

Survey of Christian Theology.10

The Authority of Scripture





Logistics & Learning Objectives:

1. Note - Theology 301.9 is taught in two parts.
2. Learning Objectives. Participants will gain an understanding of:
 - a. The authority, sufficiency, inspiration, and inerrancy of Scripture.
 - b. A bit of history of the bible
 - c. Some high level thoughts on bible versions
3. For more information please visit studioscriptura.com



Key Sources:

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The Bible

*will make you wise to
salvation*

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

2 Timothy 3:15

The Bible

never returns void

“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:11

The Bible

is forever settled

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

“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

The Bible

will make you successful

“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.” Joshua 1:8

The Bible

*is instrumental to your
sanctification*

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:9-11

The Bible

*will guide you into the
knowledge of God*

My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:1-5

The Bible

is God's weapon in your hand

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; Ephesians 6

The Bible - A Bit Of History

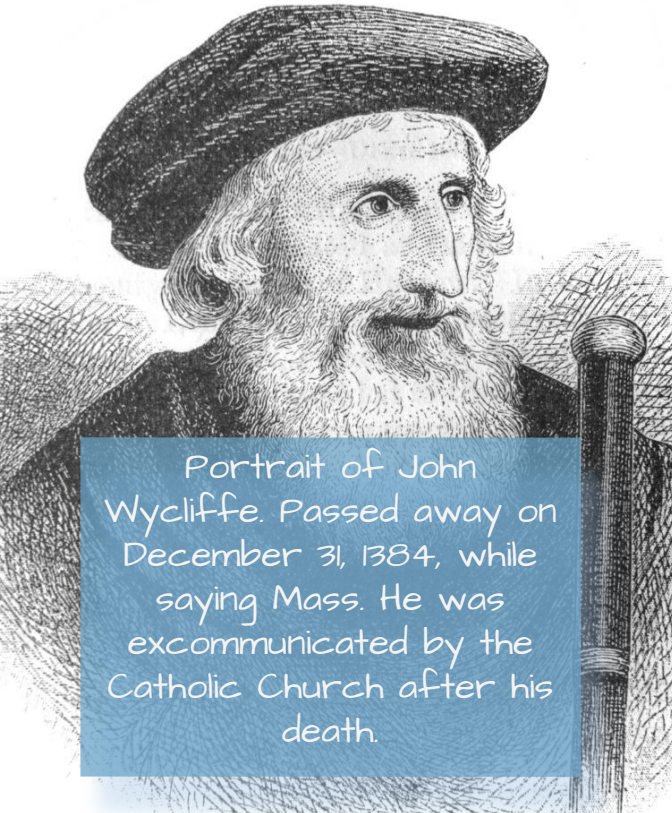
Aramaic is the language that Jesus spoke and was one of the *lingua franca*, or language of commerce, of His day.

The Old Testament is comprised of 39 books and the New Testament is comprised of 27 books, including the Gospels, Acts, the Epistles, and Revelation.

The canon (measuring stick - the authoritative collection to be measured against) of the 27 books of the NT has been recognized by the Church since St. Athanasius in AD 367.



The Bible - A Bit of History *(continued)*



Portrait of John Wycliffe. Passed away on December 31, 1384, while saying Mass. He was excommunicated by the Catholic Church after his death.

The New Testament was written in the common language of the people i.e., Koine Greek. It was the common and the supra-regional form of Greek spoken and written following the conquests of Alexander the Great until ~AD 500.

In AD 382 Jerome prepared a New Testament in Latin from existing Latin translations and the Greek New Testament.

John Wycliffe was a Seminary professor at the University of Oxford who is credited with crafting the first complete English translation of the Bible largely from the Latin Vulgate. This English version of the Bible was not warmly welcomed by Catholic clergy and leadership who had a powerful role in society as they held the role of being the few who could read the Bible.

Wycliffe is considered a foundational thinker to the Reformation.

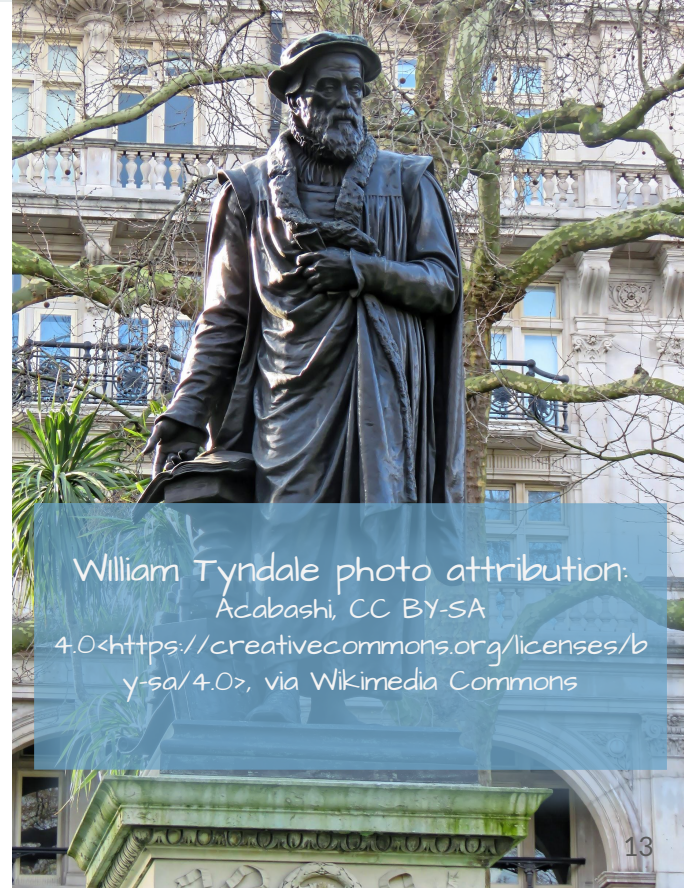
The Bible - A Bit of History *(continued)*

William Tyndale used the Greek and Hebrew texts of the New Testament (NT) and Old Testament (OT), respectively, in addition to Jerome's Latin translation to complete his version of the English Bible in 1526. It contained the NT and portions of the OT. He was the first to use the printing press.

Tyndale was tried for heresy, and his final words, before his execution as reported in Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* "at the stake with a fervent zeal, and a loud voice, 'Lord! Open the King of England's eyes.'"

The Great Bible in 1535 by Myles Coverdale is the first English Bible that included the full NT and the full OT.

The King James Version (KJV) of 1611 is the English translation of the Christian Bible commissioned in 1604 and published in 1611.



William Tyndale photo attribution:
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Authority

Sufficiency

Inspiration

Inerrancy

The Authority of Scripture

- “The **authority** of Scripture is a key issue for the Christian Church in this and every age. Those who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are called to show the reality of their discipleship by humbly and faithfully obeying God's written Word. To stray from Scripture in faith or conduct is disloyalty to our Master. Recognition of the total truth and trustworthiness of Holy Scripture is essential to a full grasp and adequate confession of its authority.”
- “Holy Scripture, being God's own Word, written by men prepared and superintendent by His Spirit, is of infallible divine **authority** in all matters upon which it touches: it is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it affirms; obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; embraced, as God's pledge, in all that it promises.”

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The Authority of Scripture *(continued)*

- "The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever." Psalm 119:160
- "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1
- "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14
- "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." Matthew 24:35



The Authority of Scripture *(continued)*

- "by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left," 2 Corinthians 6:7
- "Jesus answered and said to them, 'You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.'" Matthew 22:29
- "For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." 1 John 5:7



The Sufficiency of Scripture

Sufficiency: The Bible exists for a reason, or it would not exist. For the Christian, the purpose of the Bible is that it is the source (and the sufficient source) of all instruction and guidance in all aspects of our salvation and godly living.

- “as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,” 2 Peter 1:3
- “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12



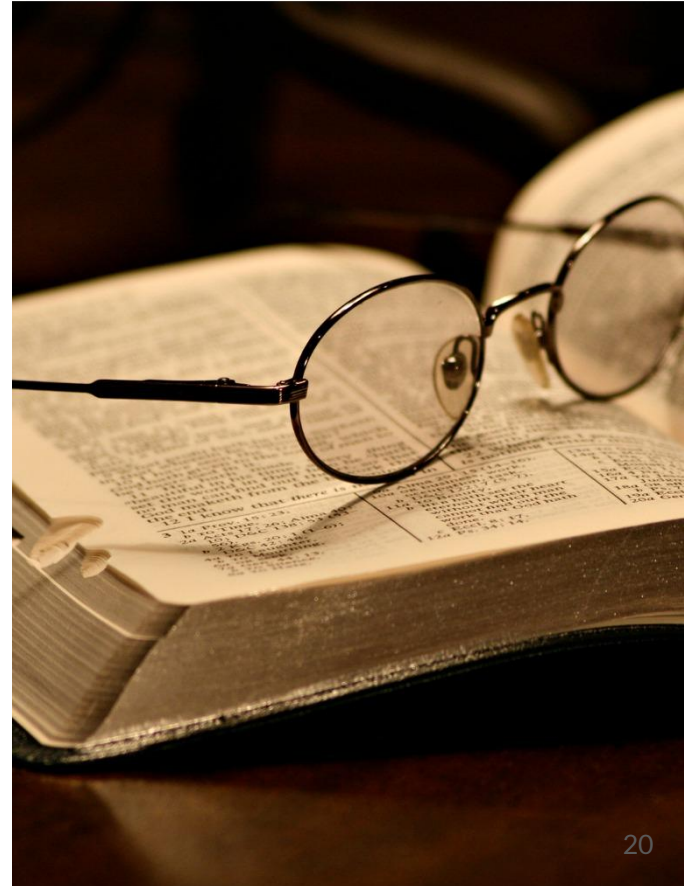
The Sufficiency of Scripture *(continued)*



- "Teach me good judgment and knowledge, For I believe Your commandments. Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word. You are good, and do good; Teach me Your statutes." Psalm 119:66-68
- "The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple." Psalm 119:130
- "Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me." Psalm 119:133
- "But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4
- "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life." John 6:63

The Sufficiency of Scripture *(continued)*

- "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you." John 15:7
- "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." John 17:17
- "Remember the word to Your servant, Upon which You have caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life." Psalm 119:49-50
- "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17"
- Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path." Psalm 119:105



The Inspiration of Scripture - Definition

"The Bible is **inspired** by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit. God used language as the means of His revelation. The very words of Scripture in the original autographs were given by Divine **inspiration** i.e., **breathed out by God through human writers who gave us His Word**. The mode of divine inspiration is in many aspects a mystery. **Inspiration** is not the mere product of human insight although God did use the distinctive personalities and literary styles of the writers whom He selected. ... **Inspiration** holds that all essential element of the Christian Faith are faithfully presented to believers today."

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The Inspiration of Scripture *(continued)*

- "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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- "My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips." Psalm 89:34
- "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe." 1 Thessalonians 2:13



The Inspiration of Scripture *(continued)*

- "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but **holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**" 2 Peter 1:19-21
- "Thus says the Lord" appears 418 times in the Old Testament / NKJV



The Inerrancy of Scripture

"We affirm the propriety of using *inerrancy* as a theological term with reference to the complete truthfulness of Scripture. It is not proper to evaluate Scripture according to standards of truth and error that are alien to its usage or purpose. And inerrancy is not negated by Biblical phenomena such as a lack of modern technical precision, irregularities of grammar or spelling, observational descriptions of nature, the reporting of falsehoods, the use of hyperbole and round numbers, the topical arrangement of material, or variant selections of material in parallel accounts."

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A Word Or Two On *Versions* Of The Bible

There are several English translations of the Bible in use today. Along with the King James Version, modern versions were crafted for today's reader with the intent of assisting the reader in understanding the Bible. Four of the most popular English versions are summarized below.

The important issue is not what version you use but your diligence in reading, studying, memorizing, meditating, and applying the Scripture to your life!



KJV & NKJV

Published in 1611 and known for its majesty of style. It is the most widely printed book in history. The NKJV is a 1982 update to grammar and certain vocabulary. Translated from the *Received Text*, it continues to be the most quoted and regarded as the version truest to the original autographs.



NIV

Completed in 1973, is one of the best selling modern translations. Seeks a balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought translation in a readable format.



NASB

Released in 1971, seeks to be a true word-for-word translation. The NASB is an update of the ASB and RSV versions of the Bible.



NLT

Originated as an update to the Living Bible (a 1971 paraphrase of the Bible by Kenneth Taylor for his children & grandchildren) it utilizes an approach of thought-for-thought Bible translation. It is currently one of the better selling versions of the Bible as it is known for its readability.

Some Final Thoughts to Check Off

- ✓ “The most read book in the world is the Bible. Writer James Chapman created a list of the most read books in the world based on the number of copies each book sold over the last 50 years. He found that the Bible far outsold any other book, with a whopping 3.9 billion copies sold over the last 50 years.”

Dec 27, 2012 10 Most Read Books In The World - Business Insider

<https://www.businessinsider.com/the-top-10-most-read-books-in-the-world-infographic-2012-12#:~:text=The%20most%20read%20book%20in,over%20the%20last%2050%20years.>



Some Final Thoughts to Check Off *(continued)*

- ✓ Archeological corroboration: "Documented archaeological discoveries have confirmed much of biblical history as factual. Renowned Jewish archaeological Nelson Glueck wrote: ' It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted/disputed a biblical reference'"
- ✓ Dead Sea Scrolls: In 1947, thousands of manuscripts were uncovered, containing portions of every book of the canonical Old Testament except one. It included ... a complete manuscript of Isaiah from 100 BC. Compared to recent manuscripts of Isaiah there was only 5% variations between the texts and most of the variations were minor slips of the pen and spelling..

Biblical Christianity by M. J. Tyner.



Some Final Thoughts to Check Off *(continued)*

- ✓ Unity across authors and time: "The Bible demonstrates complete harmony and unity even though it contains 66 books, is written over a span of 1,500 years by 40 authors with diverse backgrounds on three continents, written in three languages, and covers hundreds of subjects."
- ✓ Prophetic fulfillment: The New Testament shows historic fulfillment of 100s of Old Testament prophecies even though these prophecies were written centuries before the New Testament.

Biblical Christianity by M. J. Tyner.



There is significantly more evidence that supports the inspiration and authority of the Bible. We will delve more into this evidence when we explore our future topic of Apologetics.



In order to rely on the Bible for all things that pertain to life and godliness, we must commit to the Bible's authority, sufficiency, inspiration, and inerrancy.

We must know our Bible well or we will be tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, and by the world's philosophies

We should have a good grasp of how we got our Bible and how we can continue to defend it in the midst of this wicked and perverse generation.





Prayerfully commit and tell God you desire to live your life under the authority of His Word.

Develop and implement a plan to read through your New Testament 3 times by the end of the year.

Begin to memorize and meditate on key passages of Scripture as you seek to apply them to your life.

Begin to read the Scripture daily with your family.



Now What