Here's the paper trail on how we lost the doctrine of the divine preservation of the Word of God as best I understand it. The authenticity and authority of the Word of God is established upon two pillars: the doctrine of Divine Inspiration and Divine Preservation. The Biblical and historical doctrine of Inerrancy that held the autographs of scripture were received 100% pure by Divine Inspiration, and the copy (our Bible) was kept 100% pure by Divine Preservation.

However in 1845, at the inception of the SBC, a spiritual ‘tsunami’ had begun to sweep across Christendom and during the succeeding 50 years the doctrine of divine preservation of the copy of scripture ‘died’ in the crib of the SBC before it could even walk. So that by 1925, when the SBC ratified its first Baptist Faith and Message (BF&M), the divine preservation of the copy of the Word of God quietly fell from its Confession of Faith and the doctrine has not been taught since. This doctrine, which was part of our Protestant heritage for over three centuries was summary destroyed in three generations of neglect, to the extent many today do even know the doctrine or that it ever existed; how are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished! (2Sa1:27)

Chronology of the Biblical & Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy:

1517  Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses and the Reformation is on - Sola Scriptura!
1646  Westminster Confession - embraced divine inspiration and divine preservation
1689  London Confession of Faith (Baptist) - embraced divine inspiration and divine preservation
1742  Philadelphia Confession – adopted the London Confession of Faith 1689 embracing divine inspiration an divine preservation
1845  SBC inception - 'adopted' Philadelphia Confession embracing divine inspiration and divine preservation

328 yrs  For over three centuries the Biblical doctrine of inerrancy included the doctrine of divine inspiration of the original and the divine preservation of the copy of scripture; 100% pure.
Question: Where they all wrong?  Answer: The Chicago Statement says, yes they were.

Chronology of the Fall of the Biblical & Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy:

1845  Inception of the SBC - embraced divine inspiration and divine preservation
1851-78  Charles Hodge - 2nd President of Princeton Theological Seminary (citadel of Protestant orthodoxy) embraced German textual criticism of man’s restoration of scripture over divine preservation
1859  Darwin’s Origin of Species published
1867-1914  Second Industrial Revolution (‘The Age of Synergy’) produced advances in technology (steam, electricity, ore, medicine) resulting in an unprecedented increase in the standard of living of the middle class. This gave deserved credibility to applied science (technology) and the theoretical science (Darwinism) rode on their coattails with their hypothesis received as factual as the accomplishment of applied science.
1881  Westcott and Hort Revised Version (begins the assault which eventually overthrows Textus Receptus) embraced textual criticism with man’s restoration of scripture over divine preservation
1878-86  A.A. Hodge (son of Charles) - 3rd President of Princeton Theological Seminary - favored textual criticism of man’s restoration of scripture over divine preservation
1887-1921  B.B. Warfield - 4th President of Princeton Theological Seminary - embraced textual criticism over divine preservation.  For a quick overview here’s a must read documenting this change: Dr BB Warfield and the Providential Preservation of the New Testament
May 1925  SBC adopts a new Confession silent on the doctrine of the divine preservation of the copy of scripture (for a milder Confession to garner consensus)

July 1925  The Scopes Trial
1978  The Chicago Statement rejects divine preservation in favor of man’s restoration of scripture
133 yrs  What stood for over three centuries took only three generations to eradicate
We went from a statement of faith in the inerrancy of the 100% pure Word of God as memorialized in the Philadelphia Confession 1742 (our first ‘adopted’ Confession):

"Being immediately inspired by God, and, by His singular care and providence, kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical [identical to original]"

To this statement of unbelief reflected in the ‘conservatives’ embracing of in the Chicago Statement 1978:

"...God has nowhere promised an inerrant transmission of Scripture...Similarly, no translation [Bible] is or can be perfect"

In 133 years our doctrine of Inerrancy went from believing the copy of the Word of God, our Bible, was 100% pure, to believing that only the original was inerrant. Today, the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy, which includes the doctrine divine of preservation, is not even a memory, and, many do not even know that the doctrine was ever a tenet of the faith.

The Philadelphia Confessions’ doctrine of inerrancy was unequivocally part of our first ‘adopted’ Confession of Faith as confirmed by Timothy and Denise George, a couple prolific in the history of the Southern Baptist history when they state (emphasis mine):

“The Philadelphia Confession of Faith was transplanted to the Charleston Baptist Association in South Carolina. It soon became the most widely accepted, definitive confession among Baptists in America, both North and South. Each of the 293 "delegates," as they were then called, who gathered in Augusta to organize the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845, belonged to congregations and associations which had adopted the Philadelphia/Charleston Confession of Faith as their own.”

(Baptist Confessions, Covenants, and Catechisms, edited by Timothy and Denise George; Broadman & Holman, 1996; Introduction)

At the inception of the SBC in 1845, our Confession contained the twin doctrines of divine inspiration and divine preservation which had been the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy for over three centuries. This high view of scripture (from which we have descended) is affirmed by the two pillars of the Post-reformation, the first being a Lutheran and the later a Presbyterian (emphasis and brackets mine):

**Johannes Quenstedt** (1617-1688) Lutheran (emphasis and brackets mine)

“We believe, as is our duty, that the providential care of God has always watched over the original and primitive texts [copy] of the canonical Scriptures in such a way that we can be certain that the sacred codices which we now have in our hands [copy] are those which existed at the time of Jerome and Augustine, nay at the time of Christ Himself and His Apostles [i.e. meaning their 'copy' is identical to the 'originals'].”


**Francis Turretin**¹ (1623-1687) Presbyterian (brackets and emphasis mine):

“By original texts, we do not mean the autographs [originals] written by the hand of Moses, of the prophets and the apostles, which certainly do not now exist. We mean their apographs ² [perfect copy, ‘authentical’; genuine original] which are so called because they set forth to us the word of God in the very words of those who wrote under the immediate inspiration of the Holy Spirit.”³

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¹Gerstner, called Turretin, *the most precise theologian in the Calvinistic tradition.* Turretin on Justification’ an audio series by John Gerstner (1914-1996) a Professor of Church History at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Knox Theological Seminary.

²Apograph means “a perfect copy, an exact transcript”. This is the same witness of the authors of the Westminster Confession when they described their copy of the Word of God as ‘authentical’, which Webster’s 1828 dictionary defines as “having a genuine original”.

At the time of the SBC inception a spiritual tsunami swept across Christendom and 'killed' the doctrine of divine preservation. We were left with only the doctrine of divine inspiration of the original text of scripture; a half-truth which left us an impotent and meaningless definition of inerrancy.

Today, this unbiblical definition of inerrancy is the standard of 'conservative' Protestants. Its deficiencies are well noted, even by liberals like Dr. Roger Olson, Professor of theology at Baylor University’s George W. Truett Theological Seminary, as reflected in his 2006 article in The Baptist Standard entitled, Why 'Inerrancy' Doesn’t Matter (emphasis mine):

“Think about this: If the Bible’s authority depends on its inerrancy but only the original manuscripts were inerrant, then only the original manuscripts were authoritative. The logic is impeccable and irresistible. And if “inerrancy” is compatible with flawed approximations, faulty chronologies, and use of incorrect sources by the biblical authors, it is a meaningless concept.”

“Even its most ardent and staunch proponents admit no existing Bible is inerrant; they attribute inerrancy only to the original manuscripts, which do not exist. They kill the ordinary meaning of the word with the death of a thousand qualifications. If you doubt that, please read the Chicago Statement on Inerrancy, which usually is considered the standard evangelical account of the concept.”

This unbiblical doctrine of inerrancy produced an increasing crisis of faith in the authenticity and authority of the Word of God, which I believe lead us to our present post-Christian culture and the deterioration of the family.

Where the Error Began

The error began with the Princeton Theologians who brought to America the tenets of classical textual criticism which the German theologians were applying to scripture. They redefined the doctrine of divine preservation to man’s restoration of the text of scripture. We moved from a faith-based view of inerrancy to a rationalistic one. For a quick overview here’s a must read documenting this change: Can Verbal Plenary Inspiration Do Without Verbal Plenary Preservation?: The Achilles’ Heel of Princeton Bibliology

History of Inerrancy in Our Current Baptist Confession

In 1925 the doctrine of the divine preservation of the copy of scripture was not included in the Baptist Faith & Message, having been cleansed by the cultural slide since its inception in 1845. The above explains how in 133 years since the inception of the SBC (1845) we made this fundamental change in the doctrine of inerrancy:

We went from this: The Philadelphia Confession 1742 (our first ‘adopted’ Confession)
"Being immediately inspired by God, and, by His singular care and providence, kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical [identical to original]"

To this: The Chicago Statement 1978
"...God has nowhere promised an inerrant transmission of Scripture...Similarly, no translation [Bible] is or can be perfect"

Today, our Baptist Faith & Message no where informs us if it’s referring to the original or the copy of scripture which it affirms is without error- inerrant when it states:

“The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God’s revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.”
In light of the fact that the signors of the Chicago Statement included almost all Protestant leadership (including the SBC), we ought to make it clear if we believe the copy of the word of God; our Bible is 100% pure by divine preservation as it was received in the original by divine inspiration. This is the Biblical and historical doctrine as revealed in the Word of God and witnessed to by the Reformation saints and our Baptist heritage from which we have departed.

By God's design the discovery of the history of the transmission of the original text of scripture was obscured and will never be accomplished for the same reason He hid the body of Moses. If we want to identify the copy of the text of the autographs of scripture there is only one question we must answer: ‘Did God promise in the scriptures to preserve His Word forever?’

I submit to you God did as is the witness of God in His Word and the witness of the saints in the Westminster Confession of 1646 as well as our Baptist heritage in the Philadelphia Confession of 1742, our first 'adopted' confession.

**The Witness of the Word of God - Psalms 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."

**The Witness of the Reformation Saints - Westminster Confession 1646** (emphasis mine):
"Being immediately inspired by God, and, by His singular care and providence, kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical [identical to original]"

**The Witness of Our Baptist Heritage - Philadelphia Confession of 1742** (emphasis mine):
“\text{The Old Testament in Hebrew, (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in Greek, which (at the time of the writing of it) was most generally known to the nations, being immediately inspired by God, and by His singular care and providence kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical;} so as in all controversies of religion, the church is finally to appeal to them\”.

In Psalms 12, a proof text for Divine preservation, King David is encouraging God's people to take hope in His promise of their deliverance from the wicked: (v5) "I will set [him] in safety [from him that] puffeth at him.

God is promising two things in Psalms 12. First, in verse six, God promises the 100% preservation of the purity of His Word, (6) "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." Secondly, in verse seven, He promises the 100% preservation of the safety of His people and Word, (7) "Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever."

God intentionally intertwines these two truths: the preservation of His Word and people for us to understand that He preserves His saints like He preserves His Word- 100% sure, "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost..." (John 17:12).

He preserves His Word like He preserves His saints-100% sure, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). God does not lose anything, either His people or His Word. God is declaring through King David what He has been doing since creation and will continue to do forever - preserving His people and His Word.

God's promise of the preservation of His people is secured by His Word, and both are secured by His character, meaning He cannot lie, "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19) The Word and character of God are synonymous; they're opposite sides of the same coin. If one is denigrated, you denigrated the whole. If God's Word is not good, neither is His character, nor the promises to His people. But we know God is good and so is His Word, therefore His promises are sure to us, "...There is none good but one, that is, God." (Matthew 19:17).
When King David wrote this Psalm he was reading from the copy of the Word of God and not the original, since there were no originals in his day except those being penned in the Psalms. Yet he said, "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."

This teaches us that by the doctrine of divine preservation, the copy is identical to the original, making it equally inspired, inerrant and authoritative- forever. We have the 100% pure Word of God in the copy (our Bible) as King David had in his day and as the first century saints received in the original by divine inspiration. We believe as they, the Bible is 100% pure because God says it is; God says it, that settles it whether I believe it or not. This is a point of faith, not a rationalistic approach as taken by the textual critic.

Well, we don’t have to, and this is the truth of Psalms 12, the salvation of His people is as sure as His Word and His Word is as sure as our salvation, both bear witness to the other, "My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand" (John 10:29). All the promises of God about the surety of His people are applicable to His Word, and all His promises about the surety of His Word are applicable to His people. Therefore, we do not have to wait for the 100% pure Word of God to be found since we already possess it; this is the witness of the Word of God, the saints and our Baptist heritage.

There’s only one remedy for the cultural slide of our generation. That is to return to the Biblical and historical doctrine of Inerrancy that affirms the copy of the Word of God; our Bible is authentic and authoritative. The scriptures and history teach us a revival of the Word of God preceded a revival of the people of God as in the days of King Josiah and the Reformation, “all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition” (1Corinthians 10:11).

Pastors must teach their flocks the basis of why the Word of God is authoritative, otherwise the saints will not know, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). In the absence of such godly teaching, God warns us the church will suffer loss as we have witnessed in our generation, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” (Hosea 4:6a).

✝ Let’s worship Him, More Love To Thee O Christ (click on hymn video to play beautiful worship music)

God bless,

Louis M. Kole
Standard Bearers
louis.kole@standardbearers.net

“Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” Revelation 3:11
Vision
It is the mission of Standard Bearers to present the Biblical and Historical doctrine of Inerrancy; teaching the Bible is 100% pure; inerrant in the copy which we hold in our hands today. Our goal is to strengthen the faith of Pastors, Teachers and Laymen in the authenticity and authority of the 100% pure, inerrant Word of God, knowing ~ “So then faith cometh by hearing, hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

Share
Prayerful consider using the resources contained in the Standard Bearers Browser (next two pages) for: your Sermon preparation, Bible Study class, to forward to others and post to your Social media. For more, go to the Standard Bearers home page (www.standardbearers.net) for an overview of the Biblical and Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy. For another quick read see, Retaking the Hill of Biblical Inerrancy: The Next Reformation~ The Westminster Confession Rejection of the Chicago Statement.

Teaching
For a presentation by Dr. Floyd Nolen Jones, Ph.D, Th.D. on any of these topics: Chronology of the Old Testament; Creation & Evolution, Science & the Bible, The Identity of the Text of the New Testament or The Biblical & Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy, please contact me; Louis Kole at, kolelm@gmail.com.

Exhort
You can know for yourself the identity of the 100% pure; inerrant, preserved copy of the Word of God by the aid of the Holy Spirit; the Author, Superintendent and Teacher of the Word of God. This is the promise of God and the witness of the saints.

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you." (John 16:13-14)

"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." (1 John 2:27)

Francis Turretin1 1623-1687 (brackets and emphasis mine):
“By original texts, we do not mean the autographs [originals] written by the hand of Moses, of the prophets and the apostles, which certainly do not now exist. We mean their apographs 2 [perfect copy; genuine original; ‘authentical’] which are so called because they set forth to us the word of God in the very words of those who wrote under the immediate inspiration of the Holy Spirit.” 3

God bless,
Louis M Kole

Hymn ~ Come, Gracious Spirit- Heavenly Dove!

“Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” (Revelation 3:11)

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1Gerstner, called Turretin, "the most precise theologian in the Calvinistic tradition." 'Turretin on Justification' an audio series by John Gerstner (1914-1996) a Professor of Church History at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Knox Theological Seminary.
2 Apograph means "a perfect copy, an exact transcript". This is the same witness of the authors of the Westminster Confession when they described their copy of the Word of God as ‘authentical’, which Webster’s 1828 dictionary defines as “having a genuine original”.
Resources
Enjoy the following works provided by Standard Bearers on the Biblical and Historical doctrine of Inerrancy. I encourage you to share these documents by using the link, since they're being regularly updated.

Dr. Floyd Nolen Jones

- **Works of Dr Jones**
  Works is a PDF portfolio of all the Works of Dr. Jones listed below (except the charts from his Chronology of the Old Testament). Please allow a moment for this PDF portfolio to open.

- **An Analytical Red Letter Chronology of the Life of Christ as Revealed in the 4 Gospels and placed in a Harmony Format:** A Return to the Historical Text Dr Floyd Nolen Jones PhD ThD

- **The Gospel Colophons and the Synoptic Problem Dr Floyd Nolen Jones PhD ThD**

- **The Septuagint: A Critical Analysis**

- **Chronology of the Old Testament: A Return to the Basics**

  In this book, Dr. Jones provides a systematic framework of the chronology of the Bible from Genesis through the life of Christ and it comes with a CD containing 14 chronology charts. In addition, a set of full-size prints can be obtained at: A&E-The Graphics Complex (713) 621-0022; 4235 Richmond Avenue, Houston, Texas 77027; Reference Quote Number: IQ9209 (Floyd Jones Charts).

  Excerpts from Dr. Jones’ Chronology of the Old Testament
  ◊ The Length of the Sojourn in Egypt ~ Chapter 4 excerpt (p.54)
  ◊ 40 Years after What? The date of Absalom’s Rebellion ~ Chapter 5 excerpt (p.105)
  ◊ Jehoiachin (Jeconiah) Age 8 or 18? ~ Chapter 6 excerpt (p.202)

- **Chronology Charts by Dr. Jones**

  The Chronology Charts is a PDF portfolio of all the Charts by Dr. Jones from his book, Chronology of the Old Testament. Please allow a moment for the PDF portfolio to open.

  Individual Charts by Dr. Jones from, Chronology of the Old Testament
  ◊ Chart 1 ~ Creation to Jesus Christ
  ◊ Chart 2 ~ Jacob’s Age Determined
  ◊ Chart 3 ~ 430 Years Sojourn
  ◊ Chart 3A ~ The 4 Generations of Genesis
  ◊ Chart 3B ~ Scenarios for Judah’s Family in Egypt
  ◊ Chart 3CDEF ~ Jacob and Judah
  ◊ Chart 4 ~ Judges to the First 3 Kings
  ◊ Chart 4AB ~ Judges Tested by Judah’s Lineage
  ◊ Chart 5 ~ Kings of the Divided Monarchy
  ◊ Chart 5A ~ Kings of the Divided Monarchy
  ◊ Chart 5C ~ Kings of the Divided Monarchy
  ◊ Chart 6 ~ Creation to Creator
  ◊ Chart 7 ~ 390 Years Confirmed

- **Which Version is the Bible?**

  Excerpts from Dr. Jones’ Which Version Is The Bible?
  ◊ Mark 16 last Verses ~ Chapter 2 (p.30)
  ◊ The 1881 Revision KJB ~ Chapter 3 (p.49)
  ◊ How Princeton Was Corrupted ~ Chapter 8 (p.186)
  ◊ How the Conservative Seminaries Were Corrupted ~ Chapter 8 (p.189)
  ◊ The Criticism Today: The Age of Miniscules ~ Chapter 9 (p.202)
  ◊ Pericope De Adulterae John 8 ~ Appendix A (p.219)
  ◊ The Johannine Comma 1John 5 ~ Appendix B (p.231)
  ◊ Examples of Modern Criticism ~ Appendix C (p.241)
  ◊ History of Texts Transmission ~ Appendix D (p.247)
Louis M Kole

- Works of Louis M Kole
  Works is a PDF portfolio of all the papers by Louis Kole listed below. Please allow a moment for this PDF portfolio to open.

- How We Know The Bible Is True: 100% Pure, Inerrant
  ~ The Biblical and Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy (standard bearers home page)

- Letter To A Pastor: How Shall They Hear Without A Preacher?
  ~ So then Faith Cometh By Hearing, and Hearing By the Word of God (custodianship of the Word of God)

- Textual Criticism 101: Theological, Faith-Based versus Naturalistic, Rationalistic
  ~ Believing or Neutral to Divine Inspiration, Divine Preservation, Divine Identification (textual criticism)

- Preaching and Loss: Peer Pressure and the Fear of the Lord
  ~ Why the Tempest? The Foolishness of Preaching (the duty of a watchman)

- Retaking the Hill of Biblical Inerrancy: The Next Reformation
  ~ The Westminster Confession Rejection of the Chicago Statement (overview in a nutshell)

- Divine Preservation: How We ‘Lost’ the Doctrine of the Divine Preservation of the Word of God
  ~ 3 Centuries of Sound Doctrine ~ Eradicated in 3 Generations of Neglect (the error)

- God’s Standard Bearers: The Josiah Initiative
  ~ Witnesses to the 100% Pure Copy of Word of God (proof texts & state of our witness)

- The Fear of The Lord: Restoring the Biblical Doctrine of Inerrancy
  ~ The Fear of Man verses the Fear of the Lord (flagship paper)

- A Call To Revival: Restoring the Foundations
  ~ If the Foundations Be Destroyed What Can the Righteous Do? (“hath God said?”)

- The Josiah Initiative: Countering The Assault Upon the Inerrancy of the Word of God
  ~ How are the Mighty Fallen and the Weapons of War Perished! (a call to action)

- The ‘Lost’ Doctrine: Can A Doctrine ‘Die’ Which Is a Fundamental Truth of the Faith?
  ~ The 1000 Year ‘Death and Rebirth’ of the Doctrine of Justification by Grace Alone (lesson from the past)

Dr. Jeffrey Khoo
- Can Verbal Plenary Inspiration Do Without Verbal Plenary Preservation?: The Achilles’ Heel Of Princeton Bibliology (FEBC) a must read

Dr. Edward F Hills
- Scholasticism Versus the Logic of Faith ~ Excerpt from A History of My Defence of the King James Version (FEBC)
- The King James Version Defended

Dr. Wilbur N Pickering
- The Identity of the New Testament Text

More...

- Bible audio
- Songs ~ Hymns of Worship from the Standard Bearers’ play list
- Bible teaching ~ Audio by Dr Floyd Nolen Jones
- Bible teaching ~ TV by Dr Floyd Nolen Jones from the Standard Bearers’ channel
- Bible teaching ~ TV by Dr Charles Stanley
- Bible resources ~ Blue Letter Bible digital Bible and study tools
- Dictionary ~ Noah Webster’s 1828 Digital dictionary
- Devotional ~ Oswald Chamber’s My Utmost for His Highest

Hymn ~ We Rest on Thee, Our Shield and Our Defender!

“Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” (Revelation 3:11)