

# **Final Authority: Locating God's Word in English**

**What is Preservation and Why is it  
Necessary?**

# God's Purpose in Inspiration

- God's design in inspiration is to make the living and written word equal.
- John 1:1-3, 14—Jesus Christ is the living word.
- Hebrews 4:12-13—the Bible is a critic of the man who reads it. It knows the difference between your soul and spirit. It can discern your heart.
- Notice that verse 13 applies human characteristics to the word of God.
- Psalms 138:2
- Revelation 19:11-13—who is this passage describing? Jesus Christ the living word, his name is called the word of God at the Second Coming.

# God's Purpose in Inspiration

- Romans 9:17
- Galatians 3:8
- God attributes his own attributes to his word. Is God perfect? Then his word must also be perfect or it would not be a reflection of His character.
- Nehemiah 9:5
- The issue in inspiration is that God inspired every word of scripture and he did so with the intention of making the written word equal to himself.
- See handout from Bullinger's book.

# Inspiration Demands Preservation

- At this point we need to pause and talk about another commonly held misconception regarding God's word.
- Virtually all fundamental evangelical scholars have written reams trying to prove the plenary verbal inspiration and argue for the inerrancy of the original autographs.
- Read examples
- What is the problem here? The original manuscripts no longer exist. What is the point of arguing for the inerrancy of something that everyone knows no longer exists?
- Virtually all evangelical churches, Bible Colleges, seminaries, and organizations overlook or ignore the Bible doctrine of Preservation.

# Inspiration Demands Preservation

- Why did God inspire His word perfectly?
- Obviously the answer comes back, So that man could have every word of God, pure, complete, trustworthy, and without error. If God went to all the trouble to perfectly inspire his word only to allow errors and mistakes to creep into the text it would be inconstant with His nature and character.
- Could God who overcame time (about 1,700 years transpired from the writing of the oldest Old Testament book and closing of the New Testament in 90 A.D.) and man's human nature to write the Bible perfectly in the first place, do the same thing to preserve it?

# Inspiration Demands Preservation

- Psalm 12:6—when God inspired the words they were pure, correct, and inerrant. There was nothing wrong with them.
- Psalm 12:7—what is the antecedent to the word “them” in verse 7? It is the pure “words” from verse 6. Therefore, it is the pure inerrant “words” in verse 6 that God has promise to preserve in verse 7.
- God promises that he will preserve all the words given by inspiration of God forever. Do you see why we spent so much time defining the Bible’s own definition of inspiration?
- You either believe this or you don’t.

# Inspiration Demands Preservation

- The doctrine of preservation teaches that the very words God inspired are the same words he is going to preserve. The doctrines of inspiration and preservation go hand in hand; you can't have one without the other.
- Psalm 33:11
- Psalm 119:89, 152
- Isaiah 29:18—God is going to preserve the words in the book through history until the millennium for them to read.
- Isaiah 30:8—it's the words on the pages of a book that will last forever.
- Matthew 5:18

# Inspiration Demands Preservation

- If God has not preserved His words as He said that He would (Psalms 12:6-7), then He has done two things He has never done before. First, he has wasted His own time. Second, God did not do that which He promised he would which would make him a liar.
- It is always to be remembered that the Bible is a spiritual book which God exerted supernatural force to conceive, and it is reasonable to assume that he could exert that same supernatural force to preserve.



# Why Preservation is Necessary

- You and I are not the only ones interested in what God said. Satan also has a vested interest in what God has said. Therefore, Satan is also interested in the Bible.
- Genesis 3:1—the first time Satan shows up in the Bible he is questioning what God said.
- Genesis 3 outlines Satan's policy of evil against the word of God.
- Step One: cause doubt to arise by questioning what God said (Genesis 3:1)
- Step Two: doubt causes Eve to subtract from God's word (Genesis 3:2)
- Step Three: doubt causes Eve to add to and water down God's word (Genesis 3:3)
- Step Four: Satan flat-out denies and contradicts what God said (Genesis 3:4)

# Why Preservation is Necessary

- It is Satan's policy of evil to destroy the final authority of the Word of God. He does so by creating a competing authority to the truth of God. Thus forcing you to decide and become your own authority.
- Satan desires to be worshipped. He has the ability to counterfeit God's actions, and definitely will be involved actively in attempting to destroy God's Word and/or our confidence in that Word, while seeking to replace it with his own version.
- Romans 10:17—by attacking the word of God, Satan is attacking the basis of our faith.
- Consequently, it is absolutely necessary that God preserve the very words that he inspired.