

The Doctrines Of The Faith



What The Bible Says About...

BIBLIOLOGY

The Doctrine of Word of God

"A Study In Truth"

PASTOR ART KOHL

Bibliology

The Doctrine of the Word of God

by Pastor Art Kohl

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The Doctrines Of The Faith — A Study In Truth Series

Bibliology

The Doctrine of the Word of God

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I. Facts About The Bible

1. The word “Bible” means “books.” The Bible is a library of 66 books written by authors over a period of 1500 years. There are thirty-nine books in the Old Testament (OT) and twenty-seven books in New Testament (NT).
2. These authors claimed that their words were from God, dictated to them by the Holy Spirit. More on that later in this booklet.
3. Daniel referred to the Old Testament writings (the book of Jeremiah) as the “books” in Daniel 9:2.
4. Jesus referred to the Old Testament writings as the Scriptures (Matthew 21:42), The Law (John 10:34), The Prophets (Matthew 5:17), The Psalms (Luke 24:44).
5. Jesus quoted out of the Old Testament seventy-six times from twelve Old Testament books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy (most), Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Hosea, Micah, Zechariah, Malachi.
6. Paul called the Old Testament writings: The Scriptures - Romans 15:4; The Oracles of God - Romans 3:2; The Law - 1 Corinthians 14:2.
7. Paul quoted the Old Testament 131 times from seventeen Old Testament books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 1 Chronicles, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah, Jeremiah., Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Habakkuk, Malachi
8. Seven books have no quotes in the New Testament but are referred to in the New Testament:
Numbers - 1 Corinthians 10:9; Judges - Acts 13:20; Ruth - Matthew 1:5; 1 Samuel - Hebrews 11:32; 2 Kings - Matthew 1; 2 Chronicles - Matthew 1; Jonah - Matthew 16:4.
9. Old Testament books which are neither quoted from or referred to in the New Testament: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Lamentations, Obadiah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, yet by the time of Christ these were considered the Scriptures by the Jews and contained in the Canon that Christ approved of. (“Canon” means “the official list of the books contained in the Bible; books of the Bible accepted by the churches.”)
10. A total of 314 verses are used from the Old Testament in the New Testament. Ninety-two of the 314 refer to Christ.
11. A total of 136 different Old Testament characters are referred to in the New Testament.
12. Thirty out of thirty-nine Old Testament books are represented

- in the New Testament. (See number nine above.)
13. Luke referred to the Old Testament four times from three different books: Exodus, Leviticus, Isaiah.
 14. The disciples referred to the Old Testament as the Scriptures (Luke 24:32).
 15. Peter quoted from seven Old Testament books: Genesis, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah, Joel.
 16. Peter referred to all of Paul's writing as Scriptures: 2 Peter 3:16. Paul wrote fourteen of the twenty-seven New Testament books. (The word "scriptures" means "holy writ.")
 17. The New Testament directly quotes twenty-three Old Testament books: Psalms -78x (most), Isaiah-57x, Deuteronomy-47x, Exodus-31x, Genesis-26x, Leviticus-23x, Jeremiah-9x, Hosea-6x, Zechariah-6x, Proverbs-5x, Malachi-5x, Habbakkuk-4x, Micah-3x, Joel, 2x, Amos-2x, Daniel-2x, 1 Kings - 2x, 2 Samuel-1x, 1 Chronicles-1x, Joshua-1x, Ezekiel-1x, Haggai-1x, Job-1x
 18. The top ten characters referred to in the New Testament from the Old Testament: Moses -101x, Abraham-94x, David-67x, Elijah-41x, Isaiah-26x, Jacob-26x, Isaac-24x, Adam-18x, Judah-16x, Joseph-14x
 19. The writers of the Old Testament books include (but are not limited to): Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Ezra, Nehemiah, David, Sons of Korah, Asaph, Heman, Ethan, Solomon, Haggai, Zechariah, Hezekiah, Agur, Lemuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Malachi and other unknown authors.
 20. The writers of the New Testament books include: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James and Jude.
 21. The occupations of these authors is very diverse and include a soldier, an Egyptian prince, a priest, a king, rich farmer, poor farmer, scribe, prophets, prime minister's cupbearer, tax collector, evangelist, physician, wealthy fisherman, poor fisherman, carpenter, tentmaker and others of unknown occupations.
 22. Some of the authors like Moses and Paul were very educated men, others like Peter and John were considered unlearned and ignorant (Acts 4:13), yet the Lord used them to write seven New Testament books.
 23. God is in no way mentioned in the book of Esther or the Song of Solomon but His presence and works are seen throughout.

24. The Canon of Scripture (66 books) was completed in 95 AD when John finished writing the "Revelation." These books were the only ones accepted by the first century church leaders as inspired by God. Other spurious (false or counterfeit) works were not accepted by the early church.

The Roman Catholic Church attempted to add to the Bible the Apocrypha Books (such as Tobias, Judith, Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, 1 and 2 Machabees) in the 1500's. These books were rejected as spurious and though they were added between the Old and New Testaments of the King James Bible for their "literary and historical value," the outcry of believers and lovers of the Bible was so loud they were soon deleted so as not to be mistaken as scripture. These books still appear in Roman Catholic Bibles (Douay-Rheims version) but few others.

These protestors were right to cry out against them. (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32, Proverbs 30:5-6, Revelation 22:18-19).

II. Words That Are A Must In Understanding Bibliology

A. Revelation

Revelation may be defined as God's communication of divine truth to man concerning that which man could not otherwise know about God and His will. Since man is spiritually dead, it is impossible for man to know anything about God unless God reveals it to him. In a general sense, man has always possessed a limited amount of revelation concerning God as communicated through His creation (Job 37:1-6; Psalm 19:1-6; Acts 14:17; Romans 1:20) and his dealings with man (Genesis 1:26; Acts 17:24-27). However, in order for man to gain a true and experiential knowledge of God, special revelation was necessary. In conveying His message, God spoke progressively and in various supernatural ways including **(1)** dreams (Genesis 37:5-9) **(2)** visions (Genesis 15:1; Isaiah 6:1-8; Amos 7-9) **(3)** direct communication (1 Samuel 3:3-14) **(4)** Theophanies (Genesis 18; 32:24-30) **(5)** miracles (Genesis 6-9; 1 Kings 18:17-40; John 20:30-31). **(6)** prophets unto the people (Hebrews 1:1; 2 Peter 1:21; Hosea 1:1; Joel 1:1) **(7)** the Incarnate Son of God (John 1:1-18; Hebrews 1:2 cf. John 14:7), and **(8)** the written Word of God (1 Corinthians 2:9-11; 2 Timothy 3:16). God's revelation ceased with the completion of the written Word - the Bible (Revelation 22:18).

B. Inspiration

Inspiration is that inexplicable working of the Holy Spirit whereby He guided the human authors of the Bible in choosing the very words (verbal) they used in writing every portion (plenary) of the original manuscripts so that the Bible is, in all its parts, both infallible, as to truth, and final, as to authority. The guidance of the human authors by the Holy Spirit was such that He used their own individual personalities to record without error God's revelation which is to be the only authoritative source for man's faith and practice (cf. Matthew 5:17-18, 24:35; Luke 21:15; John 5:39, 10:35; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21, Exodus 4:10-15; 2 Samuel 23:2; Isaiah 8:1, Jeremiah 1:9, 30:2, 32:2; 1 Corinthians 11:23; 14:37, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, Galatians 1:11,12; Hebrews 1:1,2; Revelation 1:11, Genesis 1:26, Exodus 4:12; Isaiah 51:16; Ezekiel 1:3; Revelation 14:13; Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2).

C. Inerrancy and Infallibility

Since God is the Divine Author of the Scriptures, and since the Holy Spirit guided the human authors, and since God is true (John 3:33; 17:3; Romans 3:4) His Word must be true and without error. Not only is the Bible without error, but it speaks with precise accuracy and reliability (John 17:17; John 10:35; Luke 24:44).

D. Authority

That which the Scriptures proclaim, they speak with the absolute authority of "Thus saith the Lord." Since it is the Word of the Almighty God, it is binding upon all men (Matthew 21:42; 22:29-32; John 5:39; cf. Matthew 5:17-18; 26:53-54). It is, therefore, man's absolute authority for faith and practice.

E. Canonicity

The word "canon" comes from the Hebrew word for a measuring instrument or "that which keeps a thing straight" and implies the idea of a "standard." The Scriptures are an authoritative standard for the faith and practice not because they passed man-made tests, but because they are God-breathed, or inspired. During the process of determining canonicity, the Holy Spirit simply led men to recognize that which was already fact.

The Old Testament canon consists of thirty-nine books (cf. Joshua 8:31-35; 23:6; 1 Kings 2:3; 2 Kings 4:6; Ezra 7:6; Malachi 4:4; also Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:27,44; Matthew 23:35; 2 Timothy 3:16). The New Testament canon consists of twenty-seven books (cf. John.14:26; 16:12-15; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 5:27; 1 Corinthians 2:7-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:16; 2 Peter 3:15-16).

F. Illumination

Illumination is the work of the Holy Spirit whereby He gives individuals the ability to understand the Word of God. Because of sin, man's understanding has been darkened so that no one can understand Scripture properly without Divine assistance (Romans 1:21; Ephesians 4:18; 1 Corinthians 2:14). It is the Holy Spirit which enlightens the mind of the believer to understand the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 2:6-16; 1 John 2:20,27; cf. John 16:8; 2 Corinthians 4:4).

G. Interpretation

The Scriptures must be interpreted on the basis of sound exegesis (explanation, exposition) and the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures are to be interpreted literally giving consideration to the historical, cultural, and grammatical context of the passage. The premillennial, dispensational system of interpretation is the correct approach to understanding the progressive unfolding of God's plan. More on how to understand the scriptures from a dispensational aspect later in this booklet.

H. Preservation

God has providentially worked to assure that His Word is kept accurate through the centuries (Isaiah 40:8; 55:11, 1 Peter 1:23-25; Psalm 12:6,7; Psalm 119:89; Psalm 119:152; Matthew 24:35; Luke 21:33; Matthew 5:18). Because the originals no longer exist, these verses are either not true or God has kept His word and promise through copies of the original and in other languages.

Our church's position is that God has preserved His eternal Word for English people today in the Authorized Version, also known as the King James Version of 1611. We believe all other English versions deviate from the truth, leave out passages,

change meanings of words, verses and texts and weaken the major doctrines of the faith.

For example: of the 5332 complete New Testament manuscripts in the original Greek still in existence today, only ten of them leave out portions or all of Acts 8:37. The New International Version (NIV) deletes this verse completely.

According to Dr. Floyd Jones, Th. D., Ph.D., the NIV (New International Version) has 2,922 fewer words in the New Testament than the KJV and over 6,300 less words than the KJV in the whole Bible.

“The 1611 KJV is from a superior text, translated by superior translators into a superior English,” said Bible historian Dr. Jewell Smith.

There were fifty-four translators of the KJV 1611. Each was commissioned by King James and knew how to fluently speak between three and ten languages. They were not religionists but linguists.

Thousands of martyrs have given their lives to protect and promote the Textus Receptus (Received text from which we get the KJV). It is hard to find anyone who ever died to protect the perverted texts. They are not worth dying for.

III. Practices That Are A Must In Understanding The Bible

A. How Can We Understand The Bible?

In answering that important question, consider first the preparation necessary for Bible study. You see, the Bible is one book that is written for the heart. Unless your heart is prepared, you will miss the truths and blessings of God’s Word.

1. You Must Have A Regenerated Heart

Having been born of the Spirit through faith in Christ (John 3:3). The unsaved person cannot understand God’s Word, according to 1 Corinthians 2:14.

2. You Must Have A Humble Heart

Listening to God as a little child would listen to his father (Matthew 11:25).

3. You Must Have An Obedient Heart

Willing to do whatever the Word says, with a deep desire to know God’s Word (Psalms 119:97). The Christian who sincerely loves God’s Word has no trouble finding time to read it every single day (Acts 17:11).

The first step in getting more out of your Bible study is simply this: **open your heart to God and let Him prepare it for the blessings He wants to give you.** Let Him cleanse every corner as you confess every sin. Be sure your will is yielded to Him. When your heart is quieted before Him, breathe the prayer of the psalmist: “Open thou mine eyes; that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.” (Psalms 119:18).

The second step is this: realize that God has made provision for you to understand His Word by giving you the Holy Spirit. The Spirit wrote the Word (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21) and is the Divine Teacher to explain the Word (John 14:26; 16:13-15). Allow the Spirit to guide you and you will be amazed at the way He will open your spiritual eyes! Of course, this means you must be on good terms with the Holy Spirit, not grieving Him with disobedience or unconfessed sin (Ephesians 4:30). He is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation who will open the eyes of your understanding, according to Ephesians 1:17-18; so allow Him to direct your study of God’s Word.

B. Principles of Bible Study

1. The Accuracy Principle

Be sure that all persons, places, objects, and events are accurately identified, and all words accurately defined, before you interpret a passage of Scripture.

You must be especially accurate in identifying persons and places in the Bible. There are ten different Simons, four men named John, three James’, six Marys, and several Herods! Some people have two names: Jacob is also called Israel, Levi is another name for Matthew, and Peter is called Simon and Cephas. The Sea of Galilee is also known as the Sea of Tiberias and the Sea of Gennesaret.

The Accuracy Principle also tells you to define Bible words accurately. The King James Version of the Bible was translated from the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts in 1611. Since that time, many English words have changed their meanings.

Take Hebrews 13:5 as an example: “Let your conversation be without covetousness...” That seems to teach that Christians must never talk about money, but the writer had something entirely different in mind. The word “conversation”

means “speech” today, but back in 1611 it meant “behaviour.” This verse simply commands us to live without the love of money controlling our actions.

Or, look at Philippians 4:6, “Be careful for nothing...” which seems to suggest we should be careless about everything! Of course, the word “careful” meant “full of care, anxious” back in the seventeenth century; so the verse implies, “Be anxious about nothing.”

To help you understand these old english words you will eventually want to purchase an 1828 Noah Webster Dictionary and/or a Strong’s Concordance of Greek and Hebrew words.

2. The Background Principle:

Be sure you understand the background and setting (context) of a passage before you interpret it. Always study a verse in the light of the entire chapter, and study the chapter in the light of the entire book it is in. Ask yourself these questions:

- a. What is the main theme of this chapter?
- b. Who is speaking: God, man, Satan, angels?
- c. Who is addressed: God, man, saints, sinners?
- d. When was this spoken or written?

3. The Cross Referencing Principle:

Be sure the Holy Spirit is your ultimate teacher and cross - reference all scriptures concerning a particular word, doctrine, topic, character, principle, etc. Compile all Scriptures about the subject and believe all the truth about that subject not just part. This type of study is called “comparing” in 1 Corinthians 2:13 and is the method the Holy Spirit honors with His illumination.

Cross references in your Bible come in handy. They refer you to other scriptures that shed light on the same subject. For example, why did Jesus constrain (compel) His disciples to get into the boat and depart after He had fed the 5,000? Matthew 14:22 does not tell us, but the cross reference refers us to John 6:15-21 and here we find the answer. Verse fifteen says that the crowd wanted to take Jesus by force and make Him a king! Jesus refused to be crowned by people who were only interested in full stomachs!

Never study a verse or passage as an isolated piece of Scrip-

ture. Look at it in its setting and study all the passages related to it. That way you will find many of the problems solved and the so-called “contradictions” answered.

Use good sense in interpreting parables, too. Do not try to make everything in a parable mean something unless the Bible warrants it. Look for the main lesson in a parable and the details will give you little trouble. Often the Bible explains the various symbols in a parable, such as “The Parable of the Sower” in Matthew 13:3-8 (explained in 13:19-23), or the “Vision of the Woman” in Revelation 17 (explained in 17:9, 12, 15, and 18).

4. The Dispensational Principle.

The Bible is divided into at least twelve different ages. We must “rightly” divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). Some of the laws, rules, rituals, etc. that God expected people to live by in one dispensation (age) were changed in another. Someone who does not know this will think there are contradictions in the Bible. For example, some meats that were not allowed to be eaten in the Old Testament are now allowed in the New Testament.

Here is a look at the twelve dispensations:

a. Eternity Past

b. The Creation - six days in duration in which God created all things.

c. Garden of Eden - Perfection, Adam and Eve, Very short in duration.

d. Age of Conscience - from expulsion from Garden of Eden till the flood of Noah.

e. Age of Human Government - after the flood. Man given the responsibility of capital punishment.

f. Age of the Patriarchs - Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (twelve sons).

g. Age of Law of God - through Moses and Nation of Israel.

h. Apostolic age - Day of Pentecost until the completion of the Bible, various gifts, signs, and wonders.

i. Church Age - overlaps with apostolic age until the rapture of the church in Revelation 4:1. The Apostolic age ends at the completion of the writing of the New Testament. I Corinthians 13:8-10.

Some have suggested that the seven churches of Asia spoken of in Revelation chapter two and three represent the past two thousand plus years of church history in exposing the personality of the churches during these years. This seems to be more than coincidental:

- Church of Ephesus - 1st Century Church. Sound in doctrine and works but they left their first love (Revelation 2:1-7).
- Church of Smyrna - 100-376 AD. The persecuted church that was poor materially but really rich spiritually (Revelation 2:8-11).
- Church of Pergamos - Middle ages. Mixed with the world. The heretical Church (Revelation 2:12-17).
- Church of Thyatira - 1054-1305 AD. The Medieval Church. Idolatry. Attached to the world. Spiritual fornication (Revelation 2:18-29).
- Church of Sardis - 1305-1517 AD. The almost dead church. Apostasy (Revelation 3:1-6).
- Church of Philadelphia - Reformation to early 1900's. The Church in Revival (Revelation 3:7-13). Some churches will continue in this spirit until Christ comes.
- Church of Laodecia -1940's to present. Apostasy and Humanism. Ecumenical. Christ is on the outside (Revelation 3:14-22).

j. The Tribulation - Time of Jacob's (Israel) trouble, seven years long.

k. Millenium - Christ's Kingdom! 1000 years.

l. Eternity - Heaven or Hell.

Do not allow the difficult portions of the Bible to discourage or detain you. Live by what you clearly understand from God's Word and trust Him to shed light on the obscure passages in His good time.

The test of successful Bible study is not simply how much you learn, but how much you live. The proof that Christ has taught you is not a big head, but a burning heart (Luke 24:32).

Prepare your heart, yield to the Spirit, and apply these basic principles. The Bible will become a new book to you and you will become a stronger Christian!

IV. The Bible Bookcase

Understand that the books of the Bible are not compiled in chronological order. They are placed in order by subject as follows:

A. The Old Testament

1. Law - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
2. History - Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.
3. Poetry - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon. (In Hebrew these were in poetry form.)
4. Major prophets (the big books) - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
5. Minor Prophets (the smaller books) - Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

B. The New Testament

1. Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
2. History - Acts
3. Paul's Letters
 - a. To the churches - Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians
 - b. To the pastors - 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus
 - c. To his friend - Philemon
 - d. To the Jews - Hebrews
4. Other General Letters - James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude
5. Prophecy - Revelation

V. Conclusion

We believe in the verbal, plenary, inspired word of God, without error. It is our primary source for information concerning God, His church and is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. We believe God controlled the mind and hand of the writers of His word. We believe this accuracy to be extended to every portion of the Bible, so that it is infallible as to truth and final as to divine authorship.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the central person and theme of this whole book. If we see Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son throughout the study of its pages our conclusions will probably be accurate.

All success in the Christian faith must be tied to this book.

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”
(Joshua 1:8).

**“Study to shew thyself
approved unto God,
a workman
that needeth not
to be ashamed,
rightly dividing
the word of truth.”**

2 Timothy 2:15