



Scripture

The triangle cut out of the square resembles the pages of Scripture. The Old and New Testaments are opened like a book.

Paul David Tripp
Do You Believe?

What We Believe: Solid Doctrine for Everyday Life

Introduction & The Doctrine of Scripture

What goes through your head when you hear the word *doctrine*?

Doctrine = Teaching
“*But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.*” (Titus 2:1)

Why this class? 1) Learn & 2) Apply

In the end, it’s all about Jesus (John 5:39-40). *Where are my disconnects? If these things about God’s Word are true, what difference is it making in my life right now?* (James 1:22)

- **General Revelation** (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:18–20; 2:14–15)
- **Special Revelation** (Genesis 1:3ff.; John 1:1; Hebrews 1:1-2)
- **The Inspiration of Scripture** (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20–21)
Therefore it’s trustworthy & has been preserved/protected for us.
- **The Inerrancy of Scripture** (Titus 1:2; Proverbs 30:5; see also Psalm 12:6; 119:42; John 17:17)
- **The Clarity of Scripture** (2 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:7; Deuteronomy 6:6–7)
- **The Unity of Scripture** (Luke 24:27)
Because of this unity, we can trace themes throughout the whole Bible, across time periods and different human authors and styles of writing. E.g., the Temple.
- **The Sufficiency of Scripture** (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:3; Revelation 22:18–19)
- **Jesus’s View of Scripture** (John 10:35; Matthew 5:17-19; 12:38-42; 19:4-5)
- **The Completed Canon of Scripture** (John 10:27)

Discuss

- Which of these above attributes of Scripture do you feel like you have a good handle on, and which would you like to understand more? Maybe you’re not completely convinced, or have more questions?
- Why might it be important to be confident that God’s Word is true and without errors, for example, or that the Bible is finished and no more divine revelations can be added?
- **God’s Word is Powerful** (Jeremiah 23:29; Isaiah 55:10-11)
“Torah [God’s law] is not black ink on white parchment. Torah is black fire on white fire.”
(Rabbinic saying)

- **God's Word Changes Us** (Psalm 139:23-24; Hebrews 4:12; Deuteronomy 32:39)
"Before God can heal a man, he must first break him to pieces." (Martin Luther)
- **God's Word is Precious, but Sin and Apathy Dull Our Hearing** (Psalm 139:17)
- **Living Out and Applying the Bible** (Psalm 119:105) It's a little like playing Jazz.

Discuss:

- Have you felt that sting from the Bible? Moments when the Holy Spirit takes what you're reading/hearing and graciously convicts you, in order to change & grow you?
- Like most people we tend to like new things, including new ideas. How could a taste for novelty be harmful?
- When Bible reading feels dull to you, what have you found to help recover your delight in it?

Comparison of Extant Historical Documents (from ESV Study Bible)

Histories	Oldest Manuscripts	Number Surviving
Livy 59 B.C.–A.D. 17	4th century A.D.	27
Tacitus A.D. 56–120	9th century A.D.	3
Suetonius A.D. 69–140	9th century A.D.	200
Thucydides 460–400 B.C.	1st century A.D.	20
Herodotus 484–425 B.C.	1st century A.D.	75
New Testament	c. 100–150 A.D.	c. 5,700 (counting only Greek manuscripts) plus more than 10,000 in Latin, and more than a million quotations from the church fathers, etc.

Recommended Resources

- The artwork comes from, *Do You Believe?: 12 Historic Doctrines to Change Your Everyday Life*, by Paul Tripp, on which this class is loosely based.
- "The Canon of Scripture" and "The Reliability of Bible Manuscripts," articles in *The ESV Study Bible*
- Chap. 6 "How Can You Take the Bible Literally?" in *Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion*, by Rebecca McLaughlin
- "The Biblical Canon" online essay by Michael Kruger, www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-biblical-canon
- *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible*, by Vaughn Roberts