

TRUTH B-P CHURCH
Adult Sunday School

DOCTRINE OF THE VERBAL PLENARY PRESERVATION
OF GOD’S WORD IN THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

LESSON THIRTEEN: CONCLUSION

I. INTRODUCTION

The battle for the perfect Bible rages on! We belong to the remnant of this generation who are still holding fast the faithful Word, though many have already compromised the old faith. Should the Lord tarries, it will soon be the next generation’s turn to rise to the occasion to defend and contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Will our sons defend the faith?

Each generation must fight their own battle of faith. However, they will not fight unless they are taught God’s Word correctly and faithfully. This is the responsibility of our generation today, not only to study to show oneself approved unto God, but also to commit unto faithful men who shall be able to teach others also. The doctrine of VPP is one of the important doctrines that must be taught to the next generation.

This lesson is a revision of what we have learnt in this course.

II. THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED

- A. Although the battle for inspiration was fought in the last century, it is important for God’s people to keep abiding in this important doctrine of Verbal Plenary Inspiration (VPI). We must make sure we understand truly what inspiration of the Bible is all about and stand by it faithfully. Otherwise, we will easily be deceived by the liberals and the modernists through their undermining of God’s Word by turning it into men’s word.
- B. The agenda of the liberals and modernists is literally the same. What they had been trying to do in the last century, was that they used all forms of critical methodology to “cut away” the Holy Scriptures. For example, they say that all the miracles in the Bible are inserted and added by the early believers in order to make it supernatural and unique. Therefore, the liberals’ and the modernists’ bibles are without miracles and anything that is supernatural. To them, there was no crossing of the Red Sea by the children of Israel. There was no prophet Jonah swallowed by the whale. To them, Jesus did not do any miracle or healing at all during His earthly ministry. All these miracles and supernatural events are only added to make God to be more like God.
- C. But nothing can be further from the truth. The doctrine of inspiration protects and strengthens the authenticity of the Bible that truly this is God’s Word, not man’s word. The Bible is God-breathed. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God...” (2 Tim 3:16). The word “inspiration” is translated from a compound Greek word (theo-pneustos) which means “God-breathed.” Thus, this verse is teaching that “all the words in the Bible is God-breathed.” God directly “breathed out” His Words over a period of about 1,500 years to approximately 40 specially chosen men of God who wrote them down to give us our Scriptures, the Word of God in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek).
- D. Therefore, we must continue to stand firm on the doctrine of VPI. Verbal means words. Plenary means total, complete, and all to the jot and tittle (see Matthew 5:18). We believe all the words in the Bible are inspired. As such, this is God’s supreme authority found in the Holy Scriptures in which we are holding forth today.

III. THE BIBLE IS PRESERVED

- A. Not only we must stand firm without wavering on the doctrine of VPI on the Holy Scriptures, we must also do the same on the doctrine of VPP. These two are the inseparable twin doctrines of the Bible which we must defend today. Preservation means kept free from any form of corruption. By the logic of faith, all the inspired words are providentially preserved. Otherwise, what's the point of God inspiring His Words when He did not intend to preserve them perfectly? Will He allow any of His Words to go missing or changed?
- B. The attack on God's Word continues! Since the first attack began in the Garden of Eden by the devil who said to Eve "Yes, hath God said ...?" (see Genesis 3:1), he has never stopped attacking the Bible even today in the 21st century. Satan who is in the form of the serpent, knew exactly what God said to Adam. And instead of going to Adam, he went straight to the woman who is the only fit companion for Adam. And there Satan tempt the woman and caused her to doubt God's Word. Remember it was not Adam who was tempted, it was the woman. And the woman decided that God's Word might not be true and therefore she ate the forbidden fruit and passed it to Adam. And did not Adam know what he was supposed to do? Surely, he knew but when he saw nothing really "happened" to the woman, he accepted the woman's offer. By this act, he willfully went against God's Word and ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That's it. The woman was tempted but it was Adam who disobeyed God and plunged the whole of mankind into the darkness of sin. It is the same lie in another form that was cast today on gullible Christians, "Yea, hath God preserve His Word?".
- C. Today, God has opened our eyes of faith to be able to discern the attack on the Bible which has taken on another different form! The battle for the Bible in terms of the doctrine of inspiration was fought and won in the last century. Based firmly on 2 Timothy 3:16, this doctrine of inspiration is "cast in stones" in the constitution of Truth Bible-Presbyterian church which remains our heritage today. However, under the sly of the devil, the attack on the Bible is now on its providential preservation. Sadly, he has successfully deceived even the conservative and fundamentalists who stood firm on the doctrine of inspiration to believe in his lies that the inspired Bible is not perfectly and providentially preserved today. In short, he has succeeded in convincing men that the Bible has mistakes. As Bible-believing Christians, we must not be deceived by this evil lie. We must remain vigilant, sober, and never to let our spiritual guard down against the subtle attack of the devil. To do so would signify the sure death of our present and future generations. The Bible is perfectly inspired and also perfectly preserved. This is God's perfect work.

IV. THE BIBLE IS TRANSLATED

- A. God has certainly preserved His Words for us today. But where are His Words? They are the Hebrew words found in the Traditional Masoretic Hebrew Old Testament (Ben Chayyim) and the Greek words found in the Traditional Greek New Testament (Textus Receptus), the underlying original language texts of the King James Bible (KJB).
- B. Not many can read and understand the biblical languages found in the preserved apographs. It pleased God to raise up faithful men to translate the Bible into the common languages in which His people can understand. For the English-speaking people, God has providentially provided the KJB, which has stood the test of time since 1611. However, the devil has succeeded in his attempt to confuse God's people by flooding Christendom with more than a hundred English Bible versions which are corrupted in terms of inaccuracy and false theology.

- C. But the KJB accurately preserves God’s inspired Words in the Hebrew and Greek languages by accurately translating these inspired words into the English language. To avoid confusion and misunderstanding of the matter, it is necessary to clarify that VPP proponents believe God has preserved for His people His 100% perfect Hebrew and Greek words not just in the past but today as well. And these are the Hebrew and Greek words that underlie the KJB.
- D. The KJB is only an English translation. No translated words can be better than the inspired Hebrew and Greek words of the Bible given by God. When using the KJB, it is necessary to go back to the words in the original languages for clarity and fullness of meaning. By way of illustration, the words in the original languages underlying the KJB are like the perfect platinum ruler of the Smithsonian Institute, inerrant, infallible, and authoritative. The KJB and other accurate and reliable translations are like the common ruler, though not perfect, are good and safe enough for use.
- E. The KJB accurately preserves the Hebrew and Greek words in the English language based on its four-fold superiority: Texts, Translators, Technique and Theology. This is the standard for evaluation whether a Bible translation is good and faithful or not. This standard is not just for the English Bible, but also for all other Bible translation of other languages.

V. THE BIBLE IS IDENTIFIED

- A. The identity of God’s Word is crucial. Otherwise, how do we know where is God’s Word? Is the Bible we have really God’s Word? Can we trust the Bible which we are holding with our hand? Is that really the authority from God for His people to fall back on? Indeed, it is the truth that God has revealed Himself to His people through His Word, and His Word is the authority. But where is God’s Word? Therefore, it must be identified for us. Without which we have no special revelation from God.
- B. Thank God He has preserved His Word providentially in the 66 books – 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. The text preserved providentially for both the Old Testament and New Testament has been identified for us. They are not lost, and definitely not “somewhere out there but don’t know where!”. They are the Hebrew Masoretic Text of the Old Testament, and the Greek Textus Receptus of the New Testament. This is also the text which underlies the King James Bible. Indeed, we have God’s Word perfectly inspired and preserved today. This is the Bible which has been identified for us.

VI. THE BIBLE IS PERFECT, WITHOUT MISTAKES

- A. The Bible is God’s perfect Word. If it is my word or your word, or any man’s word, what we say can be forgotten easily because our words have no eternal significant at all. But it is not so for God’s Word. Because God is eternal, His Word is eternal. Therefore, His Word is perfect and will stand the test of time so that you and I will always have His Word as our perfect rule and guide.
- B. And God gives to us the greatest comfort on our Christian faith because our faith is based upon the infallible, inerrant, inspired and preserved Scriptures today. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Faith is God’s free and precious gift to all His beloved children. Do not let anyone undermine and rob us of our faith and confidence in the perfect God who has given us His perfect Bible.
- C. We must not be a hypocrite who says, ‘Let us be honest about it. Since there are mistakes in the Bible, let us acknowledge these mistakes and admit that the Bible is not perfectly preserved!’ It is not about honesty over here. It seems like those who say this are happy with such a position. God forbids! Such a position is shameful. It is disgraceful. We are calling God a liar if we hold to such a dishonourable position. The principle abides: Let God be true but every man a liar.

- D. It concerns the verity of the Bible which is God's holy and precious Word. If we cannot have confidence in the perfection of God's Word in our hands today, then our faith is resting on shaky ground. How can there be perfect salvation in the "imperfect" word of God? When we share the gospel, we become unsure of what we are sharing. We will begin to doubt. Is the gospel really from God, perfect without mistake? Since some parts got mistakes, how come the gospel got no mistake, maybe there are mistakes also? If the Bible has mistakes, it will surely affect us. It will shake our confidence if we do not believe the perfect God who gives us His perfect Word that assures us His perfect salvation.
- E. Whatever mistakes or scribal errors would have been corrected and clean up in the apographs. This is what we firmly believe in the providential preservation of the holy Scriptures. How about apparent discrepancies in the Bible? We acknowledge these discrepancies are only apparent. They are not mistakes. Many of them can be explained, reconciled and harmonized. There may be a few verses and passages which we have no solution except to leave the reading as they are. These are not mistakes because the problem does not lie with the Scriptures but with us. We can only pray that God will reveal to us in due time. We must never conclude the Bible has mistakes, for it is perfect and will forever be perfect.

VII. THE BIBLE IS DIVISIVE AS WELL AS UNIFYING

- A. God wants His people to be holy as He is holy by way of separation. We, as a church, has been called out of this world, to be God's children. We are no more children of the devil. Though we are still in the world, we are not of the world anymore. As such, we are to separate ourselves from all unbelief and disobedience that are found in the world, and that includes the church as well.
- B. Specifically, we separate from those who had openly and officially declared their position as non-VPP or anti-VPP, whether as a church or individual, we must separate from them. In this way, we can say that the Bible is divisive. We are called to cut off from those who do not stand with us in doctrine and practice. We must have no fellowship with them at all. And the message we are sending to them is not a message of hate but a message of God's holiness which has nothing to do with sins.
- C. Though the Bible is divisive, it is also unifying in a sense that all those who believe and hold to the same doctrine are called to unite together as one. We unite with those who hold to the doctrine of VPP. Though our number may be small, it does not matter as long as we are standing on God's side. With God, we are the majority! Moreover, we are not playing the number game. God is not going to measure us based on the size of the church membership. To Him, it is faithfulness to His truth that matters.
- D. You and I are called to be united in the same truth that is based on the Holy Scripture. But for those who differed from us in doctrine, especially the doctrine of VPP, we are to separate from them. Therefore, the Bible is both divisive as well as unifying.

VIII. CONCLUSION

We end our study with the words of Dr D.A. Waite, "... the battle for the truth of the verbal plenary preservation of the Words of God will go on until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ... , opposition comes not only from the Roman Catholic Church, the apostate Protestants, and the compromising New Evangelicals, but also, sadly, even from many leading Fundamentalists, fundamental churches, and fundamental schools." As such, we are the remnants of the remnant who hold to the perfect Bible today. Will our sons defend the faith? We make sure we do our part in this generation by remaining faithful in our defense of the perfect Bible, and also ensure the next generation be taught the doctrine of VPP faithfully. May God help us. Amen.