

# **THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE**

**Part One: A theology of Scripture**

*The authorship, character, and  
authority of the Bible*

**Adult Sunday School**

**9:30 am**

**Teacher: Mark Lincoln**

# Inerrancy

*(the necessary implication of verbal inspiration)*

## Definition:

“The Scriptures in their original autographs and properly interpreted are wholly true in everything they affirm.”

---

## Why is this Essential?

### 1. Concerns the character of God

- His words are true (He cannot be untrue)

### 2. Establishes the reliability of Scripture

- Error undermines the trustworthiness and authority of Scripture

# **Inerrancy**

## **Defining “error”**

- 1. When the intended meaning of the text teaches something contrary to know fact, with the exception of a supernatural explanation.**
- 2. When the intended meaning of the text contradicts the intended meaning of another text (internal discrepancy)**

# Inerrancy

## 1. Original Inerrancy

➤ *Full inerrancy is restricted to the autographa*

### A. Why this restriction?

(is this an apologetic “cop out”, an intellectually dishonest escape from embarrassment?)

- Inspiration applies only to the authors of Scripture, not to any copyist or subsequent messenger of their words
- Recognition and allowance for “errors” in the transmission of the text
- *Note:* errors are defined as discrepancies in the extant manuscripts

# Inerrancy

## 1. Original Inerrancy

### B. Why is this restriction important?

- Not to provide an indefensible hedge behind which to hide all supposed error
- Enables us to consistently confess the truthfulness of God – no error is attributed to God
- Provides a trustworthy foundation for the copies of Scripture we have today

# Inerrancy

## 1. Original Inerrancy

### C. Common Objections

(1) Irrelevant because we do not have the original texts

- Distinguish between autographic “codex” (physical document) and “text” (the words)
- Through textual criticism we can arrive at the original text

(2) No practical difference between original inerrancy and limited inerrancy

- The first establishes the basis of final authority for truth, the second undermines it

# Inerrancy

## 1. Original Inerrancy

### D. What about our Bibles today?

- Our Bibles are inspired and inerrant to the degree that they accurately reflect the original text
- This qualification is seldom needed due to the objective, universally accepted and high degree of correlation in light of textual criticism
- We have a reliable text! – great manuscript evidence, few variants, even fewer substantial variants