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The “True” Word of God: Are We Taking Refuge in Him?

1. Every word of God “proves true” (see also 2Sa 22:31; Ps 18:30)
“is pure” [*refined*] (CSB & NASB); “is flawless” (NIV)

- Know that Scripture teaches God’s word is true (word of truth, gospel) (Ps 119:43; Jn 1:14; 17:17; 1Co 2:13ff; 2Co 4:2; Eph 1:13; Col 1:5; 2Ti 2:15; Jm 1:18)
- Know with certainty the things you have been taught (Lk 1:1-4) (Examples from Luke; see also the notes in the next column)

2. The Bible according to Jesus – Jesus affirmed or taught:

- the OT’s authority, truth & totality (Mt 4:1ff; 5:21, 27; 15:4; 23:24ff)
- the OT’s historicity, miracles & prophecy (Creation, Flood, Jonah; Lk 4:17)
- the OT’s Christ-centered revelation (Lk 4:17ff; 24:25ff)
- that His disciples should obey His words (Mt 7:24ff; 24:35)
- that the Spirit would guide His apostles into all truth (Jn 14:26, 16:13), thru which God revealed the gospel & inspired the writing of the NT

3. God is a shield to those who take refuge in Him

- Be humble & believe God’s word
- Delight in, trust & obey God’s word

Excursus: the Truth of God’s Word (Scripture)

Review from last week: Some Theological Terms related to Scripture

- *Inspiration*: Scripture is *inspired* by God – spoken, breathed out, by God through human authors. God spoke through the writings of human authors, (who wrote in light of their own personalities, life experiences, & so forth (2Ti 3:16; Is 55:11; 2Pe 1:19ff; Ac 1:16; See examples of what humans wrote referred to as Scripture: Mt 19:4f; Mk 7:9-13; Lk 10:7; 1Ti 5:18; 2Pe 3:16).
- *Inerrancy*: Scripture is *inerrant*, without error – in the original manuscripts (Ps 119:43, 160; Jn 17:17; Eph 1:13; Col 1:5; 2Ti 2:15; Jm 1:18)
- *Infallibility*: Scripture is *infallible*, incapable of failing in its divine & predetermined purpose (Is 55:10f; Ro 1:16; 1Pe 1:22ff; cf. Mk 4; Ro 10:14ff)
- *Illumination*: Scripture is *illuminated* for us by the Holy Spirit who empowers us to understand, interpret & obey the word (Ps 119:18, 169; Mt 13:10ff; Jn 14:26, 15:26, 16:8ff, 1Co 2:14; 2Co 4:3ff; Eph 1:15ff; 1Th 1:5; 1Jn 2:27; cf. Ps 1; Is 6:8ff; Dan 5:15; Lk 24:25ff; Rom 11:7ff; Heb 4:12).

The Accuracy of Luke as a Historian

Sources: “New Testament Survey Notes” by Robert W. Yarbrough (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, © 2005); *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*, by F.F. Bruce, Chapter 7 “The Writings of Luke” (Intervarsity Press, © 1981)

“Luke the historian, theologian, and literary artist. How did he manage to pull together such a vast quantity of information? ... Luke mentions 32 countries, 54 cities, and 9 Mediterranean islands, not randomly, but in the course of a saga lasting some 30 years and extending from Jerusalem and rippling out eventually all the way to Rome. He also mentions some 95 different persons, 62 of which are not mentioned elsewhere in the NT and 27 of which are non-believers.” (Yarbrough)

Regarding Paul’s voyage to Rome (Acts 27): NT Scholar F.F. Bruce says, “this narrative has been called one ‘one of the most instructive documents for the knowledge of ancient seamanship.’” (quoting H.J. Holtzmann). Bruce also refers to a book by an experienced yachtsman named James Smith, saying that in his book, Smith “bears witness to the remarkable accuracy of Luke’s account of each stage in the voyage...” (*The Voyage and Shipwreck of St. Paul*, written in 1848). Note: There are some difficulties that arise when comparing Luke’s writings with other historical documents, such as the census referred to in Luke 2:2 (see pgs 86-88).