

Doctrine that Dances

The Doctrine of the Word of God

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All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flower of the field; the grass withers and the flower falls, but the Word of God stands forever. 1 Peter 1:24-25, Isaiah 40:6,8

I. Revelation

An uncovering, a removal of a veil, a disclosing of something which was previously unknown

A. General Revelation

God's general self disclosure to all people at all times in all places

- 1) Creation
 - a) Psalm 19:1
 - b) Romans 1:20
 - c) Matthew 5:45 – Common Grace
- 2) Conscience
 - a) Genesis 1:26-27
 - b) Romans 2:12-16

B. Particular Revelation

God's revelation in a particular way to a particular people at a particular time for a particular purpose

- 1) In personal experiences
- 2) In Christ
- 3) In Words – “The Word of God written”
 - a) “The Bible Contains the Word of God” vs. “The Bible is God's Word”
 - b) The Danger of a “Love Letter” Bible
 - i) We become the focus of God's revelation
 - ii) We see God as existing for us

C. Biblical Proclamation

- 1) What the preacher is doing
 - a) Romans 10:17
 - b) 2 Timothy 4:1-5
 - c) Ezekiel 2:1-7

In expository preaching the biblical text is neither a conventional introduction to a sermon on a largely different theme, nor a convenient peg on which to hang a ragbag of miscellaneous thoughts, but a master which dictates and controls what is said.

- John Stott, Between Two Worlds

- 2) What the listener is doing

II. Inspiration

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,” 2 Timothy 3:16

- A. The Dictation View
- B. The Dynamic View
- C. The Plenary View

III. Authority

The words in the Bible are God's words such that to obey or disobey those words is the same as obeying or disobeying God himself.

A. 2 Timothy 3:16

B. John 17:17

Throughout the history of the church the greatest preachers have been those who have recognized that they have no authority in themselves and have seen their task as being to explain the words of Scripture and apply them clearly to the lives of their hearers. Their preaching has drawn its power not from the proclamation of their own opinions, creative ideas, or rhetorical skills, but from God's powerful words. Essentially they stood in their pulpit, pointed to the biblical text, and said in effect to the congregation, "This is what this verse means. Do you see that meaning here as well? Then you must believe it and obey it with all your heart, for God himself, your creator and your Lord, is saying this to you today!" Only the written words of Scripture can give this kind of authority to preaching.

- Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

IV. Clarity

A. The General Sense of Intimidation

B. Biblical Claims to Clarity

V. Sufficiency

A. God's Word Written is what God Intended

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

B. Looking for God's Revelation Elsewhere is unhelpful

Let us not take it into our heads either to seek out God anywhere else than in his sacred Word, or to think anything about him that is not prompted by his Word, or to speak anything that is not taken from that Word.

- John Calvin, Institutes

VI. Doxology

A. God's Revelation is Grace

B. God's Revelation provides for our fulfillment

C. God's Revelation provides for ultimate framework

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*When thro' fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.*

*The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, tho' all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"*

John Rippon, Words
Joseph Funk, Music