

# The BIBLE (Part 5) Preservation:

## Lesson 16- Spiritual Discipleship and Growth

**Intro:** Many Christians make this statement, “I believe in the divine, verbal, plenary, and inerrant inspiration of the original Scriptures”. This is a true statement.....

HOWEVER

...we DO NOT HAVE the original Scriptures in our possession, and we never will! Believing only in the inspiration of the originals “lets one off the hook” so to speak, giving license to anyone wishing to “correct” the Bible when it suits their purpose.

Statements to watch out for:

“A better translation would have been...”

“I know this is what the Bible reads but it actually should read...”

“We do not find this verse in the older manuscripts...”

Here are a few questions that I would like you to consider and write down your answer below them.

1. Is the Bible for your everyday common man? \_\_\_\_\_  
(an answer of no would mean that we would need to rely on a scholar’s interpretation of each verse in order to get the knowledge and understanding that we need.)

2. Do we need to know Hebrew and Greek to fully understand the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_  
(If this was God’s intention then why did he pick two languages that are so difficult to master? Why would God reveal Himself to mankind, then veil Himself in such difficult languages? Would God make salvation this difficult?)

3. If there are some verses in the Bible that are questionable in their translation, then can we really be sure of any? \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Does the average Baptist preacher have the scholastic ability to “correct” the Bible on the basis of the Hebrew or Greet text? \_\_\_\_\_.

The doctrine of inspiration is meaningless without the parallel doctrine of the DIVINE PRESERVATION of the Scriptures. Without preservation we could never be 100% sure that we have the actual inspired Word of God.

### A. The Doctrine of Divine Preservation:

The doctrine of preservation is just as important as the doctrine of inspiration. Both doctrines are taught throughout the Bible and are evidenced by both internal and external proofs.

Psalm 33:11

1. The extent of preservation. “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

2. The Agent of preservation “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

3. The period of preservation “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

Psalm 33:11

The “counsel of the Lord” refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm 78:1-7

This Psalm explains what God’s purpose was in preserving His Word.

Psalm 105:8

Who knows what a generation in scripture is? \_\_\_\_\_.

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So if a generation in scripture is 40 years, then 1,000 generations would be 40,000 years!

Isaiah 40:8b.

What will stand forever? \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 28:19-20

The “Great Commission” requires that the Lord’s churches teach believers “...all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” until the end of this world as we presently know it. In order for this to happen, “all things” must be preserved until the end of the world.

2 Timothy 3:15-16

1. Timothy had the \_\_\_\_\_

It did not say that he had something close to the scriptures.

2. Timothy did not have the “\_\_\_\_\_”

3. The copies Timothy had access to are called “\_\_\_\_\_” and are said to be “\_\_\_\_\_”

This passage makes nonsense out of any reference to the “inspired originals” The original autographs were indeed inspired, but so are the preserved copies. The “originals” are non-existent.

Isaiah 46:9-11

The doctrine of the preservation of the scriptures is based squarely upon the PROMISES of God, and falls within the realm of His PROVIDENCE.

### **B. The Logic of Preservation:**

Preservation is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Why would God give us the Bible, taking meticulous care with the very words of scriptures, and then allow their loss or distortion to occur over time?

Would not God, who through the miracle of inspiration gave us His very words in written form, also be able to keep them through a miracle such as preservation? Let us not put God in a box!

### **C. The Extent of Preservation:**

The doctrine of inspiration teaches that God was concerned with words. The Bible teaches verbal inspiration.

A review of the scripture references cited above also shows very clearly that God has \_\_\_\_\_ the words also.

Our understanding of preservation goes beyond the Books, chapters, thoughts, concepts, and sense (all of which have indeed been preserved). It extends to the \_\_\_\_\_!

### **Closing:**

Next week we will start with the struggling conflict between reason and faith. When it comes to God’s word, we cannot and will not understand everything. That is where faith comes in. We need faith in believing that the same God that spoke this very world into existence has the power to both inspire His Word and Preserve it!