The Inerrancy of Scripture in an Uncertain World

In the year 1526, people held in their hands a book they had never held before—a book that lit the world aflame, changed lives, and ignited revivals across Europe. Many men and women lost their lives standing firm in the truth of this first English Scripture translation; their conviction was well expressed by its translator, William Tyndale, who wrote, “I call God to record… that I never altered one syllable of God’s Word against my conscience, nor would I do so this day if all that is in earth… might be given” (Foxe 120). These believers knew that all Scripture is God-breathed and completely inerrant—a truth Wayne Grudem defines as “the idea that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact” (Grudem 91). God Himself, who is the very essence of truth, breathed out everything written in the Word; Scripture declares in John 17:17 that “your word is truth” (ESV). For this reason, the inerrancy of Scripture cannot be taken lightly. The conviction of the complete accuracy of Scripture empowers believers to discern truth from error in three fundamentally life-shaping issues: morality, science, and the gospel.

In recent years, many churches have compromised with Scripture in order to align themselves with modern morality. The world accuses Christians of being judgmental and narrow-minded, leading many churches to refuse the inerrancy of Scripture passages that condemn sinful practices. Leaving God’s truth behind, they deny and mishandle His Word, condoning practices such as homosexuality, abortion, and other forms of immorality. So doing, they harm themselves and their neighbors. Paul himself predicts the time when “people will not
endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths” (2 Timothy 4:3). Christians can only stand up against such blatant false teaching by clinging to the inerrancy of Scripture, for it is the only source of absolute truth in a fallen and uncertain world.

The belief in the inerrancy of Scripture also empowers believers to view the physical world through the lens of the Creator. When Christians do not hold fast to the truth of Scripture, they are tempted to hastily accept scientific theories—such as the Big Bang Theory—even if these directly contradict the Bible. In past history, science has claimed that the world is flat, that leeches can heal diseases, and many other absurdities. Though science has made mistakes, Scripture has never erred. God’s word is not chained by modern science, but is the perfect judge of human thought. In Ephesians 4, Paul writes that believers must grow in truth so that they will “no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine” (Ephesians 4:14). Holding fast to the truth of God’s Word is the only way believers can stand firm as waves of scientific theories wash over them.

Finally, the inerrancy of Scripture vividly shapes the believer’s view of salvation and the gospel. Unlike other religions, Christianity is rooted in real history rather than a set of theoretical ideas; thus, those who compromise with Scripture’s historical accuracy may be led to deny the truthfulness of the gospel as well. Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:16 that “all Scripture,” not just parts of it, is inspired by God and is “able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15). The truthfulness of this hopeful message is the impetus for evangelism. The world says that all people are good no matter what they believe. Jesus says, however, “I am the
way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). If the Bible is absolutely inerrant, then Jesus is the only way and hope of salvation.

God’s Word still powerfully transforms its readers, even as in 1526 when Tyndale translated the Bible into English. Without inerrancy, the Bible would be simply another book to read and study. Believers should love it as strongly as did Charles Spurgeon, who declared, “I do not believe that, from one cover to the other, there is any mistake in it of any sort whatever… for if it is not all true, it is not worth one solitary penny to me” (ericyoung.com). Spurgeon understood the weightiness of Biblical inerrancy—for the world’s hope lies in this book.
Works Cited


“Charles Spurgeon: On the Full inspiration and Inerrancy of Scripture.” Reformed Bibliophile.

