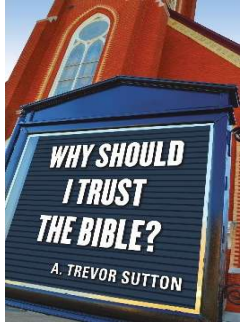


## Christ the King Lutheran Church



### ***Why Should I Trust the Bible?***

**A. Trevor Sutton**

### **Session Three – *Claim: The Bible Cannot Be Inerrant Because Humans Wrote It***

*Elder Dave Reitz, presenting with Pastor Rob Morris*

#### **Claim: The Bible Cannot Be Inerrant Because Humans Wrote It**

Some of the claims made against the Bible are downright silly. This one is not. Whether you are skeptical of Scripture or a bold Bible believer, this claim deserves thoughtful reflection. Can something produced by human hands actually be free from error? Is it possible for mortal minds to speak the Word of God? (58)

It defies reason to think that God would use broken humans to compose a text that is trustworthy, inerrant, and authoritative. It seems impossible to think that human authors could be used to write the Word of God... There are two alternatives that seem far more reasonable:

**Reject Human Authorship:** ...the word of God came through the human authors like water through a pipe. The Bible is inerrant because it is untainted by human hands.

**Reject Divine Authorship:** ...this notion claims that the Bible was composed without the influence of God. It is a completely human book depicting the religious beliefs of a group of ancient people. (58-59)

Both of these alternatives attempt to resolve the mystery of a divinely inspired book written by human hands. And both of these alternatives are wrong. The Bible is both the inerrant Word of God and the work of errant human beings. Not one or the other. Both. This is possible only by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit... Inspiration and inerrancy are inextricable. (59)

The Biblical authors repeatedly assert that the words of Scripture are the inspired Word of God

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- 2 Peter 1:21

- 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (60)

Affirming that Scripture is God's Word, however, does not deny the presence of human authors. The inspiration of the Holy Spirit allowed human authors to proclaim the Word of God. Unlike anything else in all creation, the Bible is composed by human hands yet entirely divine and without error or contradiction. (61)



The Holy Spirit is the divine author of the Bible. Therefore, it is essential to have a firm knowledge of this person. The Holy Spirit is not a mere attribute or power of God. He is not a strange mist, vapor, or ghostly presence of a deceased person. He is the real and unique Third Person of the Trinity. He is the person Jesus promised to send: “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you.” (John 16:7) (62)

The Holy Spirit is active and powerful. The Spirit was present in the beginning (Genesis 1:2)... The Spirit was active in the lives of Israel’s judges and kings (Judges 6:34, 1 Samuel 16:13)... Prophets spoke on behalf of God through the Spirit ( Ezekiel 2:2-3; Micah 3:8)... The Holy Spirit directs and connects people to the death and resurrection of Jesus. He allows people to say and believe, “Jesus is Lord.” (1 Corinthians 12:3) (62)

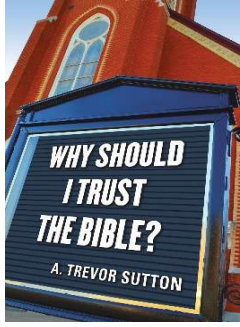
Apart from the Holy Spirit, no one can truly confess that Jesus is Lord. Human authors could not have composed the Bible without the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Why? Because the Bible is one continuous confession that Jesus is Lord. (63)

The Bible consists of sixty-six books substantiated by at least twenty-five thousand ancient manuscript witnesses. Although none of the original manuscripts exist today, the sixty-six books of the Bible have been reconstructed by these ancient manuscript witnesses. Overwhelming evidence has shown that the copies of biblical manuscripts are accurate and do not deviate. And when there is a deviation in the manuscripts, scholars can recognize it and make sure that every word of the Bible remains accurate to the original text. Therefore, we can be confident that the Bible in its present form today is the inspired Word of God. (64)

### **Excursus: The Gettysburg Address**



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