



GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion

54 – The Infallibility of Scripture

Announcements:

1/17 @6:30 -

Women's Bible Study

1/18 @7:00 -

Prayer

1/19 @6:30 -

Grace Group

1/22 @8:30 -

Sunday School

ICE BREAKER: What is one thing that you would say that you are an “expert” in?

On Sunday we covered three important doctrines regarding the Holy Scriptures: that Scripture is the *inspired* word of God; that the Scriptures are *sufficient* to teach us everything pertaining to life and godliness, and that God empowers us to understand all that we need according to the *perspicuity* of Scripture. Unfortunately we didn't cover one more really big and rather important doctrine: the *Infallibility* of the Scriptures. Whereas the doctrines we looked at on Sunday concerned how the words get to us, what they mean, and how they can be understood, this doctrine focuses on the actual words themselves. My favorite definition of this doctrine would be this: *Because the Scriptures are the Words of God, they are wholly true and trustworthy, neither being deceived nor deceiving.** In this there are three things I would like to look at today.

The first is to note that this doctrine of Scripture fundamentally rests on our doctrines of God. We assert these things can and are true about scripture because we assert these things about the God who is speaking. Because God is omniscient he knows all things and cannot be mistaken, because he is good and just and right and trustworthy and that God cannot tell a lie that his words will have these same traits. As Herman Bavink says: “Because God *is* the only true God his words are true in a **metaphysical sense**. Because he is the one who speaks only the truth, his words are true in an **ethical sense**. Because he is the God who truly knows himself and all things his words are true in a **logical sense**.” In other words, because God is God, in every way we can conceive of, his words are true.

DISCUSS: Why is it important to ground our beliefs in who God is? What other foundations do people try to use, and why do they fall short?

The next portion of the definition states that the Scriptures are “wholly true and trustworthy”. There are two parts of this: one is that there is not any one falsity or lie within them. Secondly you can with confidence and assurance place all your hope and trust in what they say. But here we must note another thought: Scripture is wholly true and trustworthy, but the people reading it are not! In other words you need to be careful because people can (and do!) use the true words of God for their own selfish and sinful gains. The most prime example of this is in scripture itself where the devil warps and changes the words of God to fit his aims in tempting and causing man to fall. The lesson here is that while scripture is true and trustworthy we must approach it with care and wisdom and make sure we are listening to the words of God rather than someone else.

DISCUSS: How can knowing Scriptures are infallible prepare us to see people who may not be? What is the cure and assurance that we are protected (hint: think of the doctrines we covered Sunday!)

The final thought is that the words of God are “neither deceived nor deceiving”. To help us understand how important this is, let me give an example of what would be the opposite. When I was in college I had a friend that took a “job”. They told him that he would make a certain amount of money after a certain amount of time. So for about a week we paid for his lunches and things because “he was good for it”. “I will get paid next Friday,” he told us. Next Friday came and after the fees came out and the promised bonus was “paid out over the first year of work” he had less than half of what was expected. So us as his friends were deceived (he lied and couldn't pay us back) because *he* had been deceived. With Scripture this cannot and will not happen. God has never been corrected and he cannot be wrong, therefore we can have perfect trust in his words!

DISCUSS: Why is this thought so important? What about this thought in particular gives us hope and confidence?