

The Bible Stands

Pastor Kelly Sensenig

In 1874 the Scriptures were under severe attack by critics, and John W. Haley published a defense entitled "Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible." In the preface he wrote, "Finally, let it be remembered that the Bible is neither dependent upon nor affected by the success or failure of my book. Whatever may become of the latter, whatever may be the verdict passed upon it by an intelligent public, the Bible will stand.

My study is entitled, "The Bible Stands." We are living in a day when truth, like a rubber band, is becoming more flexible. The experiences of people are being placed above the truth of Scripture or what the Bible has to say about these things. The humanistic teachings of man are being adopted above the truth of Scripture and the absolute sufficiency and help that we find in the Word of God.

Harvard astronomers have dialed outer space and are listening for an answer. They want someone or something to respond to them. Their ear, 85 feet in diameter, is a receiving dish located near Boston. According to a column in USA today, this endeavor is the most extensive search ever conducted for intelligent life in outer space. The project is using a sophisticated, computerized radio receiver that allows the scientist to listen to and analyze 128,000 frequencies at once, 24 hours a day, for 4 years.

How utterly foolish man is! He is listening for answers from outer space, while many times rejecting the answers and truth revealed in the Bible. Many people in this world today and many within Christendom today are sweeping the Bible under the carpet, while the philosophies and ideas of man are being propagated above and beyond the Bible.

What I am going to show you today is that the Bible stands! It stands above the psychology of man. It stands above the views of liberalism and humanism. No matter how much the Bible is abused, forgotten or ignored in our society and churches makes no difference. The Bible will still stand! It stands as the inspired, inerrant, infallible, preserved and final authority for

every experience, practice and question that we could face today. My friend, that is the way in which the Bible stands! May this message restore our faith in this book in even a deeper and more committed way than before. This message is a salute to the Bible!

In today's world we have Liberalism, which has devastated the church in the last 100 years. It has taken over whole colleges and seminaries and pulpits and denominations. Its attitude toward the Bible is unbelief and skepticism.

There is the attitude of New Orthodoxy, which says the Bible can become the Word of God as it effects our lives, but is not the entire Word of God. New Evangelicalism emphasizes scholarship over the Bible.

Charismatic teaching today emphasizes the experience of dreams and visions over the Bible. People are turning into modern day mystics and have made the Bible out to be a manual of mysticism!

There are four areas in which the Bible still stands:

1. The Bible stands as the inspired Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says:

"All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The Greek word for inspiration means to be divinely breathed, the very breath of God Himself. My friend, the Bible stands today for the simple reason that it is God's very own spoken word! The Bible came from the very breath of God! They originated in the mind of God and God spoke them Himself. This can be said because the writers of Scripture were the mere vehicles through which God spoke (2 Peter 1:21). They were carried along by God the Holy Spirit to write down the very words of God Himself.

The Bible still stands as the *verbally inspired book* of the ages. That means that every word of the book is inspired and not just its concepts or ideas as

people say today. Some will read another book today and claim the same thing of that book as they do of the Bible, "Oh this book was very inspired or inspirational." Well, the Bible is inspired in a far different way than the writings of humanity. How sad that those in today's world are regarding the Bible as similar to other books which are written by man!

The Bible still stands as the *plenary inspired book* of all the ages. That means that every portion of the Bible is equally inspired. The sections dealing with miracles and creation are as inspired as any other portion of the Bible. The genealogical lists of people are as inspired as the sermons which Jesus gave. There is no other book like this one in all the world!

There are basically three views regarding inspiration:

- (1) The humanistic view of inspiration: This view says that the Bible is inspired only in the sense that great human writings, such as those of Shakespeare, are inspired.
- (2) The partial view of inspiration: Some believe the Bible is inspired in those matters not affecting science, but that there are historical and scientific errors in the Bible.
- (3) The perfect view of inspiration: The Bible is perfectly inspired to every word and contains no error.

What will the inspired Bible really do for your life?

1. The inspired Bible will bring profitable teaching into your life (16).

*Doctrine tells you what is right for your life.

The Bible is a profitable book because it's God's inspired book that He has given to you for essential Christian living. If you bypass the instructions found in the Bible, you will bypass real Christian living. The Bible is God speaking to you today. It is His very words that He has given to guide and direct your life in the way that He wants you to live.

The entire (“all”) inspired teaching of the Bible is “profitable” or helpful (advantageous) to your life. It is all essential! You can’t take what you want and leave the rest behind! If you except what the Bible says about anxiety then you must also accept what it says about the sign gifts and how they have ceased for today!

If you accept what the Bible says about the peace of God, then you must also accept what it says about coming out from among apostasy and separating yourself from ecumenicalism and worldly living in our day. All the portions of the Bible are for our profit and for our good in life.

The entire teaching of the Bible is “profitable” for our living! It is profitable because it gives to us light (wisdom) for everyday guidance and direction along the pathway of life, so we do not stumble over worldly advice and move in a wrong direction (Psalms 119:105).

2. The inspired Bible will bring conviction into your life (16).

*Reproof (conviction) tells you what is wrong with your life.

The problem with many of us today is that we don’t want to know what is wrong with ourselves! We want the preacher to skip those portions of the Bible that step on our toes and bring reproof into our life! That is why we get mad and blame the preacher for not preaching right when our toes become stepped upon.

The word “reproof” means that the Bible will certainly send conviction into your life about sinful tendencies and bad habits, which are displeasing to God. It will be like a sword to you as it pierces itself into your inner most being (see Hebrews 4:12). The Bible will sort out all your sinful desires from your spiritual or good desires. It places itself as a critic upon the door of your heart and exposes all your sinful and evil desires within your heart. The Bible will let you know that they are evil by convicting you of these sinful thoughts and attitudes. It allows you to see your sin and becomes both a convicting (2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 4:12) and cleansing agent from sin within your life (John 15:3, 17:17).

3. The inspired Bible will bring correction into your life (16).

*Correction shows you how to get right in life.

You need correction in your Christian life. Many times we have the old baggage of our unsaved past which we need to rid ourselves of. As you read the Bible, it will bring correction into your life or improve you over all life and character. It will help straighten up your life and bring a new start within your life. You will need to be sensitive to what the Bible is trying to do for you as you search out and obey its life changing words.

4. The inspired Bible will instruct you in right living (16).

*Instruction helps you to stay right in life.

The Bible will help you to develop a day to day life that pleases God. This is called a righteous and holy life. It is a life where we are guided in God's ways for our own life. The Bible will instruct you on how to stay right with God and how to avoid many pitfalls in life. The Scriptures will keep you on target spiritually in life. The word of God traces out in detail the very ingredients, which make up a godly life.

5. The inspired Bible will help you to become spiritually mature (17).

*Maturity helps you to become well rounded in life.

The word "perfect" does not mean perfection in life. None of us can come close to a place of perfection in life. What the Bible word means is "to be fitted or complete in a spiritual way." The Bible's instruction will lead you to a substantial life of spiritual growth and maturity as a Christian. You will grow spiritually and move out of your infant stage of Christian living that you were once in. In actuality, you should grow the rest of your life on earth, becoming a stronger and more mature Christian over the years. The Bible will bring this kind of spiritual maturity into your life.

6. The inspired Bible will equip you to live the Christian life (17).

*Equipping yourself is needed to help you face life.

The Bible will completely equip or prepare you for life (the meaning of “thoroughly furnished”). Its pages provide you with endless and inexhaustible instructions to fully or completely prepare you to live the Christian life victoriously and effectively. The Bible’s instructions will make you into a real disciple. Through its teachings you can become a true follower of Jesus Christ, a Christian who is willing to follow the path of true Biblical Christianity.

There is no reason to look at secular humanism, psychology or New Age methods and mystics for help in life. The Bible has all that you will ever need to live godly and wisely in this present world. It will fully equip you for the journey called life. When you need help or have a problem, you must turn to the Bible and see what it says. When you are looking for direction in life or victory, you must turn to the Bible. The Bible works!

“Holy Bible Book Divine, Precious Treasure Thou Art Mine.”

The Bible stands as the only inspired teaching, convicting, correcting, instructing, maturing and equipping book for our lives!

When you start looking through the Bell Atlantic yellow pages for answers on how to live your life, then the Bible has become useless to you. When you start looking for answers to life in the scads of psychological books flooding the market, then you have drifted away from the one true book that can help you in life.

Some older saint in the Lord said to me the other year, “We need to get out of the way of the Bible!” In other words, we need to simply let it say what it wants to say about our lives. As believers, we need to let the Bible say what it wants to say and stop candycoating what it is saying. Beware of trying to avoid what the Bible is saying to you. Get out of the way of the Bible and allow it to speak to your heart again!

Friend, the Bible stands! It stands as the only inspired guide book that we have in life. It stands as the *only* inspired teaching, convicting, correcting,

instructing, maturing and equipping book for our lives! My friend, the first place we should turn for the answers to life's problems is the Bible!

2. The Bible stands as the inerrant Word of God.

The word inerrant simply means to be without error. My friend, we must believe in the inerrancy of Scripture today. The Bible was given to man from God and has been preserved from error in recording and transmission. There are no scribal errors or copyist errors that effect the Bible. When you start going that route you will wind up with a Bible which is no longer inerrant or without error!

Don't give me that old story that the Bible is only inerrant in the original writings either. God has kept His word even today inerrant (without error)! You are a skeptic and doubter if you do not believe in the continuing inspiration and inerrancy of the Word of God.

In Matthew 5:18, Jesus said:

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Here we see that Jesus spoke about the Scripture in minute details. A "jot" was the smallest letter in the Hebrew Alphabet. A "tittle" refers to the lines and strokes by which the Hebrew letters differ from each other.

In English a jot would correspond to the dot above the letter "i" (and look like an apostrophe), and a tittle would be seen in the difference between a "P" and an "R". The small angled line that completes the "R" is like a tittle. These things are important because letters make up words and even a slight change in a letter might change the meaning of a word. Jesus' perfect fulfillment of the law would extend to the smallest Hebrew letter, the "jot" and even to the smallest stroke of a Hebrew letter, the "tittle."

The idea we can gather by this statement is that the Bible is inerrant (without error) down to the smallest detail, even down to the "jot" and "tittle." Jesus said it! And you cannot get any more inerrant than that!

While I was a teen, I went on vacation and asked if one of my friends would baby-sit my pet piranha. He put the piranha in with his other fish and when he came home one day he found that the piranha had eaten all of the other fish. One fish was bitten in half and was floating on the top of the water! The point is this. When you start giving into the theory that there are errors in the Bible, then you begin feeding the piranha of liberalism and also reopen the whole subject of inerrancy!

Today there is the mood of toleration toward the liberal. There is also the mood of pride and intellect, emphasizing liberal men as being scholars of the Bible. This is why so many evangelicals today are scrapping the inerrancy of the Bible. These liberal-minded, intellectual piranhas are eating away at the Bible and trying to take away its inerrancy. But the true believer is to still come to the same conclusion in this age of skepticism and unbelief. That conclusion is that the Bible still stands as the inerrant Word of God!

There is a term, which is called "DYNAMIC EQUIVALENCY." This actually refers to a method of Bible translation that adapts the Scriptures to the culture and educational level of the people. This is what we see taking place today in the ongoing moneymaking racket of new Bible translations.

Many translations are attempting to bring the Bible down to the level of the people instead of bringing the people up to the level of the Bible! Modern translators are treating the Bible as if it's all right to change the inerrant Word of God. This is why we have literally thousands of changes in the modern versions, which are behind the Greek text of Westcott and Hort. There are changes that *take away* and *add* to God's inerrant Word of the centuries. There are changes that effect Bible truth and doctrines. These changes can effect and destroy the inerrancy of the Bible.

Five centuries ago the faithful William Tyndale, later martyred for his translation of the Bible, said, "I call God to record against the day we shall appear before our Lord Jesus, to give a reckoning of our doings, that I never altered one syllable of God's Word against my conscience, nor would [I so alter it] this day, if all that is in the earth, whether it be pleasure, honour, or riches, might be given me."

This attitude of fear and trembling toward God's holy Word does not exist among the present-day Bible translators. They are not afraid of adding to, subtracting from and changing the eternal inerrant Word of God.

3. The Bible stands as the infallible Word of God.

The term infallible means that the Bible is incapable of having any error, or not subject to any error. If the Bible is not inerrant (without error) it is not infallible (incapable of error)! You cannot have one without the other. You cannot have turkey without the trimmings!

The discoveries of science and man will never prove that the Bible has error within its pages. Do you know why? *Because the Bible is incapable of error.* Man with his theories and inventions will never put a black spot upon the Bible. By the way, *we are to measure science by the Bible and not the Bible by science.*

The Bible is infallible in spite of what science, evolution or the discoveries of man say or produce. The Bible is never capable of being proven wrong in any area or any portion. This feature of the infallibility of the Bible will be true both today or at any given time in the future. The Bible is incapable of ever being found as a book with error. All history and all the years of the future will never place any shadow of error upon the Bible.

In John 17:17, Jesus said:

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

In 1 Thessalonians 2:13, Paul says:

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”

The Bible is always viewed as absolute truth! There is not one ounce of error in this book. It is infallible, incapable of having any error! It is absolutely true in every minute detail and always will be! Furthermore, the

Bible is not capable of having some recorded errors within the miracle accounts, which liberals love to downplay as natural events.

Some higher critics (which I call higher crickets) have said that at the north end of the Red Sea there is an area called Bitter Lakes. Between the Bitter Lakes and the Red Sea there was a marshy connection two to three inches deep. They say a southeast wind blew up the channel holding the water in the Bitter Lakes, while the tide ebbed away in the Red Sea. So the children of Israel waded through the marshy area.

Now that's a weak explanation. Listen, if the children of Israel walked across a shallow marshy area, how did the well-trained Egyptian army drown in two inches of water? That would have to be a miracle! It is amazing how man in his own insanity rejects the infallibility of the Bible.

2 Timothy 2:15 says:

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

My friend, what is your attitude toward the Bible today? Do you really think that the Bible has some unknown errors in it? Do you really suspect that there are errors in the Bible, which dilute its absolute inspiration, inerrancy and infallibility?

A man was talking to me one day and was telling me how there were all these discrepancies in the Bible. I immediately asked him if he could share some of these discrepancies with me. His reply was that he did not know any off the top of his head, but knew that there were many errors in the Bible.

We live in an age of unbelief. People are skeptical of the Bible. They believe that there are errors within its pages. There are no errors in the Bible. *The problem is not with the Bible but with the men trying to figure out the Bible.* There is nothing wrong with the Bible, however there is something wrong with man! Man is ignorant of the Bible. The fault lies in the ignorance of man and not in the error of the Bible.

A certain clergyman was called by a church to become its pastor. Having been strongly influenced by critical scholars who downgrade portions of the Scriptures as myths, he himself doubted the authenticity of the whole Bible. About two years after his coming, the pastor visited one of his members who was very sick. When he learned that the man had a terminal illness, he suggested, "Perhaps you would like me to read and pray with you?" "Yes," replied the man as he took his Bible and handed it to the minister. When he opened it, he was somewhat shocked at what he saw. Many of the pages were torn away, some of the chapters were missing, and a number of verses were actually cut out! It was a terribly mangled volume. Reluctantly the pastor asked, "Haven't you got a better Bible than this?" The dying man replied:

"When you came to our church, I believed the entire Book. But as soon as you told us that certain sections were not true, I removed them. When you said that some stories were probably fiction and referred to them as fables, I tore them out. I think if I had another year under you teaching, I would have nothing but two covers left."

4. The Bible stands as the preserved Word of God.

Preservation is the teaching that God has preserved His pure Word down through the ages. The same God that perfectly inspired the Scriptures has promised to perfectly preserve the Scriptures--not merely its teachings, but its very words. *If inspiration was perfect but preservation is only general, the entire matter of inspiration should be abandoned.* To argue for an inspired Bible, which no longer exists as the preserved Word of God, is vain jangling or empty talk.

It does not matter if the Bible has been preserved or how it has been preserved, if we do not believe in the complete inspiration of the Bible. Likewise, it also follows that if the Bible has not been preserved it does not matter how it was inspired. The God, who inspired the Bible, also preserved the Bible from error down through the centuries of Bible transmission. Indeed, we have an errorless Bible!

Psalm 12:6-7

“The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. “

Psalm 33:11

“The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.”

Psalm 100:5

“For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”

Psalm 111:7-8

“The works of his hands *are* verity and judgment; all his commandments *are* sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, *and are* done in truth and uprightness.”

Psalm 117:2

“For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.”

Psalm 119:152

“Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.”

Psalm 119:160

“Thy word *is* true *from* the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”

Here we find that the Bible is true from even its earliest writings (“the beginning”), such as Genesis and the writings of Moses.

Isaiah 40:8;

“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”

1 Peter 1:23, 25

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

“But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

By the mere reading of these Scriptures and faith in the Scriptures themselves, we can see that God has preserved His Word down through the ages. He has given to us today a Bible that is without error. And I believe that I am holding it in my hand today!

I now state my position. In case you have not noticed, I believe that God has preserved His eternal Word in the Greek Received Text behind the King James Version. This text was preserved down through the centuries and was finalized in the bringing together of a commonly received Church Text. God had to have an ongoing text to preserve His Word in minute accuracy.

Without believing this, you will end up with a 50% or 80% or 90% or 99% preserved Bible. You will also end up with questions, doubt, uncertainty and confusion about the preservation of Scripture. In addition, you will have to thrust your belief upon modern scholarship and up to date findings in order to really know if you have the preserved Bible.

Most of all, your modern critical approach to the Bible will give you maximum uncertainty instead of maximum certainty in the preservation of the Bible!

Jesus said in Matthew 24:35:

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

Preservation extends to the actual words of Scripture! To only speak about a general preservation of Scripture is the beginning of apostasy. Furthermore, to come to the conclusion that God’s Word is flexible to some degree in relationship to its words and own conclusions is to treat the Bible as a book which is not inspired, inerrant, infallible and preserved.

Once again, Jesus said in Matthew 5:18:

“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said:

“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Jesus verified that the Old Testament Scriptures were preserved as the inerrant Word of God. *Yes, even the copies of the copies of the copies!* God would keep His word, all of it and every portion of it.

Do you believe in the Bible the same way Jesus did? He believed that every portion of the Scriptures was preserved as totally inerrant and infallible, down to the very letter! The Word that I hold in my hand today is a copy of that perfect and fixed and unchanging word in Heaven.

Psalms 119:89

“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”

The teaching of all these passages is that God would preserve His Word in detail to every generation. This and this alone, is the Biblical doctrine of preservation. I am convinced the Bible teaches miraculous inspiration and miraculous preservation!

God has preserved His word through the history of transmission. We do not know all the details of the history of transmission in some centuries; however, we can see that the history of the transmission of the Bible was unfolded very clearly in the 15th and 16th centuries. We can also by faith believe the Biblical testimony that God gave to us about the absolute preservation of the Bible.

God has miraculously kept this book in tact for us today in the Greek text behind the King James Bible! Of course, many people chuckle at a statement such as this and actually do not believe that it is true. Many times this attitude results from the unsound, unscholarly and insulting

publications, which try and promote this stance. The writer does not promote this kind of fanatical approach. Actually, these extremists distort this truth about Bible preservation by some of their ridiculous conclusions and claims.

Nevertheless, there is something that we must reckon with. Either the Bible is preserved in a specific way (down to the very word) or a general way. Through the centuries God has kept His Word pure and completely preserved. For instance, the actual revelation of the Bible was progressively revealed among humanity down through the centuries of time (Old Testament & New Testament). In a similar fashion, the truth about the Bible's preservation was progressively revealed and recovered among the church centuries in the many surviving and uncorrupted manuscripts from the originals (autographs).

In other words, the preservation of the Bible itself was progressively revealed and recovered in the many surviving manuscripts, much as the original revelation of the Bible was progressively revealed in order to become canonized Scripture. It was kept in tact through the untainted Greek manuscripts down through the history of transmission. The historical evidence will lead us to the sound conclusion that not all the manuscripts were preserved as free from error and liberal scholarship.

There are those today who teach a generalized preservation of Scripture, which varies according to modern scholarship and manuscript findings. There are those who claim that the Bible is preserved in the Greek texts behind all the Bibles today. However, in claiming this, you must come to the conclusion that it could only be a general preservation and not to every word. The reason for this conclusion is because there are many substantial differences between the modern Bibles and their Greek text (Westcott & Hort) and the Greek text (Received Text) behind the King James Version. The differences come out in the translations themselves, where entire paragraphs and verses are missing and other words deleted and changed.

The Bible's use of the term "preserved" demonstrates that preservation is an absolute and not a relative term. To speak of the Bible as being "almost

preserved" is a misnomer. Either it is preserved to the very word or it isn't. Either it has errors or it doesn't. You just can't get around it.

Your wife does not almost freeze your peaches. They are either frozen or not frozen. Your wife does not almost can your stringbeans. They are either canned or not canned. The same is true of the preservation of the Scripture! The Bible is either completely preserved or not completely preserved. The problem with people today is that many simply do not want to believe that God has kept His Word intact.

Because of the four areas we have observed regarding the Bible (inspiration, inerrancy, infallibility, preservation), the Bible must remain the final authority for all of our decisions in life and finding answers to questions in life. When you fail to investigate and follow the truth of the Bible on any given matter, it is because you have a low view of Scripture.

If the Bible does not condone a certain action or speak of certain occurrences, then we had better scrap them and not waste our time with them. If the Bible and its principles condemn certain actions, we had better condemn them.

If a person's experience does not line up with the clear-cut teaching of the Bible, then you had better question it. If churches are moving into areas of mystical practices where they should not be and promoting worldliness and ecumenicalism in their meetings, then we had better stand on the Biblical tenets of separation and not become a victim of the end time deception.

Friend, the Bible must stand above the opinions and philosophies of man. It must stand above the trends of the day and our society!

Psalm 138:2 says:

"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

The Bible still stands. The question is this. "Will you stand with the Bible?" That is my challenge to you today. To be willing to stand up for all truth!

“The B - I - B - L - E, yes that’s the Book for me,
I stand alone on the Word of God, the B - I - B - L - E.”
I’m still singing it my friend! Will you stand on God’s eternally inspired,
inerrant, infallible, unchanging and preserved Word today?

I’m still singing it!

The Hymn writer said:

“The Bible stands like a rock undaunted
Mid the raging storms of time,
It’s pages burn with the truth eternal,
And they glow with a light sublime.
The Bible stands every test we give it,
For its Author is divine,
By grace alone I expect to live it
And to prove it and make it mine.

The Bible stands tho the hills may tumble,
It will firmly stand when the earth shall crumble,
I will plant my feet on its firm foundation,
For the Bible stands.”

Today, I salute the Bible!