

The Doctrine of Revelation

I. REVELATION

- A. Defined: the process by which God reveals Himself
- B. Necessary: The redemption of humanity requires that God reveal Himself.
- C. Types of Revelation:
 - 1. General: God reveals Himself primarily through nature, history, and conscience. This is a type of objective revelation available to all who want to observe it.
 - a. General revelation ensures the guilt of all.
 - b. General revelation is not sufficient for salvation.
 - 2. Special: God's manifestation of Himself to particular persons at definite times and places, enabling those persons to enter into redemptive relationships with Him. This is seen in events in history, Divine speech, and the Incarnation.
 - a. It is necessary for all.
 - b. It is not available to all without exception.
 - 3. Natural: Knowledge of God revealed by nature and life.
- D. Characteristics of Revelation:
 - 1. Progressive
 - 2. Personal – not knowledge “about” but “of” God
 - 3. Propositional
- E. Revelation is a work totally dependent upon God.

F. The ultimate revelation is the Person and work of Jesus.

II. INSPIRATION

A. Defined: God's breathing His Word into a chosen messenger

B. Theories of Revelation:

1. Intuition: A higher development of man's natural insight into truth. It is a special giftedness.
2. Illumination: An intensification of the religious perceptions of man. Man's normal powers are heightened.
3. Dictation: The writers of Scripture were passive instruments in the hands of God.
4. Dynamic: A combination of Divine and human agencies. The Holy Spirit directed the concepts. The vocabulary and grammar were of man.
5. Verbal: The Holy Spirit directed not only the thoughts, but the precise words used to convey the thoughts in Scripture.

C. Synthesis:

1. Inspiration: The supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit upon the Scripture writers was such that their writing accurately records the revelation which resulted in what they wrote actually being the Word of God.
2. Plenary Verbal Theory of Inspiration: All the words of the Bible are the direct products of a direct, supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit on the men who were His instruments. It is completely inerrant and infallible.
3. Neo-orthodox View: The Bible contains the Word of God and becomes the Word of God when it is read in faith.

III. THE BIBLE

A. Propositions:

1. The Bible is clear.

2. The Bible is not equally clear in all its parts.
3. The Bible is not equally clear to all.
4. The law of non-contradiction operates in the Scriptures.

B. Unity:

1. There is an organic unity between the Old and New Testaments.
2. The Bible has one theme which is redemption.
3. There is one central person in the Bible, Jesus Christ.
4. There is one central goal in Scripture, the supreme reign of Christ in a redeemed world.

C. Inerrancy:

1. A confession of loyalty to the Bible is not enough.
2. Defined: The Bible, when correctly interpreted in the light of the level to which culture and the means of community had developed at the time it was written, and in view of the purposes for which it was given, is fully truthful in all that it affirms.
3. Implications:
 - a. Extends to writers
 - b. Extends to copyists
 - c. Extends to translators
4. Scripture is completely sufficient to achieve its redemptive purposes.

D. The Role of the Holy Spirit:

1. Man is totally effected by sin.
2. God must reveal Himself.
3. Sin must be overcome.

4. Faith must be given.
5. The Spirit uses the word to sanctify believers.

Additional Notes: