

The Reliability of Scripture - Week 2 - Origin¹

Our Context

Newsweek [see the bottom of the reverse-side for links]

Response: This response is scheduled to come in weeks 3-6.

"all truth is relative" [i.e. Can we know absolute truth]

Response: We can know absolute truth [truth that is true for all people at all times in all places] because God knows all things and he has revealed truth to us in his Word.

"language is always relative" [i.e. Is direct revelation from God possible?]

Response: (a) God was truly revealed in Christ who lived in a particular context and spoke human languages (Heb 1:1-3). (b) God created language and gave linguistic ability to man. For this reason language is not totally/completely relative to a particular culture(s). What can be said in one language can be said in another [translation]. "Thus, although a particular language may influence the *form* of a thought, it does not limit or determine the thought itself."²

In sum, language does not so "limit" or "determine" a thought that truth is not able to be communicated through it. Language can handle the truth!

Our Convictions

Revelation

Vocab

Scripture Claims to be the Word of God

The Implications of our Convictions

Vocab

Inerrancy

The Clarity of Scripture

Canon

Scripture claims to be the Word of God

(1) The OT sees itself as written by God to rule and to guide his people.

1. Material for this class is adapted from classroom handouts - Hermeneutics: Spring 2012 - Stephen Wellum and *Let the Reader Understand* - Second Edition - by Dan McCartney and Charles Clayton.

2. These responses are a summary of what is found in *Let the Reader Understand* on page 34.

(2) The NT sees the OT as a canon.

(3) The NT authors sense that their writings are equal in authority with that of the OT and that the revelation given to them is clearer (see Eph 3:2-6).

(4) The NT authors in some cases sense that a NT canon is being formed.

Implications

(1) All who read Scripture know the ultimate author, God.

See general revelation: Romans 1:18-32 and Romans 2:14-16.

+ Reading Scripture is a moral issue.

+ This impacts evangelism and missions.

(2) Scripture is fully authoritative.

See Scripture Claims to be the Word of God and inspiration.

+ We come to Scripture in humble submission to God.

(3) Scripture dictates how it should be read and understood.

See upcoming Biblical Theology class, progressive revelation, inspiration and canon.

(4) Christ is the focus of Scripture (see Luke 24:44ff).

+ Understanding this helps us better understand how a passage applies to us because we are in Christ.

(5) Scripture is to be read as internally consistent.

See inerrancy and inspiration.

(6) Scripture is understandable with the help of the Holy Spirit.

See the clarity of Scripture.

Links:

www.newsweek.com/2015/01/02/thats-not-what-bible-says-294018.html

<http://michaeljkruger.com/a-christmas-present-from-the-mainstream-media-newsweek-takes-a-desperate-swipe-at-the-integrity-of-the-bible-part-1/> [See the bottom of the web-page for part 2 of his response]