

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

1. Original Inerrancy

- Technically, inerrancy is restricted to the autographa because inspiration is limited to the original authors

2. Properly Interpreted

- The guiding principle is “authorial intention” which is determined by a historical, grammatical, contextual interpretation

Inerrancy

2. Properly Interpreted

A. Intended degree of precision?

- A lack of precision does not necessarily render something false
- Applies to numbers and quotations

B. Use of phenomenal language

- Reporting how things appear to the eye, not with scientific language (e.g. “the sun rises”)
- Includes the use of poetry, figures of speech, idioms

Inerrancy

2. Properly Interpreted

C. Selective recording

- An account of an event does not have to be exhaustive to be true; authors may select certain details based on their purposes
- Most of the “discrepancies” between parallel accounts can be easily explained in this way