

Course Overview

January 29: Introduction to Theology
 February 28: Doctrine of the Word of God (Grudem 33-66)
 April 3: Doctrine of God (Grudem 67-186)
 April 24: Doctrine of Man (Grudem 187-228)
 May 22: Doctrine of Christ (Grudem 229-272)
 June 26: Doctrine of Redemption (Grudem 273-362)
 July 24: Doctrine of the Church (Grudem 363-426)
 August 28: Doctrine of the Future (Grudem 427-472)

Table Discussion

"A Bibliology Grounded in Christology"

By Daniel B. Wallace

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"The center of all theology, of the entirety of the Christian faith, is Christ himself. The Christ-event—in particular his death and resurrection—is the center of time: everything before it leads up to it; everything after it is shaped by it. If Christ were not God in the flesh, he would not have been raised from the dead. And if he were not raised from the dead, none of us would have any hope. My theology grows out from Christ, is based on Christ, and focuses on Christ."

"A Bibliology Grounded in Christology"

By Daniel B. Wallace

Problems with a theology grounded in and centered on the Bible:

1. How did people come to faith in Jesus prior to the writing of the NT?
2. The controversial nature of the history of the canon becomes a much bigger issue.
3. Difficult textual issues become exponentially more problematic.
4. Inerrancy claims are circular.
5. Jesus becomes secondary. Biblicism / Bibliolatry.

"A Bibliology Grounded in Christology"

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"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life."

Jesus (Jn 5:39-40)

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

Jesus (Matt 5:17)

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"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe."

Hebrews 1:1-2

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1:14

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"For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For *Christ is the end of the law* for righteousness to everyone who believes" (italics mine).

Romans 10:2-4

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Inductive reasons to hold to a high bibliology:

1. The books of the Bible are recognized as historical, even if one does not grant inerrancy.
2. The biblical writers are a reliable source and held a high bibliology themselves.
3. The criteria of authenticity show that Jesus held a high view of Scripture.

"A Bibliology Grounded in Christology"

By Daniel B. Wallace

"The reason I hold to a high bibliology is because I hold to a high Christology . . . Jesus had a high view of the text, and it strikes me that I would be unwise to have a view different from his. Indeed, I believe I would be on dangerous ground if I were to take a different view of the text than Jesus did. Thus, my starting point for a high bibliology is Christ himself"

"A Bibliology Grounded in Christology"

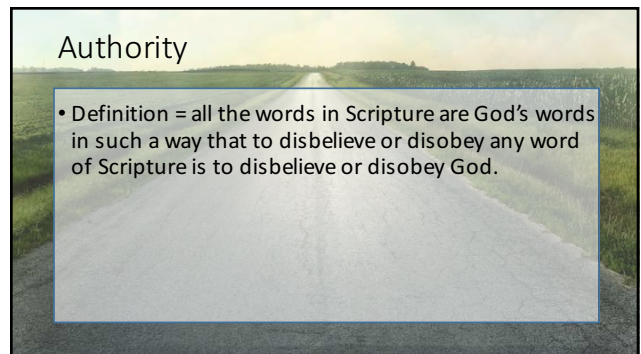
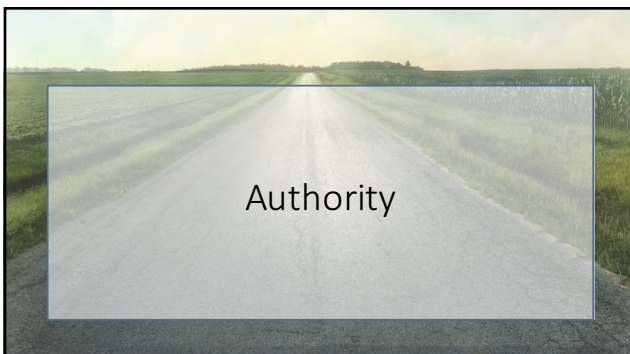
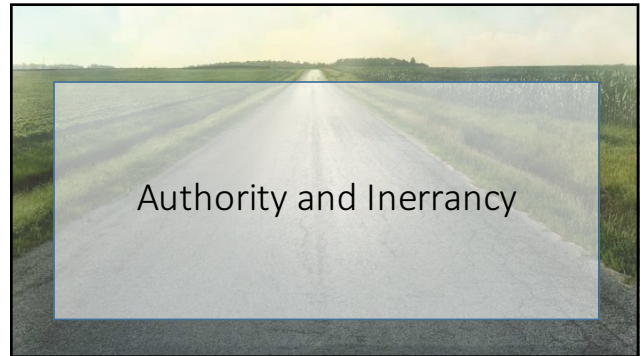
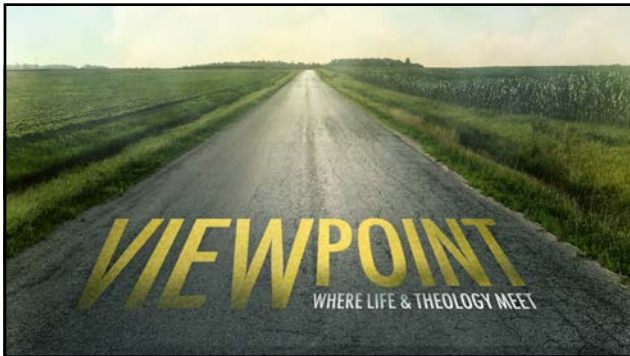
By Daniel B. Wallace

"If Christ is at the core of our beliefs, then the incarnation has to loom large in our thinking about the faith. When God became man and invaded space-time history, this served notice that we dare not treat the Bible with kid gloves. The incarnation not only invites us to examine the evidence, it requires us to do so. The fact that our religion is the only major religion in the world that is subject to historical verification is no accident: it's part of God's *design*. Jesus performed miracles and healings in specific towns, at specific times, on specific people. The Gospels don't often speak in generalities. And Paul mentioned that 500 believers saw the risen Christ at one time, then added that most of these folks were still alive . . ."

"A Bibliology Grounded in Christology"

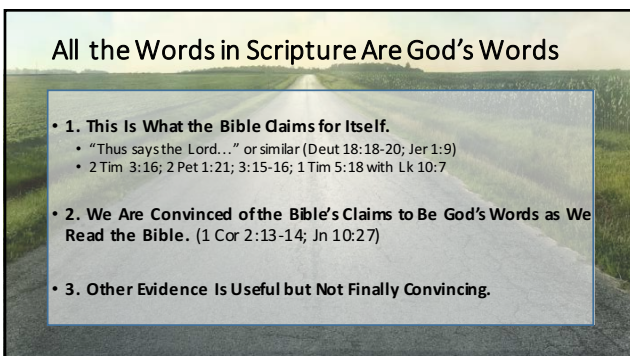
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". . . These kinds of statements are the stuff of history; they beg the reader to investigate. Too often modern evangelicals take a hands-off attitude toward the Bible because of a prior commitment to inerrancy. But it is precisely because I ground my bibliology in Christology rather than the other way around that I cannot do that. I believe it is disrespectful to my Lord to not ask the Bible the tough questions that every thinking non-Christian is already asking it."



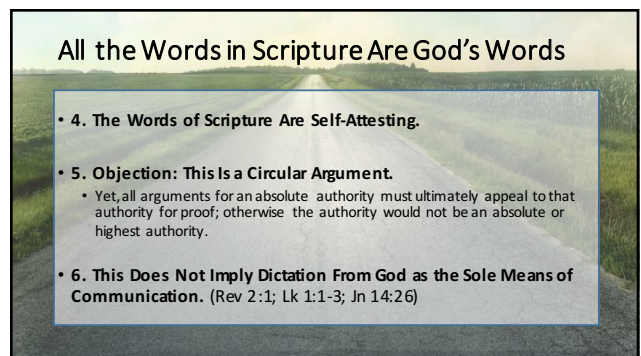
Authority

- Definition = all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.



All the Words in Scripture Are God's Words

- **1. This Is What the Bible Claims for Itself.**
 - "Thus says the Lord..." or similar (Deut 18:18-20; Jer 1:9)
 - 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:21; 3:15-16; 1 Tim 5:18 with Lk 10:7
- **2. We Are Convinced of the Bible's Claims to Be God's Words as We Read the Bible.** (1 Cor 2:13-14; Jn 10:27)
- **3. Other Evidence Is Useful but Not Finally Convincing.**



All the Words in Scripture Are God's Words

- **4. The Words of Scripture Are Self-Attesting.**
- **5. Objection: This Is a Circular Argument.**
 - Yet, all arguments for an absolute authority must ultimately appeal to that authority for proof; otherwise the authority would not be an absolute or highest authority.
- **6. This Does Not Imply Dictation From God as the Sole Means of Communication.** (Rev 2:1; Lk 1:1-3; Jn 14:26)

Therefore to Disbelieve or Disobey Any Word of Scripture Is to Disbelieve or Disobey God

- **Lk 24:25:** And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! (ESV)
- **Jn 15:20:** Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. (ESV)

Therefore to Disbelieve or Disobey Any Word of Scripture Is to Disbelieve or Disobey God

- **2 Pet 3:1-2:** This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, (ESV)
- **2 Thess 3:14:** If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. (ESV)

Therefore, Scripture is Truthful

- **1. God Cannot Lie or Speak Falsely.** (Titus 1:2)
- **2. Therefore All the Words in Scripture Are Completely True and Without Error in Any Part.** (Ps 12:6; Prov 30:5; Matt 24:35; Num 23:19)

Therefore, Scripture is Truthful

- **3. God's Words Are the Ultimate Standard of Truth.** (Jn 17:17)
- **4. Might Some New Fact Ever Contradict the Bible?**
 - It might contradict our understanding of Scripture, but it will never contradict Scripture

Inerrancy

Inerrancy

- **Inerrancy means that the original manuscripts (aka the original copy of a book of the Bible) was free from error in all that it teaches (dates, times, words spoken, etc.)**

Inerrancy

- **The Meaning of Inerrancy:**

- a. The Bible Can Be Inerrant and Still Speak in the Ordinary Language of Everyday Speech.
- b. The Bible Can Be Inerrant and Still Include Loose or Free Quotations.
- c. It Is Consistent With Inerrancy to Have Unusual or Uncommon Grammatical Constructions in the Bible.

Inerrancy vs Infallibility

- Inerrancy says there is no error in the Bible whatsoever (dates, facts, times, names of things, etc. are without error).
- Infallibility says the Bible is true about what it teaches.
- Back to the concentric circles.

How can level headed people deny inerrancy?

- There are perceived errors in the text. I say perceived because there are some attempts to smooth out the understanding.
- Why am I an inerrantist?
 - I believe we do not have all the information. But, I trust that God gave us his preserved word of God.

Tempering Grudem...

- 1. A Serious Moral Problem Confronts Us: May We Imitate God and Intentionally Lie in Small Matters Also?
- 2. We Begin to Wonder If We Can Really Trust God in Anything He Says.

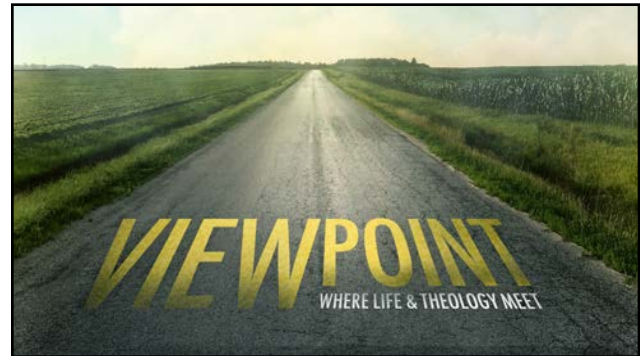
Tempering Grudem...

- 3. We Essentially Make Our Own Human Minds a Higher Standard of Truth Than God's Word Itself.
- 4. We Must Also Say That the Bible Is Wrong Not Only in Minor Details but in Some of Its Doctrines as Well.

So What?

The 5 P's

1. Profession
2. Production
3. Preservation
4. Prophecy
5. Personal Testimony



The Clarity, Necessity & Sufficiency of Scripture

The Clarity of Scripture

1. Doctrine of illumination.
2. Our interpretation should mirror the text. Back to the concentric circles.
3. Exegesis = good; eisegesis = bad.
4. Maintain humility.

"I used to tell my students that at least 20 percent of what I was telling them was wrong, but I didn't know which 20 percent it was."

N. T. Wright

The Necessity of Scripture

1. It testifies about Jesus and the salvation found in him (Jn 5:31-47).
2. The Spirit uses it to protect, nourish and grow his children (Matt 4:4).
3. It connects us to the human story and shapes our worldview (creation, fall, redemption, restoration).
4. It is our guide and authority for faith and practice (2 Tim 3:14-16).

The Sufficiency of Scripture

1. Sufficient for knowledge of the gospel, faith and practice; *not* sufficient for *everything*.

"Those who wish to succeed must ask the right preliminary questions."

Aristotle, *Metaphysics*, II, (III), 1

The Sufficiency of Scripture

1. Sufficient for knowledge of the gospel, faith and practice; *not* sufficient for *everything*.
2. The nature of revelation over time.
3. Practical applications . . .