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"The Word of Truth" (Col 1:5)
"τῷ λόγῳ τῆς ἀληθείας"

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Context

1. Col 1:1–8
2. "gospel" (1:5, 23)

B. Definitions

1. "word" – oral or written (cf. 1:25, 3:16, 4:3)
2. "of " – source, subject matter, and/or quality
3. "truth" – that which is free from falsehood/deceit (cf. 1:6)

C. NT "word of _____" phrases

Paul refers to Scripture in the Thessalonian epistles as 'the word' (1 Thess 1:6), 'the word of the Lord' (1 Thess 1:8; 4:15; 2 Thess 3:1), and 'the word of God' (1 Thess 2:13). Elsewhere in the New Testament, Scripture is also called:

1. The word of His grace	Acts 14:3, 20:32
2. The word of promise	Rom 9:9
3. The word of reconciliation	2 Cor 5:19
4. The word of life	Phil 2:16
5. The word of truth	2 Cor 6:7; Eph 1:13; Col 1:5; 2 Tim 2:15; Jm 1:18
6. The word of Christ	Col 3:16
7. The word of His power	Heb 1:3
8. The word of righteousness	Heb 5:13

D. "Truth" (ἀλήθεια; alētheia) in the NT

1. Truth has a trinitarian source.
   a. truth of God – Rom 1:25, 15:8
   b. truth of Christ – 2 Cor 11:10
   c. Spirit of truth – John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13
2. "Thy Word is truth" – John 17:17 (written)
3. "I am…the truth…" – John 14:6 (living)
4. "the Word of truth" – 2 Cor 6:7; Eph 1:13; Col 1:5; 2 Tim 2:15; Jm 1:18
5. "the truth of the gospel" – Gal 2:5,14
6. "the way of the truth" – 2 Pet 2:2
7. "walking in truth" – 2 Jn 4; 3 Jn 3,4

II. GOD'S CHARACTER DEFINES SCRIPTURE'S NATURE

A. The Reformers reasoned, "*Vox Scriptura, Vox Dei*" which is to say that "the voice of Scripture is the voice of God." The character of God and the nature/quality of Scripture are inextricably, inseparably linked.

B. Syllogism

Premise #1 – The Bible is God's Word.
Premise #2 – God cannot lie.
Conclusion – The Bible cannot lie.

C. Scriptural Validation

1. God is.
2. God is true.
3. God speaks in harmony with His nature.
4. Therefore, God speaks only truth.
5. Therefore, God's Word is impeccably true and does not need additions or deletions.

Let me make this line of thinking a bit more complete with five logically sequential postulates supported directly from the Bible.

1. God is.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Gen 1:1

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.
Ps 14:1

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."
Ps 53:1

And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
Heb 11:6

2. God is true.

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;"
Exod 34:6

All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Ps 25:10

For Thou art my strength. Into Thy hand I commit my spirit; Thou hast ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth.

Ps 31:5

Because he who is blessed in the earth shall be blessed by the God of truth; and he who swears in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hidden from My sight!

Is 65:16

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."

Jn 14:6

…in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

Titus 1:2

And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

1 John 5:20

3. God speaks in harmony with His nature.

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;"

Exod 34:6

God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

Num 23:19

May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man *be found* a liar, as it is written, "THAT THOU MIGHTEST BE JUSTIFIED IN THY WORDS, AND MIGHTEST PREVAIL WHEN THOU ART JUDGED."

Rom. 3:4

…in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

Titus 1:2

…in order that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us.

Heb 6:18

4. God speaks only truth.

   And now, O Lord GOD, Thou art God, and Thy words are truth, and Thou has promised this good thing to Thy servant.
   2 Sam. 7:28

   Into Thy hand I commit my spirit; Thou has ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth.
   Ps 31:5

   And do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for I wait for Thine ordinances.
   Ps 119:43

   Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is truth.
   Ps 119:142

   Thou art near, O LORD, and all Thy commandments are truth.
   Ps 119:151

   The sum of Thy word is truth, and every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting.
   Ps 119:160

   Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.
   John 17:17

   In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.
   James 1:18

   NOTE:
   In Daniel 10:21 God's Word is called "Scripture of truth" (NKJV)/"Book of truth" (NIV)/"writing of truth" (NASB).

   Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.
   2 Tim 2:15

   All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
   2 Tim 3:16–17

REVIEW

1. God is.

2. God is true.

3. God speaks in harmony with His nature.

4. Therefore, God speaks only truth.

5. Therefore, God's Word is impeccably true, and does not need additions or deletions.

> You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.
>
> Deut 4:2

> Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.
>
> Deut 12:32

> Forever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven.
>
> Ps 119:89

> Do not add to His words Lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.
>
> Prov 30:6

> Thus says the lord, "Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah, who have come to worship in the LORD's house, all the words that I have commanded you to speak to them. Do not omit a word!"
>
> Jer 26:2

> I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.
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> Rev 22:18–19

> "We owe to the Scripture the same reverence as we owe to God, since it has its only source in Him and has nothing of human origin mixed with it."
>
> John Calvin

III. A CHRISTIAN'S OBLIGATION TO BIBLICAL TRUTH
(cf. 3 John 4 – "walking in the truth)

A. *Receiving* like the Thessalonians (1 Thess 2:13)

B. *Feeding* like Job (Job 23:12)

C. *Obeying* like Caleb (Num 14:24)

D. *Honoring* like the Jews (Neh 8:5–6)

E. *Studying* like Ezra (Ezra 7:10)

F. *Understanding* like Apollos (Acts 18:24–28)

G. *Preaching* like Christ (Matt 4:23)

H. *Discipling* like Paul (2 Tim 2:2)

THE BIBLE

This book contains: the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrine is holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy.

It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter.

Here heaven is opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end.

It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully.

It is a mine of wealth, health to the soul, and a river of pleasure.

It is given to you here in this life, will be opened at the Judgment, and is established forever.

It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and condemn all who trifle with its contents.

IV. FOR FURTHER STUDY

A. Richard Mayhue, *How to Study the Bible*, Christian Focus.
B. Richard Mayhue, *Practicing Proverbs*, Christian Focus.
C. E. J. Young, *Thy Word is Truth*, Banner of Truth Trust.