



HCF Core Values

A High View of Scripture – Part 1

A High View of Scripture - We value the special revelation of God He has given us in His written Word, the Bible. Since the Holy Scriptures are in fact all sufficient, infallible and inerrant, we seek to always have a *high view of Scripture*. The scripture contains all that we need for life, faith and godly living because it is a true and divine revelation of God Himself. We therefore seek to always understand the bible better and teach the bible very clearly. Clear and expository bible teaching is a fundamental element in our worship.

We value the special revelation of God He has given us in His written Word, the Bible. – Having discussed the fact that we have a high view of God, we now turn to the source of what we know about God, the bible. We value the bible because it is the only special revelation of God that He has given to us whereby He has revealed Himself to us. There are basically two types of revelation from God in the world;

Natural revelation –

Light of Creation

Romans 1:18-21 - 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because **that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.** 20 **For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made,** so that they are without excuse. NASB

Light of Conscience

Romans 2:14-16 - 14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law **do instinctively the things of the Law,** these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, 15 **in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness,** and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, 16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus. NASB

Special Revelation – The Bible is the written revelation of God

The scripture in its entirety is the revelation of God to man about what is true. It includes true information about our existence and destinies which we could have never known by any other means.

Deut 29:29 – 29 "The **secret things belong to the LORD** our God, but **the things revealed belong to us** and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law. NASB

It obviously follows then that God has revealed specific information to us that He intends for us to hear, know and understand. This information called the scripture then is

therefore **authoritative**, coming from God and being the standard of truth, by which our lives must be governed.

Hebrews 4:12 - 12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and **piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit**, of both joints and marrow, and **able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart**. NASB

The Bible is the Word of God.

Here we affirm the testimony of every truly born-again Christian. Because of the inner witness of the Holy Spirit, we understand the bible to be the very Word of God.

Grudem – *“Our ultimate conviction that the words of the bible are God’s words comes only when the Holy Spirit speaks in and through the words of the bible to our hearts and gives us the inner assurance that these are the words of our creator speaking to us.”*

Of course this is because the bible is God’s very words. This inner assurance can only come about for a truly born again Christian who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor 2:14) The natural man cannot and does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God.

The bible certainly claims to be the Word of God.

1 Thess 2:13 -13 And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but **for what it really is, the word of God**, which also performs its work in you who believe.

Frequently the bible records the very words of God Himself.

Ex 5:1 - 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron came and said to Pharaoh, "**Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel**, 'Let My people go that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness.'"

1 Sam 15:2-3 - 2 **Thus says the LORD of hosts**, 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt. NASB

2 Sam 7:4-6 - 4 But it came about in the same night that **the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying**, 5 "Go and say to My servant David, "**Thus says the LORD**," Are you the one who should build Me a house to dwell in? NASB

Both the Old and New Testaments make claims to be the very Word of God. Writers in scripture frequently refer to scripture as God’s very words.

Matthew 1:22-23 - 22 Now all this took place that what **was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled**, saying, 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."NASB

Matthew 4:4 - 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on **every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God**.'" NASB

Acts 1:16,20 - 16 "Brethren, **the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David** concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. 20 "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his homestead be made desolate, And let no man dwell in it'; and, 'His office let another man take.' NASB

The Holy Scriptures are inspired by God, (God breathed), not only in the general sense, but in every word.

The bible is inspired in two ways. Both verbally and plenary. **Verbal and plenary** are terms used to define what we mean by inspiration. **Verbal** means that every word in the original language is inspired by God. **Plenary** means that the totality of scripture is inspired including its concepts, numbers, names, and every part of the scripture.

2 Tim 3:16-17 - 16 **All Scripture is inspired by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. NASB

Here we see an example of the New Testament's claim that all the words of the Old Testament scriptures are God's words. When referring to "Scripture", the writer refers to the "entire Old Testament." The word for "scriptures" used here – "*graphe*" is used in 50 other places in the NT and always refer to the Old Testament scriptures. The greek for the word inspired is "*theopneustos*" – "breathed out by God." We understand then the Old Testament to be considered by the apostles as God's Word. Further, the NT makes reference to itself as the words of scripture.

2 Peter 3:14-16 - 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, 15 and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also **our beloved brother Paul**, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also **in all his letters**, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, **as they do also the rest of the Scriptures**, to their own destruction. NASB

Here Peter refers to the writings of Paul as the "scriptures." gk – "*graphas*" Another example would be where Paul refers to the words of Luke 10:7 and calls them "the scripture";

1 Tim 5:18 - 18 For **the Scripture says**, "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages." NASB

The scripture then, is inspired by God, in every word. It follows then that all the concepts, numbers, names, and every part of the scripture are inspired by God.

Since the Holy Scriptures are in fact all sufficient, infallible and inerrant, we seek to always have a high view of Scripture. – Therefore the scripture is the very words of God Himself and are to be heeded and respected as such. They are sacred, holy and pure and should be considered with the highest honor and fear that we can give them, as if God Himself were here and speaking to us.

Psalms 19:7-11 - 7 The law of the LORD is **perfect**, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is **sure**, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the LORD are **right**, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is **pure**, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is **clean**, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are **true**; they are righteous altogether. 10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them Thy servant is warned; **In keeping them there is great reward.** NASB

It only stands to reason then that if the Bible is the very words of God, they are perfect and without error and are to be esteemed as such. The bible is sufficient to address every matter in life. If it has not spoken explicitly to the matter, it has addressed it in principle. In fact God has met the deepest needs of mankind in His Word, for His Word brings about the most necessary changes which are needed for mankind's fulfillment. The Word of God is sufficient because it has transforming power to change us into the likeness of God.

2 Peter 1:2-4 - 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has **granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these **He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. NASB

The *Westminster Confession of Faith* defines the sufficiency of Scripture in this way:

“The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man’s salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from scripture; unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.”

The Bible is without error and infallible as originally given.

Inerrancy – Scripture in its original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact. The bible always tells the truth and that it always tells the truth concerning everything it talks about.

It has been clearly pointed out thus far that the bible is the Word of God. It should be noted at this point that, being the very words of God, this implies several things about the nature of Scripture.

God cannot lie or speak falsely – (2 Sam 7:28, Tit 1:2)

Numbers 23:19 - 19 "**God is not a man, that He should lie**, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?
NASB

God’s words are the ultimate standard of truth, the very words are truth itself.

Psalms 12:6 - 6 **The words of the LORD are pure words**; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times. NASB

John 17:17 - 17 "Sanctify them in the truth; **Thy word is truth**. NASB

The words of scripture are completely true and without error

Psalms 119:160 - 60 The **sum of Thy word is truth**, And every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting. NASB

Therefore, when we speak of inerrancy and infallibility, we speak of the truthfulness of scripture.

Grudem – *“No new fact will ever be discovered that will contradict the bible. This will never happen, it is in fact impossible. If any supposed fact is ever discovered that is said to contradict the Scripture, then that fact must be false, because God, the author of scripture knows all true facts(past, present, future). No fact will turn up that God did not know about ages ago and take into account when He caused scripture to be written.”*

Therefore because the Scriptures are the very Words of God, and they are all-sufficient, infallible and without error, we seek to always have a **high view of scripture**. This would mean that we always try to exalt the Scriptures by speaking very highly of them and applying them to our daily lives with all reverence and submission. We are also very careful to represent what Scripture teaches accurately and not mishandle the Word of God by misinterpreting it or using it in a way as to undermine its true message or misconstrue its message in a way inconsistent with what it teaches. We are careful not to take the Scripture out of its context and use it as a pretext to say something that God has not intended it to say. More than this, God will hold us accountable for obedience to His clearly revealed Word and has warned us with the utmost severity of the consequences of disobedience.

John 12:46-48 - 46 "I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness. 47 "And **if anyone hears My sayings, and does not keep them**, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; **the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day**. NASB