

# BIBLICAL PRESERVATION

## A DOCTRINE LOST IN SEARCH OF THE ORIGINALS

*"But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.  
And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."*

~ 1 Peter 1:25

### 1. The History of the Bible

- a. Inspiration = God's words written down; Preservation = God's words through history
- b. Christian persecution → Middle ages → Reformation → Modern day
- c. Inspired originals → Scribes and copies → printing press/collations → revisions
- d. The Bible approved by thousands of manuscripts + lectionaries, writings, etc.
- e. But now, we live in a time of great apostasy where Biblical preservation is concerned

### 2. Modern Rejection of Biblical Preservation

- a. Modern Christians do not believe in preservation, but reconstruction by experts.
- b. Modern theory of "preservation" – NT lost in 4<sup>th</sup>c. for 1500 years rediscovered in 19<sup>th</sup>c
- c. Bible belief traded for neutral science; perfect preserve turns into good enough
- d. *"It was written by men"* – Popularized by 19c unbelieving modernist textual critics
- e. *"Inerrant in the originals only"* – Popularized by 19c Christian compromised response
- f. *"God's words in existing manuscripts somewhere"* – reconstruction not preservation
- g. *"No major doctrines are affected"* – New Christian (un)orthodoxy about changes
- h. *"We consistently find new manuscripts"* – Why modern Bibles are inconsistent
- i. *"I believe God's perfectly preserved words in my hand"* ← now called heretics

### 3. "Which Verse Tells Us Which Bible?"

- a. Know ye not the doctrines about the Bible? (e.g. Bibliology)
- b. Preservation happens after it was written – just like your salvation, it requires faith.
- c. We need His words – Matt 4:4, 1Thess 2:13; Rom 10:17, 15:4; 2 Tim 2:15; Eph 6:17
- d. *Why did God inspire his words?* Salvation and service - 2 Tim 3:15-17 (Isa 55:11)
- e. Inspiration (words written down) + Utilization (need for the words) = preservation
  - i. *How much must he preserve?* 2Tim 3:16, Matt 5:18
  - ii. *How long will it endure?* Matt 24:35, 1Pe 1:25, Ps 12:7, Isa 30:8
  - iii. *Can we be certain?* Isa 8:19-20, Prov 22:19-21, Col 2:2, 2 Pet 1:19

### 4. How God Preserves His Word

- a. God is not concerned with originals or men's failures – Jer 36:1-5, 23-28, Deu 10:1-5
- b. There were many copies by the people and kings – Deu 6:6-9, 17:14-20
- c. Copies can be called the pure word of God (like the original) – Psalm 19:7-9, Lk 4:21
- d. It can be preserved through languages – Ex 5:2, Mk 15:34, Lk 23:38, Act 22:2, 26:14
- e. It is preserved (at great cost) by those who read it and obey it – 2 Kings 22:8
- f. It was preserved through faithful people / families / houses - 2 Tim 1:5, 3:15
- g. Modern theory admits impossibility to reconstruct, rewrites history, loses the text, relies on scant support, uses an inferior preservation criteria (old, odd, & unused)
- h. Knowing how God preserves His words gives us confidence to identify those words
  - i. Doctrine of Identification (Bible) – God's words in your hands and heart