

The Inscrutable Question: Inerrancy of Scripture; Revelation: the Creation, the Bible, & Christ; Interpretation: Pastor-Teacher

- 7- Such divine influence and supervision demands the inerrancy of the Bible which is defined by:

Elwell, Walter A. (ed.). *Evangelical Dictionary of the Bible*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984), 142:

Inerrancy is the view that when all the facts become known, they will demonstrate that the Bible in its original autographs and correctly interpreted is entirely true and never false in all it affirms, whether that relates to doctrine or ethics or to the social, physical, or life sciences. The defender of inerrancy argues only that there will be no conflict in the end.

Further, inerrancy applies equally to all parts of the Bible as originally written. This means that no present manuscript or copy of Scripture, no matter how accurate, can be called inerrant.

This definition also relates inerrancy to hermeneutics, the science of biblical interpretation. A key hermeneutical principle demands that apparent contradictions be harmonized if possible. If a passage appears to permit two interpretations, one of which conflicts with another passage and one of which does not, the latter must be adopted.

- 8- It is of a necessity that if God exists then logically He must reveal Himself to man. Man is incapable of identifying the existence of God, much less come to an understanding of who He is, unless God chooses to make Himself known. God reveals Himself to mankind in three ways:

- 1) By His creation:

Psalms 19:1 - The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

v. 2 - Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

v. 3 - There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard.

This passage contains two of the five logical approaches to the existence of God (1) **Teleological**: the structure of the universe demands a designer and (2) **Cosmological**: the intuitive law of cause and effect demands the existence of God. Although these approaches reveal the existence of God they do not reveal His plan.

- 2) By the written Word:

Ephesians 3:3 - Through revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before briefly [cp. Rom 16:25-26; Eph 1:9]

Through revelation Paul came to know and understand the mystery doctrines of the Church Age. Through inspiration, he recorded those doctrines into the New Testament epistles. Once recorded, the Bible became the only source of revelation to believers about these mystery doctrines.

- 3) By Jesus Christ as the living Word:

1 Timothy 3:16 - By the consent of all, great is the mystery of the spiritual life [εὐσέβεια / *eusebeia* /: **that which results in production as God would have it, i.e., the spiritual life**], the unique One, Who became visible in a human body. This same One was vindicated by the agency of the Holy Spirit [**indwelling, filling, and sustaining ministries**]. He was observed carefully by angels [**by fallen angels because He is the star Witness in the appeal trial and by elect angels because He is the object of their worship**]. He was proclaimed among the Gentiles [**precanon period of evangelism**]. He was believed on in the world [**Jews and Gentiles who believed the message that He was Messiah**]. He was received up in glory [**ascension and session when He was crowned with glory and honor**].

The Lord's session resulted in the prototype spiritual life being passed down to the Church Age believer. This spiritual life is now operational to all who choose to execute the three spiritual skills and advance in the plan of God. Those who do, discover εὐσέβεια / *eusebeia* /, the "mystery of godliness": behavior patterns and character traits that produce a lifestyle as God would have it.

- 9- The primary source of revelation to the Church Age believer is the Bible. The secondary source of revelation to the Church Age believer is the interpretation of the Bible by a pastor-teacher who is equipped to analyze the Hebrew and Greek texts by means of a three-fold process:
 - 1) **Isagogics:** The interpretation of the Bible in the time in which it was written.
 - 2) **Categories:** The comparing of Scripture with Scripture in order to bring together all that the Bible has to say with regard to a particular subject.
 - 3) **Exegesis:** The study of the etymology, grammar, and syntax of the original languages of Scripture.
- 10- In its original languages, the Bible is the exact record of the mind and will of God. The inerrancy of the Scripture combined with a pastor-teacher who is filled by the Holy Spirit provides the positive believer with the opportunity to grow in grace.
- 11- The opportunity is made possible by Two Power Options: (1) the filling of the Holy Spirit converts human IQ into spiritual IQ and (2) under the mentorship of the Holy Spirit the believer can then comprehend the supernatural information found in Scripture utilizing the Grace Apparatus for Perception.