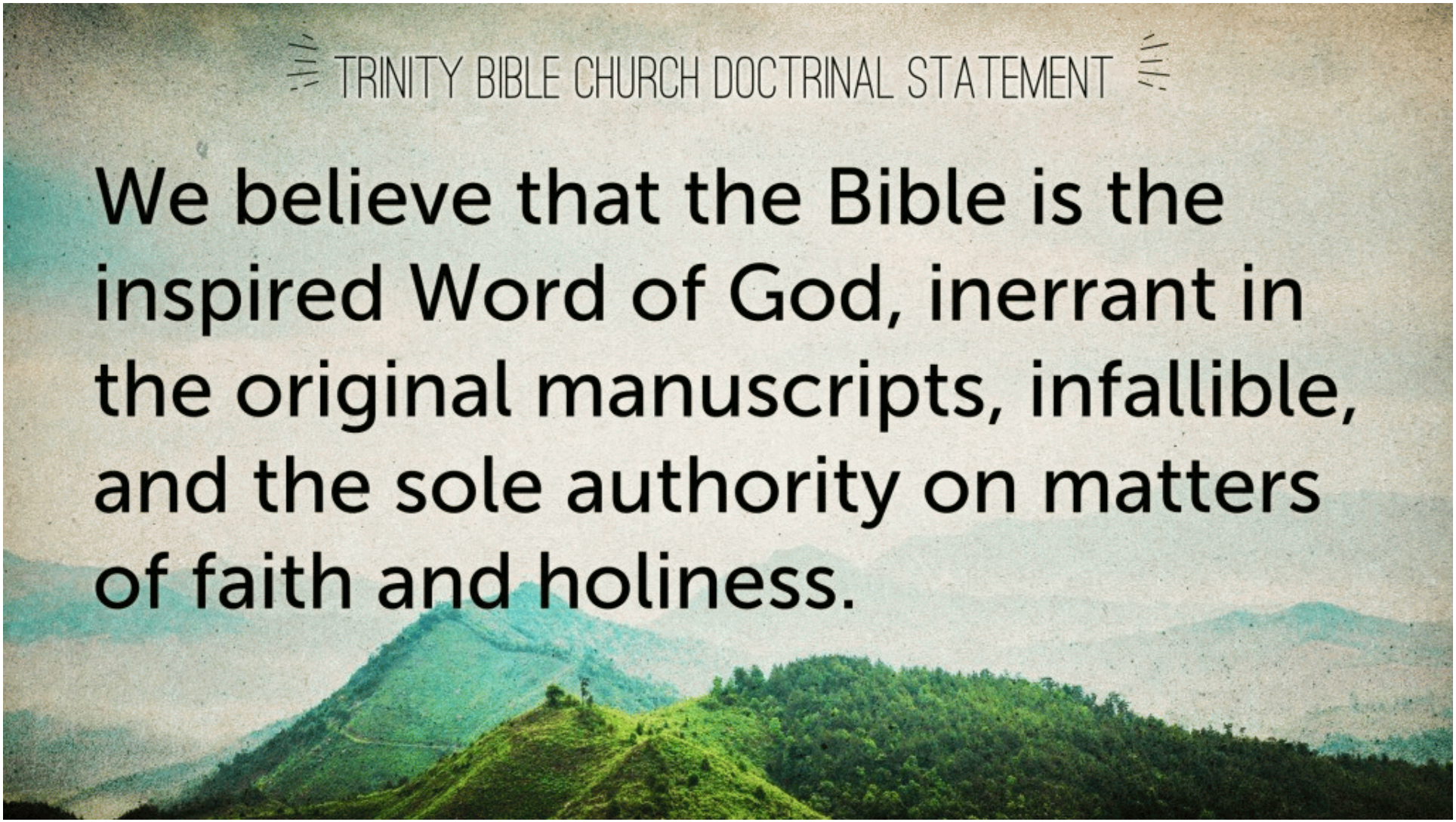
Lesson 3

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Ezekiel 2:1-3:4
2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 1:1-4

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
June 21, 2015

“We start the study of theology with two presuppositions, namely (1) that God exists, and (2) that He has revealed Himself in His divine Word.”

BERKHOF, L. (1938). SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (P. 19)


TRINITY BIBLE CHURCH DOCTRINAL STATEMENT
We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original manuscripts, infallible, and the sole authority on matters of faith and holiness.

The Bible is God's Word

- A circular argument

  Why should we believe this?

  - The Bible says so!

  Why should we believe the Bible?

  - The Bible is the Word of God!

- No external authority

  It is accepted by faith

  Faith comes by hearing the Word

The Need for Divine Revelation

- God is invisible (1 Timothy 1:17; 6:13-16)
- Man is dead (1 Corinthians 2:14)

God has revealed Himself

- Revelation in creation – unwritten
  - deity and power
  - No revelation about the work of salvation
  - Revelation of guilt in the conscience of man (Rom 2:15)
  - Man combines the two to develop false religions
  - Natural revelation condemns man
  - Outcome – given over to lusts of the flesh; degrading passions; depraved mind

God has revealed Himself

- God is a seeking and saving God (Luke 19:10)
  - Isaiah 1:2
  - Psalm 113:1-9
  - Hebrews 11:6 – faith required – must believe that He is and He rewards
- Knowledge of God requires revelation and illumination
  - Romans 10:13-15 – cannot call without hearing
  - 2 Corinthians 4:6 – God has shone in our hearts
  - Luke 1:67-79
  - Romans 10:17; Psalm 119:130
- God's written revelation is necessary and sufficient
  - Luke 16:19-31

The Revelation of God through Holy Men

- The testimony of Scripture – Jeremiah 1:1-10 and Ezekiel 2:1-3:4
- The Word came by the moving of the Spirit – 2 Peter 1:19-21
- The God-breathed the Word – 2 Timothy 3:14-17
- The spoken and living Word – Hebrews 1:1-4
- The truthfulness of God

Jeremiah 1:1-10 –Mission Impossible

- Pre-existent plan – before conception
- Ministry beyond his lifetime – prophet to the nations
- Role beyond natural capacity
- Revelation of God – Speak all that I command
- A message of judgment and salvation
- Offense to man (1:19)

Ezekiel 2:1-3:4 – no creativity

- Spirit of God entered him
- Sent by God to a rebellious nation – unnatural task
- "Thus says the Lord GOD" (2:4). Speak "My words" (2:8)
- Scroll given (2:9-10)
- Eat the scroll – external truth; internalized (3:10)
- "Forced" into ministry (3:12-14)
- Human sense of futility (37:1-4)

The Bible is the Word of God

- O.T. – 3,808 times claims to state the exact words of God
- Jeremiah – 52 chapters x 362 (7/chapter)
- Ezekiel – 48 chapters x 295 (6/chapter)
- 2 Samuel 23:2 – "Spirit of the LORD spoke by me . . ."
- Numbers 23:5, 26; 24:13 – cannot go beyond the God's Word
- Habakkuk 2:2 – write the vision; make it plain
- Zechariah 7:7 – the LORD proclaimed through former prophets
- Exodus 4:12 – I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say

The Bible is the Word of God

The testimony of Jesus Christ

- Matthew 5:17-18
- Matthew 15:4-6
- Matthew 19:4-5
- Matthew 22:29
- Matthew 23:35
- Matthew 26:54
- Luke 24:25-27
- John 10:34-35

The Bible is the Word of God

The testimony of the N.T. writers

- Galatians 3:8 (Genesis 12:1-3)
- Romans 9:17 (Exodus 9:16)
- Hebrews 3:7 (Psalm 95:7-11)
- Acts 4:24-36 (Psalm 2:1)
- Acts 13:34 (Isaiah 55:3)
- Acts 13:35 (Psalm 16:10)
- Hebrews 1:7 (Psalm 104:4)
- Hebrews 1:8-9 (Psalm 45:6-7)

The Word by the Spirit – 2 Peter 1:16-21

- Life and godliness through “true knowledge of Him”
- Entrance into the eternal kingdom
- Not cleverly devised tales but eyewitness account
- Christ is the capstone of the prophets’ ministry
- Holy men of God spoke as moved by the Holy Spirit
- You do well to pay heed

God-breathed – 2 Timothy 3:14-17

- Sacred writings lead to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ– wisdom of God
- Inspired by God – "God breathed"
- Profitable for transformation
- Must be the very Word of God

The Prophets and Christ – Hebrews 1:1-4

- God spoke by the prophets – His wisdom
- God has spoken by His Son
  - Heir of all things
  - Jesus is the exact representation of His nature
- Christ speaks by the apostles – John 14:17, 26; 16:12-15

God's Attributes and His Revelation

- God is truth
  - Infinite understanding (Psalm147:5)
  - Truth (John 14:6)
  - God cannot lie (Num. 23:19; Rom. 3:4; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18)
- God is omniscient
  - He knows the end from the beginning
  - He knows the right way to communicate His revelation
  - He knows the paths of righteousness in which He leads (Psalm 23)
  - He knows the frailty of the "holy men" who recorded His Word
  - He knows the arguments to ever oppose His Word
- Man's contribution to God's revelation only adds folly

God's Revelation and Man

- The Bible conflicts with human wisdom
  - Science – creation
  - Morality – homosexuality is the issue of the day; abortion
  - Church and family order
- Not all things are equally clear in the Bible
  - Metaphors and figures; mysteries
  - Clarity comes by comparing Scripture with Scripture
  - There is no absolute certainty apart from revelation
  - We must bow before the superior wisdom of God

If, here or there, I stumble upon something which seems not to agree with the truth, I make no doubt that either the copy is faulty, or the translator did not express exactly the thought of the original, or that I do not understand the matter.

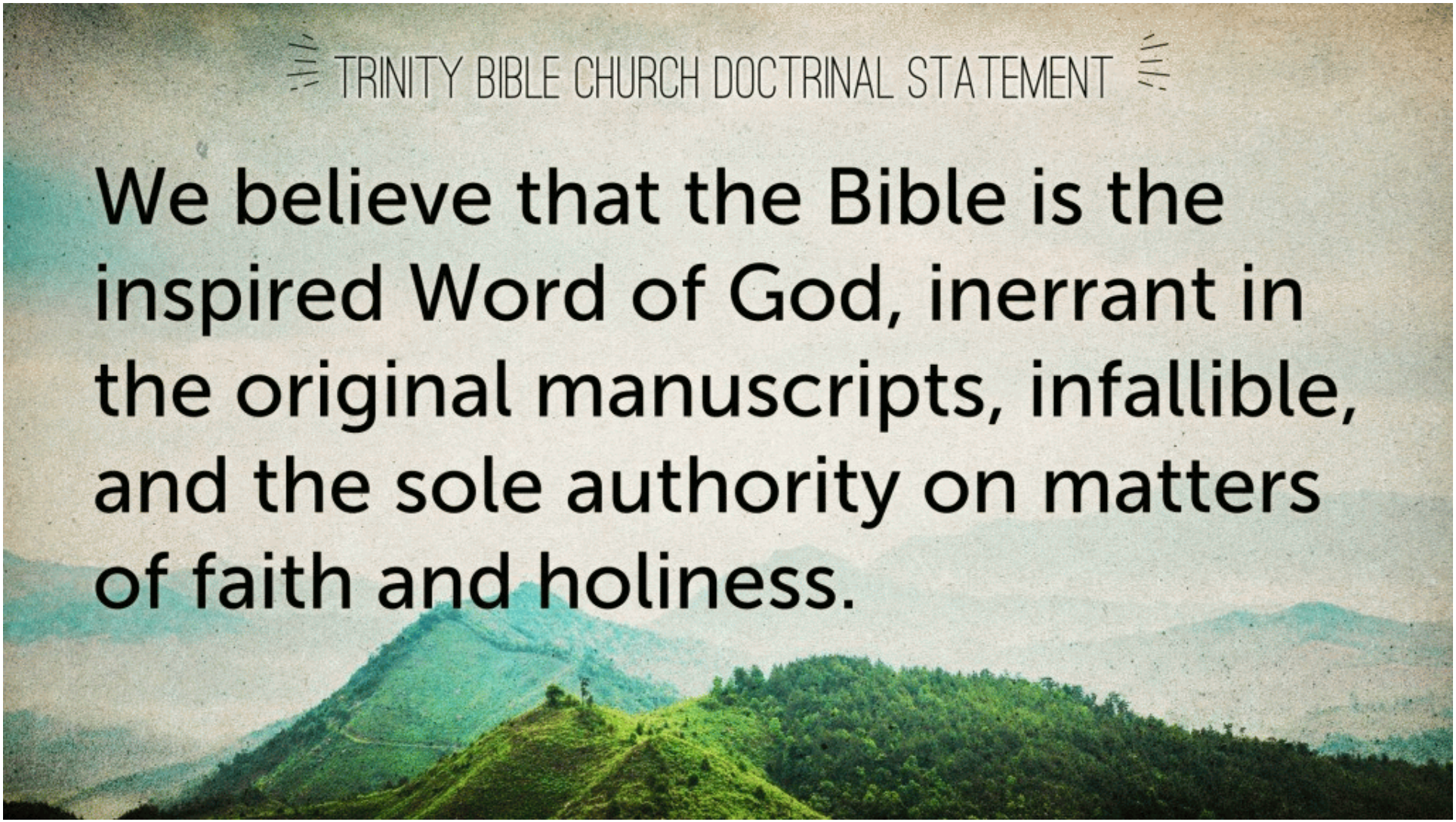
AUGUSTINE

Give me the plenary, verbal theory of inspiration, with all its difficulties. Rather than doubt, I accept the difficulties and humbly wait for their solution. But while I wait, I am standing on the rock.

J.C. RYLE

The Revelation of God Through Holy Men

- Scripture is a true revelation of the Person and Work of God in Christ Jesus – plenary and without error
- No surprise we cannot understand the full counsel of God at first glance (Isaiah 55:6; Romans 11:33)
- Study to show yourself approved by God (2 Timothy 2:15)
- Do not measure the Word of God by human wisdom but measure man by God's wisdom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