THEOLOGY OVER BREAKFAST

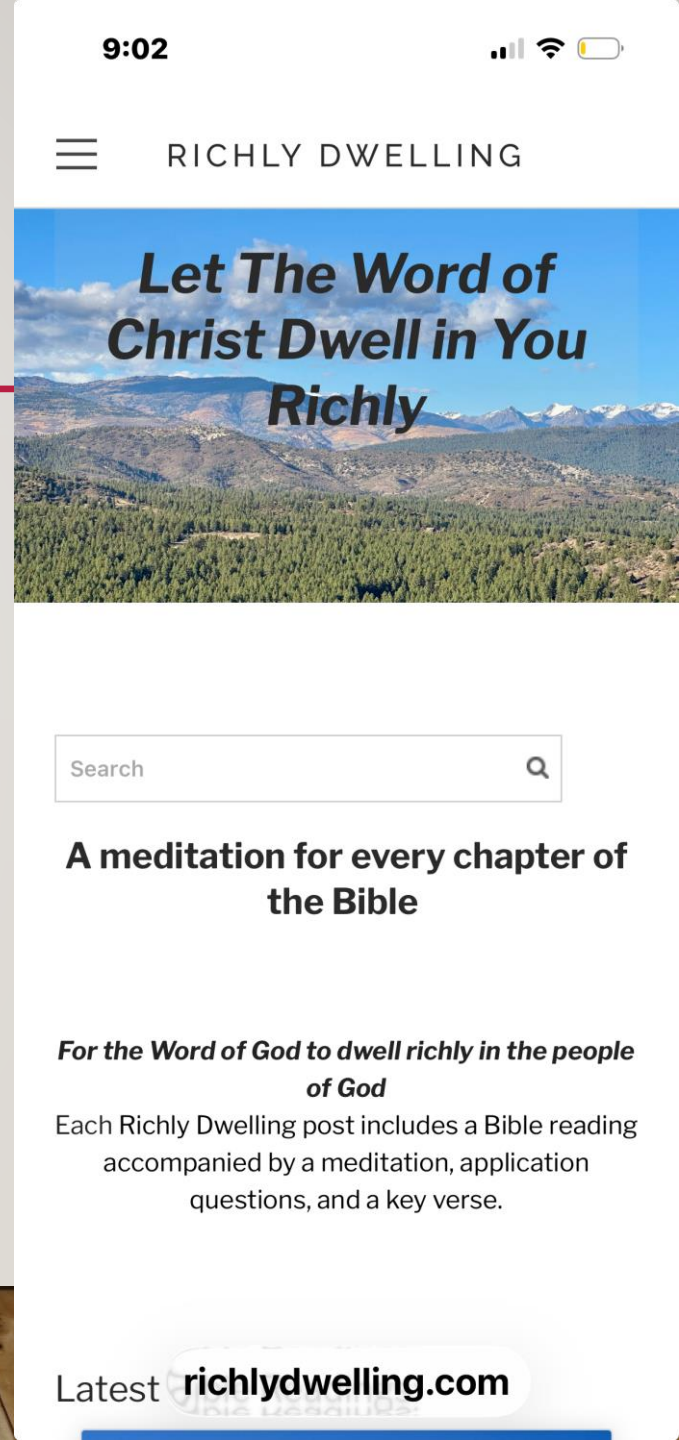
AN INTRODUCTION TO BIBLIOLOGY AT OVERLAND CHURCH

TABLE INTRODUCTIONS

James 1:22-25

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts,
he will be blessed in his doing.

Introduction: Name. How long have you been coming to Overland? Random fact about yourself. Relationship with God's Word.



COUNTING TO FIVE

1 main goal: Love for God, His Word, and His work to love His world

2 forms of divine revelation: General and Special

3 "Wrong Ways" to know God: Rationalism, Mysticism, and Addition

4 Attributes of Scripture: Sufficiency, Clarity, Authority, Necessity (SCAN)

5 I-Words: Inspiration, Illumination, Infallibility, Inerrancy, and Interpretation

1- LOVE FOR GOD, HIS WORD, AND HIS WORK

- The KC Explosion
- The Subversive Fulfillment of Scripture: Nuggets from Psalm 119
  - Blessing (119:2, 165)
  - Treasure (that Transforms Desires) (119:11, 92)
  - Counselor and Companion (119:24, 33-34)
  - More Valuable than Silver or Gold (119:72, 127)
  - Sweeter than Honey (119:103) and a Light for our Path (119:105, 130)
  - Our Heritage/ Inheritance (119:111)
  - Eternal (119:89, 152, 160)

2- GENERAL AND SPECIAL REVELATION

- God wants to be known! And He has made Himself known
  - Generally: "The Book of Nature" (Cannons of Dort)
    - Psalm 8- God's glory and Majesty
    - Psalm19:1-3- Creation declares… proclaims… pours out speech… reveals knowledge
    - Isaiah 40:25-26- God's wisdom in His careful ordering
    - Jeremiah 33:20-21 God guarantees His Covenant promises
    - Lamentations 3:22-23 God's Character- He is Faithful
    - Romans 1:19-20- God's eternal power, divine nature, and invisible attributes
    - Acts 14:17- Creation is a "witness" to God's Providential involvement in History

GENERAL REVELATION

- **General Revelation as an Apologetic**: Teleological, Cosmological, Ontological, and Axiological arguments (but We Need More for Salvation).
- **Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF): 1.1** (1689 similar to LBCF 1.1)

Although the light of nature and the works of creation and providence show the goodness, wisdom, and power of God so much as to leave people inexcusable, yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and his will which is necessary for salvation. Therefore it pleased the Lord, at various times and in diverse ways, to reveal himself and to declare his will to his Church. Afterwards, in order to better preserve and propagate the truth, and to more surely establish and protect the Church against the corruption of the flesh, the malice of Satan, and the malice of the world, it pleased the Lord to commit this wholly into writing, which makes the Holy Scripture most necessary, those former ways of God's revealing his will to his people now being ceased.

GENERAL AND SPECIAL REVELATION

Is it possible to both know God and not know God at the same time?

SPECIAL REVELATION

- Special Revelation: The Word of God for The People of God

From Grace, we embrace the Sufficiency, Clarity, Authority, & Necessity of God's Word (SCAN)

- Satan's Strategy (Genesis 3:1-8)
  - Doubt on God's Word and God's Character
  - Delight, Desire, Taking, and Eating
  - Nakedness and Shame- Hiding and Separation
- Jesus is our Covenant Representative (Matthew 4:1-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-21; Romans 5:20-21)
  - Trust in God's Word and God's Character
  - Delighted and Desired to Take and Eat God's Word Alone
  - Naked on the Cross, taking our shame, so we can be righteous in Him

SPECIAL REVELATION: CANON

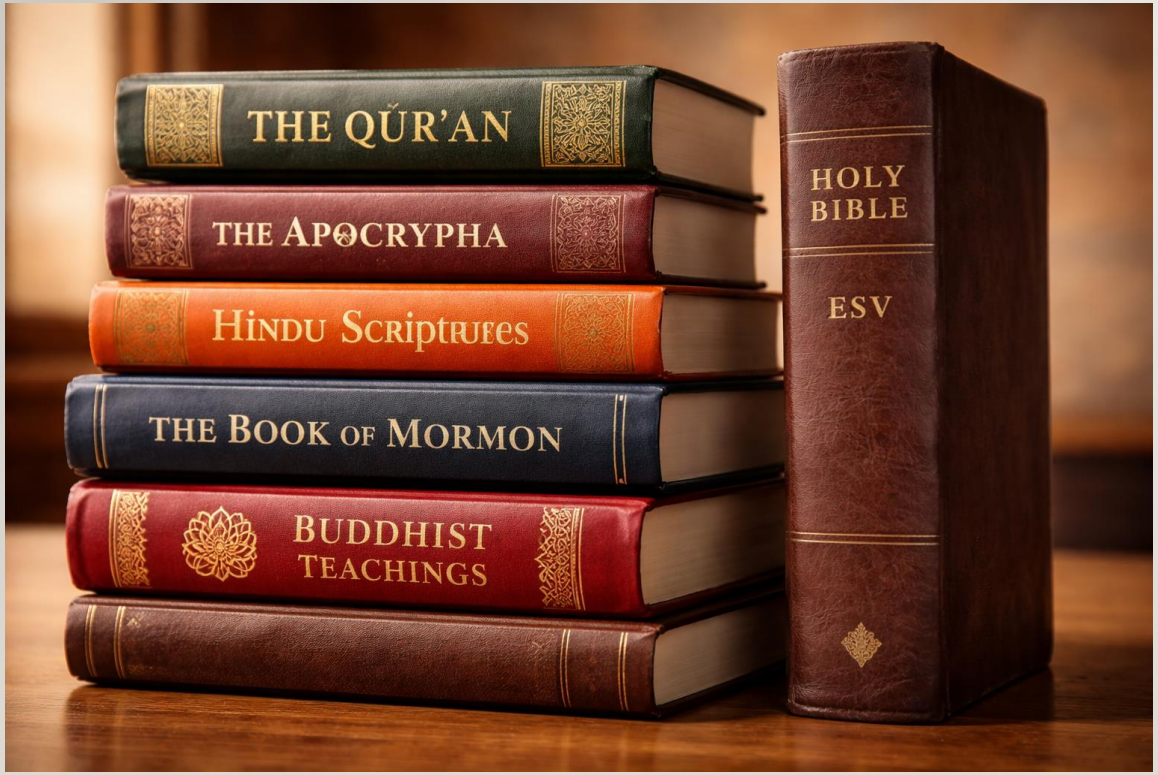


Table Time:

How do we know what happened during creation if only God was there?

What makes the revelation of Scripture unique from the "revelation" of books of other world religions?

SPECIAL REVELATION: CANON

God does not whisper secret knowledge to isolated individuals removed from verification. He acts and speaks publicly, before communities

: Moses on Mt Sanai (Exodus 19:18-20; 20:1)

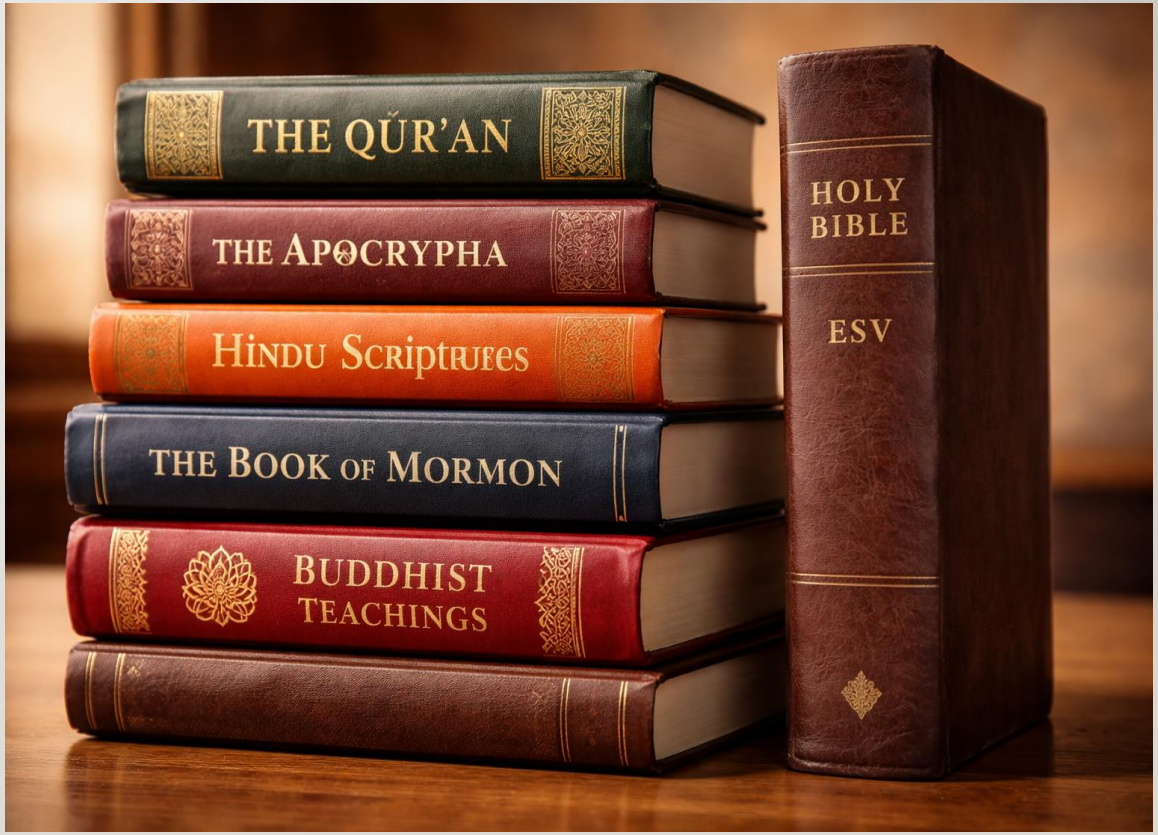
: Moses in the Tent of Meeting (Exodus 33:7-11)

: Validated by the community (Deut. 4:33)

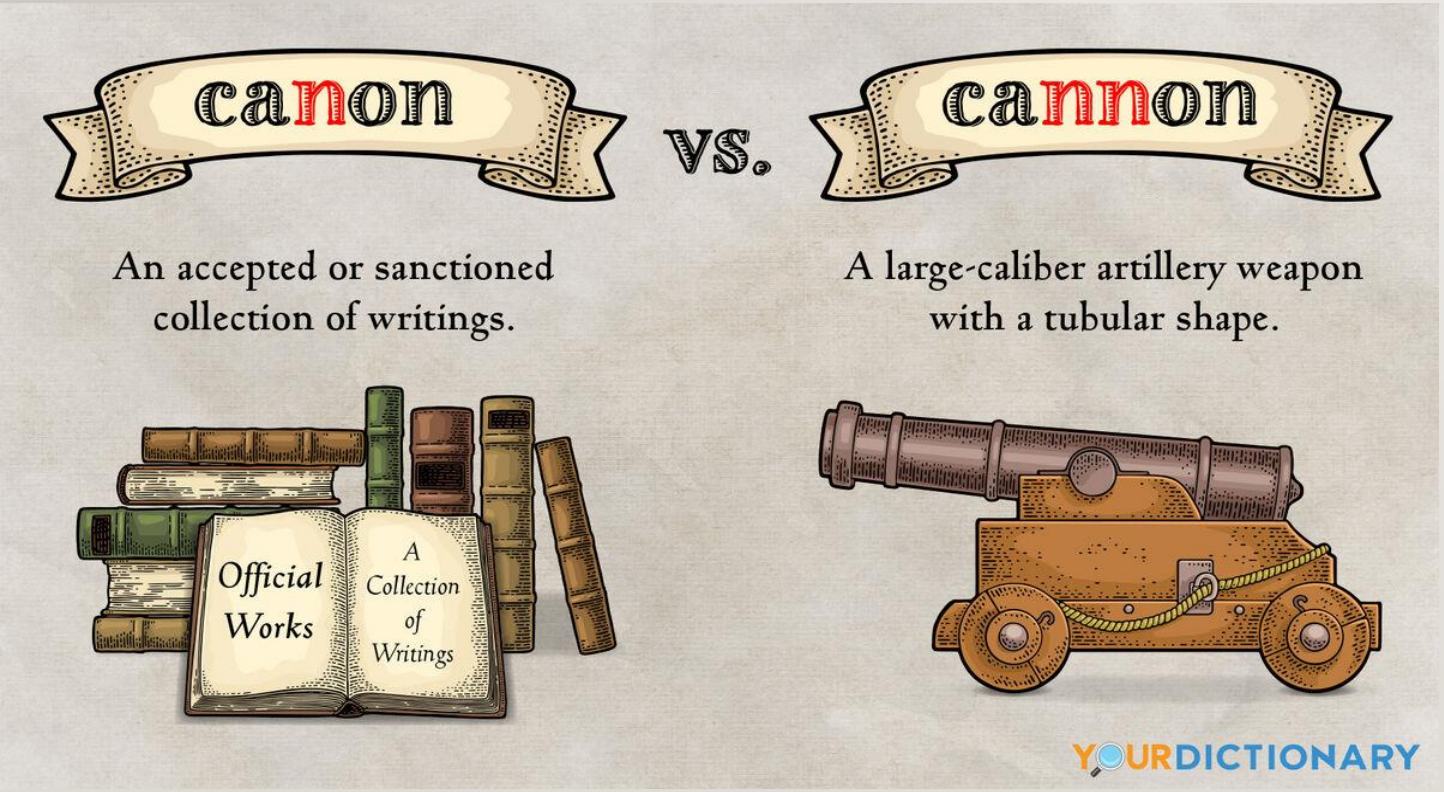
Contrast this with the private, esoteric, non-historical revelation of other religions. Consider:

Mormonism (Smith's Golden Tablets)

Islam (Muhammad in the Cave of Hira)



SPECIAL REVELATION: CANON



The authoritative books God has given to His corporate Church

Canon = standard, or measuring stick

SPECIAL REVELATION: CANON

- **Liberalism vs Orthodoxy**
- The Documentary Hypothesis (JEDP) and Scripture's own claims for the OT.

Moses was told and wrote down all the words of the Lord (Exodus 24:3-4);

God established a prophetic pattern to discern His word through prophets (Deut. 18:18-19);

God's prophets spoke by God's Spirit, and their words were God's words (2 Peter 1:20-21);

God entrusted His word to His people (Romans 3:1-2) as He spoke through His prophets (Hebrews 1:1-2).

SPECIAL REVELATION: CANON

- Canon: **The authoritative books God has given to His corporate Church**
  - Scripture was written by God and carries His authority
  - Given to the church, recognized as Scripture by the people of God
  - The corporate Church reaches consensus on the books

1- **Second Temple Jews viewed God's Word as a story not yet finished**

2- **The Redemptive-Revelation pattern of Scripture**

3- **The OT anticipates divine messages accompanying the new eschatological age**

4- **The covenantal nature of Israel generally and God's revelation specifically**

SPECIAL REVELATION: CANON

Three categories to prioritize for NT Canon process:

1. Authorship (were the books authentically written by an Apostle?),
2. Catholicity (were they accepted by the Church as such?), and
3. Integrity (was there alignment with the OT/ other sacred scriptures?).

NOTE:

1- The Bible is internally and externally coherent

2- The Bible is the best-preserved ancient text

SPECIAL REVELATION: CANON

- **Authorship**
  - Jesus spoke through/ sent out Apostles (**Acts 1:8; Mt 28:18-20; Lk 24:28; Jn 17:14, 20**) who wrote down & applied Jesus ' teaching with the same authority (**2 Peter 3:2**). Scripture must have an apostolic foundation.

Catholicity

- There are NO competing writings in the 1st century, and by 110, Ignatius referred to the gospels in his writings.
- **140-150** Marcion's heretical "New Testament".
- **@170** Muratorian fragment includes 22 of 27 NT books together
- Four categories laid out by the well-known fourth century (**300's**) historian Eusebius in *Hist. eccl*. 3.25.1-7: Recognized, Disputed, Rejected, and Heretical
- **303-306** Diocletian's persecution includes confiscating and destroying New Testament Scriptures
- **Integrity**
- Alignment with OT sacred Scriptures (note:: 2,000 of 2,500 OT prophecies fulfilled)

SPECIAL REVELATION: CANON

- **Are there any more books to be added?**
- NO- See **Revelation 22:18; Galatians 1:7-8**. ALL other religions claiming a new revelation are heretical and under the curse. We should not even welcome false teachers (2 John) and be very aware of the enemies continue attempts to deceive the flock by twisting God's word (Acts 20).

- **How will we recognize false teachers?**

-Teach according to human desires and not God's standard: **2 Timothy 4:3-4**

-They follow human sensuality and are greedy for personal gain: **2 Peter 2:1-3**

-They minimize sin and judgment (**Jeremiah 6:13-14**) while maximizing human work(s)- see Jesus' words in **Mt 7, 25.**

-They cause division by building unity around something other than the word and work of Jesus: **Jude 18-20; Gal.**

DISCUSS

What art ways you see non-Christians attempting to "know God"?

3 "WRONG WAYS" TO KNOW GOD: RATIONALISM, MYSTICISM, AND ADDITION

- **Rationalism**: Reason is not the standard for truth. Scientific and Intellectual trends do not eclipse the eternal word of God.
  - Examples: Friedrich Scheiermacher and Rudolf Bultman
- **Mysticism/ Experience**
  - New Age spiritual self-discovery, "God told me…" authority,
    - Spirit "illumination" vs "personal revelation."
- **Addition**
  - Book of Mormon, JW, Continuationist position

4 ATTRIBUTES OF SCRIPTURE: SUFFICIENCY, CLARITY, AUTHORITY, NECESSITY (SCAN)

The Sufficiency of Scripture

"The whole counsel of God... is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture." -*WCF 1.6*

"The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself." - *WCF 1.9*

The question of sufficiency in a selfie-world that shuffles & synchronizes? (**2 Timothy 4:3-4**)

Synchronizing and Shuffling with…?

Jahn Wycliff: The Morning Star of the Reformation

The Bereans in Acts 17:10-15

SCAN: THE SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE

What the Reformers protested was the idea that the church had access to apostolic teachings not found in Scripture, teaching that pertained both to the church's practice (e.g., indulgences) and beliefs (e.g., various Marian doctrines). Martin Luther viewed these Roman Catholic supplements as an affront to the Bible's sufficiency.

- Scripture is sufficient for all things about God, salvation, godliness, God's counsel…
- Scripture is the controlling story of all other knowledge: Consider biology (Collins), Math (Lennox), sexuality, law…
- Worldview: Creation/Fall/ Redemption (Wolters); order/disorder/redemption/re-direction (for God and His glory)

SCAN: THE CLARITY OF SCRIPTURE

- The Perspicuity of Scripture:
- The original lie of Satan was that God's word needed interpretation (see **Genesis 2:17; 3:4**)

"The question then comes to this—whether the Scriptures are so plain in things essential to salvation (not as to the things delivered, but as to the mode of delivery; not as to the subject, but the object) that without the external aid of tradition or the infallible judgment of the church, they may be read and understood profitably by believers. The papists deny this: we affirm this." Frances Turretin (1623-1687)

- "The plain things are the main things, the main things are the plain things." –Allister Begg

Consider: Deuteronomy 6::6-7; **2 Kings 22:8-11**; Nehemiah 8:2

SCAN: THE CLARITY OF SCRIPTURE

- What is at stake in the perspicuity, or clarity, of Scripture?
  - The authority of God's word: Scripture claims clarity (Ps. 119:130; Ps. 19:7)
  - The character of God (What kind of God reveals Himself only to academics, intellectuals, and the like?)
  - Freedom of Christians and the Church (Free from religious abuse, tyranny. Free for knowing, enjoying, and glorifying God).

    Bavinck: Clarity of Scripture is the foundation of religious and even political liberty
  - Assurance of Salvation
  - Unity in the Church

God wants His people to hear His word!... so *read, trust, teach, and obey with confidence!*

SCAN: THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

"Contemporary people tend to examine the Bible… but Christians should reverse that, allowing the Bible to examine us." -Tim Keller

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – "All Scripture is God-breathed."
- **Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18**- God cannot lie; therefore, His Word cannot lie.
- **John 14:17** The Bible is not partly true; it is the total truth because God's Spirit authored it.
- **John 10:35**- "Scripture cannot be broken…"

- *The authority of Scripture depends not on man or Church, but wholly upon God, who is truth* (WCF 1.4)
- *The supreme judge by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other than the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture (WCF 1.10)*

- Authority of Scripture and Solo Scriptura

SCAN: THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

- **Is the Bible really your formative authority?**

1. Identity (Galatians 2:20)
2. Decision-Making (Psalms 19:7–11).
3. Relationships & Conflict (Matthew 19:4–6; Ephesians 4:31–32).
4. Priorities & Purpose (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8).
5. Ethics & Leadership (Micah 6:8; Ephesians 4–5).
6. Hope & Perseverance (Romans 8:18–39).
7. Doxology as the Fruit of Authority (Isaiah 66:2).

SCAN: THE NECESSITY OF SCRIPTURE

- Four kinds of knowing: General, Proximal, Saving, Perfect (final)

"But just as the test of man's obedience came by way of word revelation, so the remedy for man's present need comes by way of word revelation. Only the gospel can supplement natural revelation in such a way as to:

1- Disclose the means of removing God's enmity and

2- Make man once more a willing subject of the will of God.

Therefore, it has pleased God to make such a revelation by a gradual process which is now completed, with the result that his saving Word is not deposited in the Bible." **G I Williamson**

"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." **(WCF 1.6)**

SCAN: THE NECESSITY OF SCRIPTURE

- Fallen Humanity: For the preservation of God's authoritative word
- Meditation: **Deuteronomy 17:18**; **Joshua 1:8-9**; **Psalm 1:2; 119:97**; **Colossians 3:16**
- A Witness of God's Revelation, positively, and a Witness against those who reject it
- Corporate order: **1 Timothy 3:14-15;** Personal Sanctification: **John 17:17**
- God's Work in the World: **Isaiah 55:10-11**; **Matthew 28:18-20**; **1 Timothy 3:16**; **Acts 20:32**
- Conversion of people: **Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 2:13; James 1:18; Acts 2:17-18**
- Diagnose false teaching: **1 John 4:1**

- *"We cannot truly know God, his will, or the way of salvation apart from the Bible. We need Scripture to live the truly good life." - Kevin DeYoung*

5 I-WORDS: INSPIRATION, ILLUMINATION, INFALLIBILITY, INERRANCY & INTERPRETATION

- **Inspiration:**
  - Romantic: Biblical writers were inspired like Shakespeare, not by the Holy Spirit. Very low view of Scripture.
  - Mechanical: The Bible was dictated, the other end of the spectrum, and hinders the practical authority of Scripture.
  - Organic: God's Spirit moved Biblical writers, superintending their work to be infallible, but not circumventing their humanity or historical context, communicating timeless truth for all God's people in all times through real people living in real history.
- **Illumination:** The Holy Spirit's work, enabling believers to understand, accept, and apply the already-complete revelation of Scripture, Ephesians 1:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; John 14:26

5 I-WORDS: INSPIRATION, ILLUMINATION, INFALLIBILITY, INERRANCY & INTERPRETATION

Infallibility: The Bible is incapable of failing, erring, or misleading, as it is the entirely trustworthy, God-breathed Word. It affirms that because Scripture is divinely inspired, it cannot teach falsehood, covering both salvific matters and all historical/scientific claims in its original languages.

Inerrancy: Goes further, stating that Scripture is entirely trustworthy and is incapable of error in all it affirms about God, salvation, history, and the created world… everything. God's Word will not endorse error, so all it contains is truth, not merely because it happens to be true but because it comes from a God who is a truth teller.

The Bible embraces its own inerrancy: **Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; John 17:17**

5 I-WORDS: INSPIRATION, ILLUMINATION, INFALLIBILITY, INERRANCY & INTERPRETATION

Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (1978)

"The doctrine of inerrancy is not a peripheral issue… It goes to the very heart of our confidence in the truthfulness and authority of Scripture." RC Sproul

One of the core affirmations reads:

"Holy Scripture, being God's own Word, written by men prepared and superintended by His Spirit, is of infallible divine authority in all matters upon which it touches: it is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it affirms…"

And one of the most pointed denials states:

"We deny that it is possible for the Bible to be at the same time infallible and errant in its assertions. Infallibility and inerrancy may be distinguished, but not separated."

How many interpretations of the Bible are there?

5 I-WORDS: INSPIRATION, ILLUMINATION, INFALLIBILITY, INERRANCY & INTERPRETATION

Interpretation

Luther's "wax nose" fear…

The right of private interpretation carries with it the responsibility of correct interpretation!!!

A. Scripture interprets itself (**2 Timothy 2:15** vs. Rome says the Church needs to help…)

B. Difficult passages of Scripture are clarified by other parts of Scripture.

C. The sense of Scripture is one (not many)- Scripture has an intended meaning by God, guarding itself against false teachings and interpretations, while inviting people to explore the unity and depth of Scripture.

Reformed interpretation is concerned with: Original meaning (The concepts, behaviors, and emotions that the divine and human writers jointly intended the document to communicate to its first audience.)

COUNTING TO FIVE: QUESTIONS?

1 main goal: Love for God, His Word, and His work to love His world.

2 forms of divine revelation: General and Special

3 "Wrong Ways" to know God: Rationalism, Mysticism, and Addition

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