

**TRUTH B-P CHURCH**  
**Adult Sunday School**

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

**LESSON THREE: DOCTRINE OF VERBAL PLENARY PRESERVATION (VPP)**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The first attack began in the Garden of Eden by the devil who said to Eve “Yes, hath God said ...?” (see Genesis 3:1). Since then, he has never stopped attacking the Bible even today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As Bible-believing Christians, 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, if the Lord tarries.

The attack on the Bible in terms of the doctrine of inspiration was defended based firmly on 2 Timothy 3:16. This doctrine of inspiration is “cast in stones” in our church Constitution which remains our heritage today. However, under the sly of the devil, the attack on the Bible is now on its providential preservation. The devil has successfully deceived even the conservative and fundamentalist who stood firm on the doctrine of inspiration to believe in his lies that the inspired Bible is not perfectly and providentially preserved.

God raised up Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) in Singapore to sound the alarm bell and lead in the battlefield against the anti-VPPs or non-VPPs. Not only we must stand firm without wavering on the doctrine of Verbal Plenary Inspiration (VPI) on the Holy Scriptures, we must also do the same on the doctrine of Verbal Plenary Preservation (VPP). These two are the inseparable twin doctrines of the Bible which we must defend today.

**II. BIBLICAL BASIS**

The biblical basis for the doctrine of inspiration is the classic proof text found in 2 Timothy 3:16. In this verse, Apostle Paul stressed on the plenary word that has been inspired and wanted Timothy to continue in the “things” which he has learnt. These “things” are the plenary word. It is not possible to continue in the things learnt unless they are also preserved. This is the biblical basis for the defence of VPP. It is not a defence of a Bible College or church, or any pastor or theologians. It is the defence of God’s Word that is verbal plenary inspired.

VPP is not a topic fit only to be discussed and debated within the four walls of a Bible College. The doctrine of preservation must be straightened out first and then be taught in the church so that the same confidence placed on inspiration can also be rightly placed on preservation. This is not a topic beyond the church. Every believer must know and learn of the very word that has been inspired by God is also preserved perfectly and providentially by God today. This will strengthen every believer’s faith and belief on God’s forever inspired and preserved Word today.

Anti-VPP proponents claim to believe the Bible is perfect. However to them, such a Bible does not exist today. Even if it is, they say, it is somewhere out there but don’t know where. This implies that the Bible they are holding on now is not far from perfect. In other words, there are mistakes in the Bible. This is what they have “honestly” claimed and rejected the biblical support for the doctrine of VPP.

**III. BIBLICAL SUPPORT** (taken from Carol’s notes entitled “Biblical Support I for the doctrine of Verbal Plenary Preservation” and under Part III: An Overview of the Bible’s Teaching on VPP)

A. The Bible teaches the Doctrine of Preservation

Psalm 12:6–7, “The words of the LORD [are] pure words: [as] silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”

Psalm 33:11, “The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.”

Psalm 78:1–7, “Give ear, O my people, [to] my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide [them] from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know [them, even] the children [which] should be born; [who] should arise and declare [them] to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.”

Psalm 100:5, “For the LORD [is] good; his mercy [is] everlasting; and his truth [endureth] to all generations.”

Psalm 105:8, “He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word [which] he commanded to a thousand generations.”

Psalm 111:7–8, “The works of his hands [are] verity and judgment; all his commandments [are] sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, [and are] done in truth and uprightness.”

Psalm 117:2 For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD [endureth] for ever. Praise ye the LORD.”

Psalm 119:89, “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”

Psalm 119:152, “Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.”

Psalm 119:160, “Thy word [is] true [from] the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments [endureth] for ever.”

Isaiah 40:8, “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”

Isaiah 59:21, “As for me, this [is] my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that [is] upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.”

Matthew 4:4, “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Matthew 5:17–18, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

Matthew 24:35, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

John 10:35, “If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;”

1 Peter 1:23–25, “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh [is] as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

#### B. The Bible teaches the preservation of all the words (not just doctrines) of God

Psalms 12:6–7, “The words of the LORD [are] pure words: [as] silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”

Psalms 119:89, “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”

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1 Peter 1:24–25, “For all flesh [is] as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

#### C. The Bible reveals that the purpose of the Verbal Plenary Preservation of God’s words is to sanctify God’s children when they obey His Word

Deuteronomy 4:2, “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish [ought] from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”

Deuteronomy 29:29, “The secret [things belong] unto the LORD our God: but those [things which are] revealed [belong] unto us and to our children for ever, that [we] may do all the words of this law.

Joshua 1:8, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

Psalm 78:1–7, “Give ear, O my people, [to] my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide [them] from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know [them, even] the children [which] should be born; [who] should arise and declare [them] to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.”

Proverbs 5:7, “Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.”

Matthew 4:4, “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

John 20:30–31, “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

Romans 10:17, “So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

John 17:17, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

2 Timothy 3:16–17, “All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

Revelation 22:7, “Behold, I come quickly: blessed [is] he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.”

#### **IV. SUMMARY: BIBLICAL FOUNDATION**

It is true that the doctrine of VPP has caused some B-P churches to split. However, we must understand that if the church split because of doctrines as she seeks to be purer and more faithful according to the Word of God, then this is a good and biblical split. If the church chooses to ignore the doctrine for fear of splitting the congregation, then the church has lost her witness and stand for the truth. Such a church has become man-centered and has failed “to hold fast the faithful Word” (see Titus 1:9).

The Bible is a biblical foundation of our faith. The reason why we can make such a bold statement is because we have God’s perfect Word in our hands today. God made sure of this by His verbal plenary preservation of His Word in the original languages. The perfect God gives to His people His perfect Word so that they may know His perfect will in order for them to live a perfect life to bring glory to His perfect Name. Amen.