God’s Standard Bearers – Lifting Up the Standard

In Defense of the 100% Pure Copy of The Word of God

Louis Kole
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“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
Jude 3:1

Today, the authenticity and authority of the Word of God is under a three-fold assault. The frontal assault questions its authorship via textual criticism. The flanks challenge its veracity via pseudo-science and history. These forces are from without and from within, with their goal to arrive at a rational faith; in a Bible they can believe-rather than believe the Bible (2Timothy 4:3). This is a call to God’s Standard Bearers to join the arena from their places of comfort and to defend the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy that teaches the copy of the Word of God, the Bible is 100% pure, not almost pure. Received 100% pure in the original by Divine Inspiration and kept 100% pure in the copy by Divine (Providential) Preservation to all ages. The mission is to restore the custodianship of the Word of God back to the Pastors. This will be accomplished by the shepherds of God returning to the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy and teaching this truth to their flocks. Our faithfulness to this divine commission will be our enduring legacy, eternal treasure and finest hour!
THE SITUATION

The Word of God Is Under Assault – Its Authenticity and Authority

“Yeah, Hath God said? …the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:….” Genesis 3:1,4

Left-Flank Assault

CHRONOLOGY

History - Dating

Dr Roger Olson - Baylor
Why Inerrancy Doesn’t Matter

“….. 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. If you doubt that, please read the Chicago Statement on Inerrancy, which usually is considered the standard evangelical account of the concept.”

Right-Flank Assault

PSEUDO-SCIENCE

Creation - Evolution

Darrel Falk - BioLogos
Dawning of a New Day

“….. Will we ever be able to show the followers of Albert Mohler, John MacArthur and others that Christian theology doesn’t stand or fall on how we understand Genesis 1 or the question of whether Adam and Eve were the sole genetic progenitors of the human race?

These are extremely critical issues to many and the task of showing in a convincing manner that evangelical theology doesn’t depend on the age of the earth, and it doesn’t depend upon whether Adam was made directly from dust will likely take decades before it will be convincing to all.”

Frontal Assault

AUTHORSHIP

Textual Criticism

Chicago Statement 1978

“….. Since God has nowhere promised an inerrant transmission of Scripture, it is necessary to affirm that only the autographic text of the original documents was inspired….. Similarly, no translation [Bible] is or can be perfect…..When total precision of a particular kind was not expected nor aimed at, it is no error not to have achieved it. Scripture is inerrant, not in the sense of being absolutely precise by modern standards, but in the sense of making good its claims and achieving that measure of focused truth at which its authors aimed.”
THE SOLUTION

For Pastors to Once Again Teach - The Biblical and Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy

“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.” Psalms 12:6-7

Dr. Roger Olson

Left-Flank Defense

CHRONOLOGY

History - Dating

Dr Floyd Nolen Jones

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

Right-Flank Defense

PSEUDO-SCIENCE

Creation - Evolution

Dr Floyd Nolen Jones

- Science and The Bible

This is a professional PowerPoint presentation by Dr. Jones debunking the myth of Evolution founded on pseudo-science. He addresses both Darwinism and Astrophysics, the twin heads of Evolution. Darwinism promotes the evolution of man while Astrophysics the evolution of the universe.

The former attacks the Word of God from the earth and the later from the heavens. Both attacks rely on the same false science of great spans to support evolution. Darwinism requires great ages and Astrophysics great distances to overthrow the Word of God.

The false science in these two is found in the arbitrary assumptions contained in the formulas used to obtain these great spans, which are biased toward great time and distance in support of the theory of evolution.

Floyd demonstrates this fact and supports it by the work of renowned scientists whose works are generally unknown to the public (as well as to some scientists).
INTRODUCTION

This paper has one purpose, to build your faith in the Word of God by reminding you of its veracity and authority. We do this by showing from the Word of God, His promises to keep His Word 100% pure in the original and copy; to all ages- to which the saints give witness. I do this believing God’s precept that, “…faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Therefore this presentation begins with ten scriptures demonstrating God’s promise to preserve His Word 100% pure- “purified seven times”; seven being the divine number for perfection. These scriptures teach the Word of God was given 100% pure in its original by Divine Inspiration, and is kept 100% pure in its copy (our Bible) by Divine Preservation.

This teaching is a theological, faith-based view, meaning its only source for validity is the Word of God. Therefore it cannot be proven or disproved by the rational of man through any means of empirical science, no more than the fact of our salvation can be; both are equally based in what God has promised. This high view of scripture that teaches the Word of God is 100% pure in its original and copy to all ages is not a new one, but is clearly affirmed in the historical witness of the saints.

After providing God’s witness to the 100% purity of His Word, I will bring forth eleven other witnesses to this same truth:

1. The Lutheran Witness
2. The Presbyterian Witness
3. The Historical Confessions Witness
4. The Westminster Confession Witness
5. The Baptist Witness
6. The 'Historical' Textual Critic Witness
7. The ‘Contemporary' Textual Critic Witness
8. The ‘Non-Believer’ Textual Critic Witness (Once a Believer)
9. The Evangelicals and Conservatives Witness
10. The Liberal Witness
11. The Witness of our Generation

Some witnesses I present, not because they hold to this theological view, rather because they give testimony as to the soundness of the logic of this position - for those whose Bible is one of 'miracle, mystery and authority.' That is to say; for those who believe the Word of God was received 100% pure by Divine Inspiration and kept 100% by Divine Preservation as God said:

**Divine Inspiration**

“All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:” 2 Timothy 3:16

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:20-21

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1 Romans 10:17
2 Genesis 2:2; see Exodus 16:26; Hebrews 4:4;
3 Colwell, *What is the Best New Testament?* op. cit., p.8., Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1952. Considered the foremost naturalistic textual critic and “dean” of New Testament textual criticism in North America stated; “Textual criticism has never existed for those whose New Testament is one of miracle, mystery and authority [i.e. divine inspiration and divine preservation]. A New Testament created under those auspices would have been handed down under them and would have no need for textual criticism.”
Divine Preservation

“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.”

Psalms 12:6-7

“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law [word], till all be fulfilled.” Matthew 5:18

Psalms 12 does not say God’s Word was pure, but is pure. Nor does it say it is pure today; rather it is pure forever. When King David penned this scripture, he was referring to the copy of scripture and not the original as being 100% pure; there was no original text of the Word of God other than that being penned. There are only two things which are eternal: God’s people and His Word, and Psalms 12 refer to both and comfort us in the assurance God looses neither; meaning God’s people and His Word are opposite sides of the coinage of our Heavenly Father’s character and purpose, and He stands as equal surety for the preservation of both: His people and His Word (Matthew 5:18; John 10:29; John 18:9). Equally true is, when one denies God’s Word, they deny His name; His Word and His Name are also opposite sides of the same coin; when you denigrate one, you denigrate the other (Revelation 3:8b; Psalms 138:2b).

Finally, I have kept my commentary on the testimony of each witness brief, to allow their words to speak for the fullest impact. The more in-depth presentation on this subject is contained in my essay; The Fear of the Lord-Restoring the Biblical and Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy.
The Divine Witness

To the Promise of the Divine (Providential) Preservation of 100% Pure Copy of the Word of God

Let's hear from THE Witness, God, as to His testimony regarding the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy, which holds the Word of God is 100% pure; given so by God in its original by Divine Inspiration and kept so by Him in the copy by Divine (Providential) Preservation - to all ages.

1. “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 forever.” Psalms 12:6-7

2. “The counsel [word] of the LORD standeth forever, the thoughts [words] of his heart to all generations.” Psalm 33:11

3. “For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth [word] endureth to all generations.” Psalm 100:5

4. “The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments [words] are sure. They stand fast forever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.” Psalms 111:7-8

5. “LAMED. Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: Thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.” Psalms 119:89-90

6. “Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments [words] are truth. Concerning thy testimonies [words], I have known of old that thou hast founded them forever.” Psalms 119:151-152

7. “As for me, this is my covenant [word] with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and forever.” Isaiah 59:21

8. “I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.” Ecclesiastes 3:14

9. “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law [word], till all be fulfilled.” Matthew 5:18

10. “But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.” 1 Peter 1:25; see Isaiah 40:8

God says His Word is 100% pure forever; then it stands to reason, common sense and the logic of faith that it would have to remain, preserved 100% pure in its copy, as pure as received in its original – forever. Otherwise how else would you explain how the Word of God will remain 100% pure to all ages if it’s not kept by Divine (Providential) Preservation? From the scriptures below, it’s obvious that God promises to keep His Word 100% pure, forever; perfect purity-purified seven times, kept by Divine Preservation; as pure as received by Divine Inspiration!

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4 Isaiah 55:8, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.”

5 Revelation 20:12; (Daniel 7:10); “…and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” Compare: John 12:48; “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”
The above scriptures teach the Word of God was given by Him 100% pure by Divine Inspiration, meaning they are “The words of the LORD”, not the words of man. Also these scriptures equally reveal the Word of God is kept by Him 100% pure by Divine Preservation, “Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever.” Meaning they’re kept 100% pure by God’s preservation, and not by man’s restoration of an almost pure copy.

It only stands to reason, meaning the ‘the logic of faith’,§ that the Word of God would have to be preserved 100% pure in the copy, as pure as received in the original– forever. Otherwise how else would you explain how the Word of God will remain 100% pure to all ages, if it’s not kept 100% pure by Divine Preservation, as the above scriptures teach?

This is where the Word and character of God both come to bear upon the understanding of the Biblical and history doctrine of inerrancy. Since God has promised a 100% pure Word His character demands this be done, since God 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

Notice, the one above who testifies on the behalf of God’s character is Balaam, who is characterized in the Word of God as a carnally-minded person. We know this because Apostle Peter writes of Balaam that he “loved the wages of unrighteousness”:

“Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam [the son] of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man’s voice forbade the madness of the prophet.” 2Peter 2:15-16

Yet Balaam still possessed enough knowledge of the character of God, whereby he could testify; ‘If God said it, He will perform it!’ Cannot we summons the same degree of testimony as to God’s character; that He has and will continue to fulfill His promise to preserve His Word 100% pure- to all ages? I hope so. Let review how we arrive at the faith which believes in the promises of God.

In God’s ‘economy’ there is only one source to build steadfast faith, His Word; “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” § This explains the reason of our unbelief on the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy. Our souls are starved for the teaching of the Word of God on this truth. Most have heard the doctrine of Divine Inspiration, but few have heard a teaching on the doctrine of Divine Preservation, thus their faith is weak because; “Faith cometh by hearing; hearing by the word of God.”

The basic principle in obeying God is, “We walk by faith, not by sight”.§ In the absence faith from God’s Word we revert to a rational-based view and, ‘we walk by sight, not my faith’; we want to understand before we believe. This results in us overthrowing the obvious with the obscure when it comes to the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy.

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§ Hebrews 11:19. Abraham ‘did the math’, meaning he accounted, calculated, reckoned based on the Word and character of God, that the promise of God to him would be fulfilled. Although he could not explain how, other than through a miracle; “Accounting that God [was] able to raise [him] up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.”

§ Matthew 4:4

§§ 2Corinthians 5:7; see Habakkuk 2:4—“...but the just shall live by his faith.”; Hebrews 11:6—“But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”;

§ 2Chronicles 16:9a—“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of [them] whose heart [is] perfect toward him.”
The Word of God clearly teaches Divine Preservation – the obvious; but we want to know how- the obscure. We want to see the ‘paper trial’ of the evidence of the transmission of the text of scripture before we will believe in its Divine Preservation, 100% pure as God promised. What if we approached God’s promise of salvation in like matter saying; “before I believe John 3:16 by faith, I must understand it?” We would never be saved, nor would we ever believe the doctrine of the Divine Preservation.

Our faith to believe God’s truths comes from the Holy Spirit, the Superintendent of the Word of God, as He reveals them to our spirit, not our mind; “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

“But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.” 1Corinthians 2:10-14

This revelation to our spirit is predicated on our hearts being right with God. God says; “[It is] the glory of God to conceal a thing;” God reveals Himself to the degree we are willing to humbly walk by faith and not by sight; “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” To the point our hearts are pure does God give us the grace to receive His truth; “be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” To the measure our hearts are turned toward the fear of the Lord and away from the fear of man are we able to hear and believe what God says, “How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?”

In summary, it is obvious God tells us He will preserve His Word 100% pure- to all ages. It’s obscure in the ‘paper trail’ of how He did it, and it will remain so forever by God’s design. This is due to God’s choice in how He elected to transmit the text of scripture. His means is the doctrine of a two-fold witness, “from faith to faith”. This principle, like all of God truths, requires faith because it can never be empirically proven or disproven.

The beauty of God’s two-fold witness is you do not need to know textual criticism to know where to find the copy of the 100% Word of God kept by Divine Preservation. Textual criticism will never be able to identify the 100% pure Word of God because they rejects God’s faith-based principle of the two-fold witness of the saints. We’ll look at that principle in more detail later.

Now, let’s look at the Lutheran witness to the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy.

9 Romans 8:16
10 Proverbs 25:2 see John 15:14-15 “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”
11 John 14:21 see Matthew 6:21-23; “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great [is] that darkness?”
12 1Peter 5:5
13 John 5:44 see Matthew 6:24; “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
14 1Corinthians 15:3; Galatians 1:12; Philippians 4:9; 1Thessalonian 2:13; 2Timothy 2:2; 3:14
15 Roman 10:17; “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
THE LUTHERAN WITNESS

To the Biblical & Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy of a 100% Pure Copy of the Word of God

**Martin Luther** (1483-1546)

He was the German priest and professor of theology who began the Protestant (Protesters) Reformation when he posted his 95 Theses at the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg in 1517. 168 years after Luther posted his theses, the fire of Lutheran orthodoxy was still burning bright in regards to their high view of scripture. Let’s hear the Lutheran witness to the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy that affirms the Word of God is 100% pure; given 100% pure in the original by Divine Inspiration and kept 100% pure in the copy by Divine Preservation - to all ages.

**Johannes Andrew Quenstedt** (1617-1688)

Quenstedt, along with Martin Chemnitz and Johann Gerhard are considered the top three influential leaders and theologians of the post-Reformation Lutheran church. He was a professor at Wittenberg and his greatest work, *Theologia Didactico-Polemica Sive Systema Theologicum* (1685), is considered one of the most important works of Lutheran theology. In it he gives the Reformer’s view of the copy of the Word of God, as kept by Divine Preservation in relationship to the original (autograph) as received by Divine Inspiration. He believed the copy was identical to the original received by the Apostles (emphasis & 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'].”

Furthermore, Quenstedt offers us insight into the Reformers understanding on the doctrine of Divine Inspiration:

“The Holy Spirit not only inspired in the prophets and apostles the content and the sense contained in Scripture, or the meaning of the words, so that they might of their own pleasure clothe and furnish these thoughts with their own style and their own words; but the Holy Spirit actually supplied, inspired, and dictated the very words and each and every term individually”

This Lutheran witness provides us the testimony of the Reformation saints in their belief that the Word of God is kept 100% pure to all ages by Divine Preservation. So that we as they, can say our copy of the Word of God is 100% pure, as pure as the original received by Divine Inspiration, and therefore is identical, authentical; a genuine original! This high view of scripture was not limited to the Lutherans. This was the view of the Presbyterians as well, who beliefs are known as Calvinism or Reformed Theology.

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16 Chemnitz, Martin (1522-1586); Regarded as the “Second Martin”: *Si Martinus non fuisset, Martinus vix stetisset*; (‘If Martin [Chemnitz] had not come along, Martin [Luther] would hardly have survived”).
17 Gerhard, John (1582-1637); Following Martin Luther and Martin Chemnitz, Gerhard is the most influential Lutheran theologian from the great “golden age” of Lutheran orthodoxy.
19 Cited from Dr. Sam Storms, ‘Quenstedt, Theologia Didactico-Polemica Sive Systema Theologicum’, P.I, C.4, S.2, q.4.
20 Calvin, John; (1509-1564) ‘Father’ of Reformation Theology (i.e. Calvinism or Presbyterianism). He broke from the Roman Catholic Church around 1530, to which he had been strongly devoted. In 1536 he published the first edition of his greatest work on Protestant Theology, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. The *Institutes* is a highly-regarded secondary reference for the system of doctrine adopted by the Reformed churches.
THE PRESBYTERIAN WITNESS

To the Biblical & Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy of a 100% Pure Copy of the Word of God

**John Calvin** (1509-1564)
Broke from the Roman Catholic Church around 1530, to which he had been strongly devoted. In 1536 he articulated Reformed Theology in his greatest work on Protestant Theology, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, highly regarded by the Reformed churches. 143 years after Calvin’s *Institutes* were published, the fire of Reform Orthodoxy was still burning bright in regard to their high view of scripture.

Let’s hear the Presbyterian witness to the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy that affirms the Word of God is 100% pure; given 100% pure in the original by Divine Inspiration and kept 100% pure in the copy by Divine Preservation - to all ages.

**Francis Turretin** (1623-1687)
Pastor, theologian and leader of Reformed Theology (Calvinism) of the Church and Academy of Geneva, and one of the authors of the *Helvetic Consensus Formula Confession of Faith* (1675), adopted by the Reformed Church, and next to the Heidelberg Catechism (1563) is the most generally recognized confession of the Reformed Church.

His work, *Institutio Theologiae Elencticae* (1679) was the standard introductory work used for Reformed theological education for more nearly two hundred years and required reading at Princeton Seminary,²¹ the citadel of Protestant orthodoxy for many years. In it he states what is meant by the Reformers in regards to their copy of the Word of God, kept by Divine Preservation in relationship to the original (autograph) received by Divine Inspiration. He believed their copy was identical to the original as received by the Apostles (emphasis & brackets mine):

> “By original texts, we do not mean the autographs [original] written by the hand of Moses, of the prophets and the apostles, which certainly do not now exist. We mean their apographs [copy of 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.”²²

Again, this Presbyterian witness provides us the testimony of the Reformation saints in their belief that the Word of God is kept 100% pure to all ages by Divine Preservation. So that we as they, can say our copy of the Word of God is 100% pure, as pure as the original received by Divine Inspiration, and therefore is identical, authentical; a genuine original!

This high view of scripture was not limited to a few theologians of the Reformation. It is contained in all the Confessions of the Reformation.

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²¹ Princeton Seminary, Charles Hodge (1797-1878) was principal of Princeton Theological Seminary between 1851 and 1878. His work, ‘Systematic Theology’ (1871) and Louis Berkhof’s work (1873-1957) ‘Systematic Theology’ (1932) replaced Institutes of the Christian Religion, ending the age of Francis Turretin at Princeton.

THE HISTORICAL CONFESSIONS WITNESS

To the Biblical & Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy of a 100% Pure Copy of the Word of God

The following Confessions of the Reformation all give witness to the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy. That affirms the Word of God is 100% pure; given 100% pure in the original by Divine Inspiration and kept 100% pure in the copy by Divine Preservation to all ages. Let’s hear from their ‘jury box’ as it renders their verdict on the doctrine of Divine Preservation (emphasis mine):

1. **1646 The Westminster Confession**
   
   “..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 unto them,”  
   
   aMatthew 5:18; bIsaiah 8:20

2. **1674 The Helvetic Consensus Formula**
   
   “God, the Supreme Judge, not only took care to have his word …but has also watched and cherished it with paternal care from the time it was written up to the present, so that it could not be corrupted by craft of Satan or fraud of man….the smallest letter or the least stroke of a pen will not disappear by any means.”  
   
   Matthew 5:18

3. **1687/1689 The Second London Confession (Baptist)**
   
   “…Therefore it pleased the Lord …protecting it against the corruption of the flesh and the malice of Satan and the world, - it pleased the Lord to commit His revealed Truth wholly unto writing…inspired by God, and by his singular care and providence kept pure in all ages. They are therefore authentic…”  
   
   6Prov. 22:19-21; Rom. 15:4; 2 Pet. 1:19,20; 6Isaiah 8:20

4. **1742 The Philadelphia Confession (Baptist)**
   
   “…Therefore it pleased the Lord…against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan, and the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing…being immediately inspired by God, and by His singular care and providence kept pure in all age, are therefore authentic;”  
   
   6Rom. 1:19-21, 2:14, 15; Psalm 19:1-3; 6Heb.1:1 6Isa. 8:20

All the above Confessions of the Reformation affirm the high view of the Word of God, kept 100% pure to all ages by Divine Preservation:

- “..by His singular care and providence, kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical;”

- “God watched and cherished it with paternal care from the time it was written up to the present, so that it could not be corrupted by craft of Satan or fraud of man….the smallest letter or the least stroke of a pen will not disappear by any means.”

Let’s take a moment for a little closer look at the Westminster Confession considered the ‘Mother’ of all Confessions since those which follow it contain the same phraseology, giving witness to the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy.
THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION WITNESS
To the Biblical & Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy of a 100% Pure Copy of the Word of God

We will briefly exegete the Westminster Confession as to its doctrine on Divine Preservation which affirms the Word of God is kept 100% pure- to all ages. Also, I have keyed their Confession to Psalms 12:6-7 to show their witness parallels that of the Word of God.

“Chapter I – Of the Holy Scripture – VIII.
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 unto them. Matthew 5:18; Isaiah 8:20;”

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 forever.”

As we can see from the above, the framers of the Westminster Confession held to the doctrine of Divine Preservation, believing the Word of God is kept by Him 100% pure- to all ages. They maintain this purity is the basis of its veracity and authority, being it’s authentical as the original, “kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical;”

Observe their choice of words in describing their witness to the copy of the Word of God as being authentical- what a statement! Webster’s 1828 dictionary defines authentical as “having a genuine original”. They held their copy of the Word of God (i.e. Bible) remained authentical or identical, as genuine as the original and therefore as authoritative as the original. They were shouting out their witness for all generations to come as to the purity of the copy of God’s Word; kept 100% pure, without error by Divine Preservation, not man’s restoration of an almost pure Word of God. This is the same witness as the Lutherans and Presbyterians. These saints believe the Holy Spirit broods over and keep His Word 100% pure to all ages, even in our present day.

• “...we now have in our hands are those which existed at the time of Jerome and Augustine, nay at the time of Christ Himself and His Apostles..” Presbyterian witness - Turretin

• “..By original texts, we do not mean the autographs written by the hand of Moses, of the prophets and the apostles, which certainly do not now exist. We mean their apographs 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.” Lutheran witness - Quenstedt

The Psalmist affirming;
“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”  Psalms 19:7-11

Now, let’s look at the Baptist witness to the doctrine of Divine Preservation as contained in the Confession of Faith of our ancestry.
THE BAPTIST WITNESS

To the Biblical & Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy of a 100% Pure Copy of the Word of God

The inception of our present day Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) was in May of 1845. The Charleston Baptist Association of South Carolina organized it in a meeting at the First Baptist Church of Augusta in South Carolina. Our first ‘adopted’ Confession was the, Philadelphia Confession of Faith 1742, as affirmed by Timothy and Denise George, a literarily prolific couple in 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.” 23

The Southern Baptist Convention’s first Confession, Philadelphia Confession of Faith 1742, embraces the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy like those of the Reformation: that the Word of God is 100% pure - given by Him 100% pure in the original by Divine Inspiration and kept by Him 100% pure in the copy by Divine Preservation- to all ages.

1742 The Philadelphia Confession (Baptist) 24

“Chapter I – The Holy Scripture

1. Therefore it pleased the Lord at sundry times, and in divers manners to reveal Himself, and to declare that His will unto His church; and afterwards for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment, and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan, and the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing; which maketh the Holy Scriptures to be most necessary, those former ways of God’s revealing His will unto His people being now ceased.4

(*)2Tim. 3:15-17; Isa. 8:20; Luke 16:29, 31; Eph. 2:20; rom. 1:19-21, 2:14,15; Psalm 19:1-3; Heb.1:1; 4Prov. 22:19-21; Rom. 15:4; 2 Pet. 1:19,20)"

“8. 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."

(http://www.baptiststart.com/print/1742_philadelphia.html#1, fRom 3:2; Isa. 8:20; Acts 15:15; John 5:39; 1Cor 14:6,9,11-12,24,28; Col 3:16.)

The Philadelphia Confession of Faith (1742) is unequivocal in its affirmation of Bible inerrancy. The writers of this Confession embrace the same standard of inerrancy: ‘authentical’, identical, 100% pure, as genuine as the original; as its predecessor, the Westminster Confession- the ‘mother’ of all Confessions.

In summarizing, the witness of the Word of God is sufficient in itself, even in the absence of these Confessions we have reviewed. These Confessions are provided to demonstrate this high view which holds to a 100% pure Word of God is not a novel idea. Rather, the newcomer is the low view of scripture which says the Word of God is almost pure.
This low view of scripture rose alongside the rise of science in the 1800’s. The Church became enamored and intimidated in the blooming promises of applied science; for example the advances in penicillin and the invention of the light bulb (1879) with their practical use provided science with well deserved credit. I don’t think it’s an over generalization to say that theoretical science of evolution has ridden on the coattails of the creditability of the accomplishments of applied science.

Darwin’s theories on the age of the earth and the origin of life are accepted as fact, with no empirical scientific data to support their hypothesis. To the contrary, the empirical evidence on the origin of life refutes their claims, like the Cambrian layer. However this data is suppressed while the theoretical views are presented as science through the persuasive and pervasive channels of public education, media and entertainment. This assault combined with Classical literature applying its techniques of textual criticism to the Bible and questioning its authorship; produced an erosion of faith in the veracity and authority of the Word of God as being 100% pure. This was the backdrop where the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy was challenged from within by Westcott and Hort.

In 1881 Westcott and Hort, applying their version of the Classical literature tenets of textual criticism to the Bible, produced their New Testament Greek text. In scrapping the New Testament Greek text of the Reformers, the Textus Receptus, it marked the definitive departure of Protestants from the doctrine of God’s 100% pure preservation, to one of man’s restoration of an almost pure Word of God.

As we have traveled this path over these last 129 years, the custodianship of the Word of God has gradually moved from the shepherds of the flock to the critics of the text. Now we have arrived at the point where those charged with the feeding and protecting the sheep have ‘lost’ the Word of God handed them, to the extent they can no longer point to any Bible with confidence and say, “This is the 100% pure Word of God”. To that degree, we have ‘lost’ the Word of God. However, the Word of God has never been lost to the faithful shepherds in each generation as we have seen in the Confessions of Faith.

In every generation pastors the divine responsibility to be both; (1) the custodians of His Word and (2) the shepherds of His fold. The work of the Holy Spirit, the Superintendent of the Word of God, is to bear witness to the Word of God and to equip these shepherds to accomplish their divine commission in keeping God’s Word and fold:

“Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I [am] pure from the blood of all [men]. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel [Word] of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.” Act 20:26-29 [emphasis mine]

This is what I mean in calling pastors to take back the custodianship of the Word of God. Not allowing textual criticism and science to intimidate us into silence with its false claims that the Word of God has errors. Rather, to fulfill our divine commission to protect God’s Word and sheep and restore the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy that the Word of God is 100%; teaching it to the flock as articulated herein.
THE ‘HISTORICAL’ TEXTUAL CRITIC WITNESS

To the Logic of the Biblical & Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy of a 100% Pure Copy of the Word of God

Now, let’s hear the unbiased ‘expert’ witness of the founders of New Testament textual criticism; appreciating they do not share the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy. However they do attest to the soundness of the logic in holding to a theological, faith-based view.

Ernest Cadman Colwell (1901-1974)
Colwell was considered the foremost naturalistic textual critic and “dean” of New Testament textual criticism in North America. He says the theological view is the only logical choice for those who believe in a 100% pure Bible (brackets and emphasis mine):

“It is often assumed by the ignorant and uniformed – even on a university camp – the textual criticism of the New Testament is supported by a superstitious faith in the Bible as a book dictated in miraculous fashion by God.

That is not true. Textual criticism has never existed for those whose New Testament is one of miracle, mystery and authority [divine inspiration and preservation]. A New Testament created under those auspices would have been handed down under them and would have no need for textual criticism.”

Alexander Souter (1910 & 1947)
Souter’s critical New Testament Greek text was the second most widely used until the 1966 edition of Aland, Black, Metzger & Wikren. He echoes Coldwell, that those who hold a theological, faith-based view, as did the saint of the Reformation, do not need textual criticism:

“If we possessed the twenty-seven documents now comprising our New Testament exactly in the form in which they were dictated or written by their original authors, there would be no textual criticism of the New Testament.”

Kurt Aland (1915-1994)
The late Professor Kurt was among the most renowned Biblical textual critics of the 20th century admits the Reformers believed they possessed an inerrant Bible, 100% pure, when he states (emphasis mine):

"It is undisputed that from the 16th to the 18th century orthodoxy's doctrine of verbal inspiration assumed ... [the] Textus Receptus. It was the only Greek text they knew, and they regarded it as the 'original text'."

Amazingly, the ‘fathers’ of New Testament textual criticism affirm the witness of the saints that they indeed believed they possessed in their copy the 100% pure Word of God! Moreover these textual critics say this is the only logical position for anyone of faith;

“...A superstitious faith in the Bible as a book dictated in miraculous fashion by God... one of miracle, mystery and authority... A New Testament created under those auspices would have been handed down under them and would have no need for textual criticism...”

25 The Naturalistic view is a term synonymous with one that approaches the Word of God as just another book of Classical literature.
28 Aland, His 26th edition of the Nestle-Aland text is the bases of the United Bible Societies version of the Greek New Testament of which Dr Aland was a principal editor. It is also the bases for all modern English versions of the New Testament—the Revised Standard Version, the New American Standard Version, the New International Version, and the English Standard Version.
This is why I refer to this position as the **Biblical** and **historical** doctrine of inerrancy. It’s Biblical in that it’s taught in the Word of God, and it’s historical in that it was believed by the saints, therefore it is sound on all points- even affirmed so by those who do not subscript to this position of faith.

In addition to teaching us the doctrines Divine *Inspiration* and Divine *Preservation*, the Word of God reveals to us the doctrine of divine **identification**. The doctrine of divine identification is God’s prescribed means of bearing witness to His 100% pure, divinely inspired and preserved text of His Word. It is the principle taught in the Word of God from Genesis to Revelation of a two-fold witness.

This is the background in the meaning of the phrase used above by the textual critics when they say the Word of God would have been “*handed down under them*”. They are giving witness to the Biblical principle even they understood of a ‘two-fold’ witness. It’s the responsibility of each generation to give witness and pass to the next generation, the same Word of God they received as witnessed to by the previous generation. This is one of the greatest charges we have as shepherds. This Biblical principle is illustrated by Apostle Paul in his charge to the young pastor Timothy when he says:

> “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” 2Timothy 2:2

The principle of a two-fold witness is honored throughout scripture and is God means of transmitting His 100% pure Word for generation to generation- for all ages. This explains why you will never establish a ‘history of the transmission of the text’ of the Word of God outside of this two-fold witness. The textual critics have been trying to do since 1881 and have failed miserably by their own admission, as we will see later in this paper. Let me provide an analogy to better explain God’s process of the transmission of the *copy* from the original text of the Word of God.

The transmission of the text of the *copy* of scripture is analogous to walking on the beach. In a short time our footprints in the sand vanish without a hint we were there or the possibility of re-tracing the path of our feet. We can only trace the transmission of the text of the Word of God to the generation who bore witness to it and passed it to us- when they die the witness is gone like footprints in the sand. At which point, we now stand as the God’s custodians and witness to the 100% pure Word of God which we’re charged to “*handed down under them*” to the next generation as we received it, as Coldwell noted.

In addition to the witness of God and the saints to His Word, we have an additional witness in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is **The Superintendent of the Word of God**. This means the Word of God was not only given by the Holy Spirit 100% pure, the same Holy Spirit bears witness to the text of the 100% pure inspired and preserved Word of God: this is called the doctrine of divine identification.

> “These [things] have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. 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.” 1John 2:26-27

Our failure to fulfill our role as faithful witnesses to the 100% pure *copy* of the Word of God will not diminish its transmission to the next generation. In every generation God has His unseen ‘7000’ faithful witnesses who have not bowed their knee to the Baal30 of their culture, which in our day is the false claims of textual criticism and science, which seek to replace faith with sight.

Our unbelief will lessen our temporal and eternal treasures because we refused to walk by faith and believe God, but chose to walk by sight, believing man instead. To follow the *fear of the Lord* or the *fear of man* is the choice we face all our days and it will determine the abundance of our lives. The fear of the Lord brings great gain:

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30 1Kings 19:18
“The fear of the LORD [is] clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD [are] true [and] righteous altogether. More to be desired [are they] than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: [and] in keeping of them [there is] great reward.” Psalms 19:9-11

The fear of man brings great loss; “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe”.31 This is illustrated in the life of King Saul who lost everything due to the fear of man; “And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice”.32 King Saul’s chose to walk by sight and not by faith and because of this he became a fool; “Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.”33 This will be our epitaph also, to the degree we fear man more than God. God tells us he preserved the history of Saul’s failure like others of similar unbelief, as a lesson to any who think they can disobey Him and still succeed; “Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.”34

Today many are following the fear of man and not the fear of the Lord regarding His Word. They have rejected what God has revealed to us as to the 100% purity of His Word and embraced man’s opinion that His Word is almost pure- what pride! It will incur to their chastening and not their blessing. There is a divine warning not to follow this error to walking by sight and not by faith.

“Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish [ought] from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baalpeor: for all the men that followed Baalpeor, the LORD thy God hath destroyed them from among you. But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God [are] alive every one of you this day.” 35

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31 Proverbs 29:25  
32 1Samuel 15:24  
33 1Samuel 26:21  
34 1 Corinthians 10:6-11  
35 Deuteronomy 4:2-4 (see Tit 1:16; Deuteronomy 12:32; Prov 30:5-6; Isa 29:13-16; Malachi 4:4; Matt 18:6-7; Rev 22:18-19)
THE ‘CONTEMPORARY’ TEXTUAL CRITIC WITNESS

To the Logic of the Biblical & Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy of a 100% Pure Copy of the Word of God

The next witness understands our view of the ‘logic of faith’, which holds inspiration and preservation are intrinsically linked, probably better than we do ourselves. However he does not accept this theological, faith-based viewpoint as valid unless this intrinsic link can be conclusively established; which he believes is impossible and even ill-founded to try. I provided this quote because in my view, it best expresses the premise of the Biblical and historical view of the doctrine of inerrancy: that the Word of God is 100% pure; given 100% pure in the original by Divine Inspiration and kept 100% pure in the copy by Divine Preservation and witnessed so by God in the Textus Receptus by His principle of divine identification of the two-fold witness.

Daniel B. Wallace - Professor of NT Studies Dallas Theological Seminary (emphasis& brackets mine):

“I wish to address an argument that has been used by TR/MT advocates—an argument which is especially persuasive among laymen. The argument is unashamedly theological [faith-based] in nature: inspiration and preservation are intrinsically linked to one another and both are intrinsically linked to the TR/MT. That is to say, the doctrine of verbal-plenary inspiration necessitates the doctrine of providential preservation of the text, and the doctrine of providential preservation necessarily implies that the majority text (or the TR) is the faithful replica of the autographs.

If inspiration and preservation can legitimately be linked to the text of the New Testament in this way, then the (new) KJV NT is the most accurate translation and those who engage in an expository ministry should use this text alone and encourage their audiences to do the same."

The above is exactly the thesis of this paper, which holds the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy necessitates: that the original text being given 100% pure by Divine Inspiration, and its copy, being kept 100% pure by Divine Preservation, which is the historical witness of the saints to the text of the Textus Receptus which has been faithfully translated into English in the King James Bible of 1611. Let me illustrate this intrinsic link between Divine Inspiration and preservation by way of an analogy.

Divine Inspiration and Divine Preservation are opposite sides of the same coin- therefore they are intrinsically linked. You can no more have one without the other than you can have a one-sided coin, there’s no such thing- it’s inconceivable. Nor can you denigrate one without denigrating the other; they are one in the same. When you protect one you protect the other, when you cherish one you cherish the other.

This is why the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy is so critical to the faith of believers. When one goes, it’s only a matter of time before the other goes as well. This point will be demonstrated in the personal testimony of our next witness, Bart Ehrman. While this witness does not subscribe to the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy, his words and life give witness to the intrinsic link between Divine Inspiration and divine. As the pastors and custodians of God’s Word and fold, we would be wise to take note of the consequences of ignoring the precious truth of the Divine Preservation of the 100% pure Word of God; “A prudent [man] foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.”

36 Theological, faith-based view as opposed to a rationalistic, naturalistic, scientific view.
38 Proverbs 22:3
THE ‘NON-BELIEVER’ TEXTUAL CRITIC WITNESS (Once a Believer)

To the Logic of the Biblical & Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy of a 100% Pure Copy of the Word of God

In a court setting this may be considered a ‘hostile’ witness, meaning he would rather his testimony not strengthen the evidence for the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy. The case with Bart Ehrman 39 shows that a rejection of Divine Preservation in favor of man’s restoration could lead ultimately to a denial of verbal inspiration and the denial of the inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures and ultimately God Himself. This was clearly what happened to Bart Ehrman a textual critic (PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary) who had for his mentor, Bruce Metzger (Princeton’s George L Collord Professor of NT Language and Literature, Emeritus) known as the "Bible Butcher". In his book Misquoting Jesus, Ehrman testified how a Bible filled with scribal errors became a problem for him:

“If one wants to insist that God inspired the very words of scripture, what would be the point if we don’t have the very words of scripture? ... It’s a bit hard to know what the words of the Bible mean if we don’t even know what the words are!

This became a problem for my view of inspiration; for I came to realize that it would have been no more difficult for God to preserve the words of scripture than it would have been for him to inspire them in the first place. If he wanted his people to have his words, surely he would have given to them (and possibly even given them the words in a language they could understand, rather than Greek and Hebrew). The fact that we don’t have the words surely must show, I reasoned, that he did not preserve them for us. And if he didn’t perform that miracle, there seemed to be no reason to think that he performed the earlier miracle of inspiring those words.”40

Ehrman’s journey from faith to unbelief is chronicled by Dr. Denny Burke, Dean of Boyce College and Associate Professor of New Testament. In Burke’s article we observe Ehrman’s crisis of faith unfold in the absence of the Biblical doctrine of inerrancy of the Word of God (emphasis mine):

“Ehrman’s book [Misquoting Jesus] is mainly about the discipline of textual criticism, but the whole work is framed in his personal spiritual journey. For Ehrman, the absence of the original biblical manuscripts was a “compelling problem,” one that eventually led him to deny his previous commitment to the inerrancy of Scripture. In Ehrman’s story, the undoing of inerrancy resulted in the undoing of his Christianity. Ehrman concluded that if the Bible could not be relied upon as inerrant, it certainly could not be relied upon as an authoritative or sufficient basis for Christian faith. Once inerrancy fell, so did everything else.”

“Ehrman says that it was one ‘picayune mistake in Mark 2’ that opened the ‘floodgates’ of skepticism and unbelief in a theological conviction concerning the person of God. To let go of inerrancy (properly conceived) is to let go of something about God Himself. If there are errors in the Bible, then there are errors in God. When one comes to this conclusion, then the entire edifice of the Christian faith falls. This is why the admission of one ‘picayune mistake in Mark 2’ had such a devastating effect on Bart Ehrman. When inerrancy fell, Christianity fell.”41

39 Ehrman, Bart; Masters of Divinity, Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary, where his 1985 doctoral dissertation was awarded magna cum laude. Published extensively in the fields of New Testament and Early Christianity.
41 Burke, Is Inerrancy Sufficient? A Plea to Biblical Scholars Concerning the Authority and Sufficiency of Scripture, p.81-82.
The above point by Ehrman is the same one made by the saints of the Reformation: that the Divine Preservation of the copy 100% pure is of equal importance as Divine Inspiration; they both stand or fall together. This intrinsic link between Divine Inspiration and Divine Preservation is addressed by the Reformation saints in Francis Turretin (1623-1687), who as we previously noted was a Pastor, theologian and leader of Reformed Theology of the Church and Academy of Geneva, when he states:

“Nor can it be said that these corruptions are only in smaller things which do not affect the foundation of faith. For if once the authenticity of the Scriptures is taken away (which would result even from the incurable corruption of one passage), how could our faith rest on what remains? And if corruption is admitted in those of lesser importance, why not in others of greater? Who could assure me that no error or blemish had crept into fundamental passages? Or what reply could be given to a subtle atheist or heretic who should pertinaciously assert that this or that passage less in his favor had been corrupted? It will not do to say that divine providence wished to keep it free from serious corruptions, but not from minor.

For besides the fact that this is gratuitous, it cannot be held without injury, as if lacking in the necessary things which are required for the full crediblity of Scripture itself. Nor can we readily believe that God, who dictated and inspired each and every word to these inspired men, would not take care of their entire preservation. If men use the utmost care diligently to preserve their words, especially if they are of any importance, as for example a testament or contract, in order that it may not be corrupted, how much more, must we suppose, would God take care of his word which he intended as a testament and seal of his covenant with us, so that it might not be corrupted; especially when he could easily forsee and prevent such corruptions in order to establish the faith of his church?” 42

Again, the above quotes demonstrate the doctrines of Divine Inspiration and Divine Preservation are opposite sides of the same coin. You denigrate one, you denigrate the other; you lose one, you lose the other. Once you depart from the doctrine of Divine Preservation of a 100% pure Word of God, it is only a matter of time before you do the same with the doctrine of Divine Inspiration then potentially your faith in God Himself as illustrated in the life of Ehrman.

Bart Ehrman came to believe the Word of God had errors not because it was true, but rather because he had not been armed with the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy which includes the doctrine of Divine Preservation of the 100% pure Word of God in its copy. Therefore he had no ‘shield of faith’ to handle the wicked and fiery challenge of Satan against the false claims of his mentor/ textural critic Bruce Metzger, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places”. 43

This is the explanation of our post-Christian culture and the ‘emergent church’ heresy. Once you reject God’s promise of the Divine Preservation of His Word 100% pure, it’s only time before you will question it all. The emergent church has taken the tenets of textual criticism of Westcott and Hort to the next level, in rejecting that there is even a fixed text to be restored in favor of a dynamic-living text as we will see later. The only solution is to return to the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy and to once again give a clear witness by teaching believers that the Word of God is 100% pure; given 100% pure in the original by Divine Inspiration and kept 100% pure in the copy by Divine Preservation- to all ages. This is one of the primary responsibilities of every saint in every generation, especially pastors who have been divinely charged with the custodianship of the Word of God and His fold.

This is a call to begin where we failed and no longer be intimidated into silence by the false claims of textual criticism and science. Rather, as God’s under-shepherds, restore the custodianship of the Word of God back to ourselves by teaching it to the flock while there yet remains the opportunity.


43 Ephesians 6:11-20;
THE EVANGELICALS AND CONSERVATIVES WITNESS

To the Absence of the Biblical & Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy of a 100% Pure Copy of the Word of God

It’s a sign of the profoundness of our error when you have to convince those once known as ‘the people of the Book’, who live in the so-called ‘Buckle of the Bible-belt’, that they possess the 100% pure Word of God in their copy of the scriptures - our Bible! There was a time not too long ago when pastors would stand in their pulpits, holding up the Bible and declaring confidently and unashamedly it was the 100% pure and inerrant Word of God.

What has happened to us that we would now put our names so confidently and unashamedly to a statement that now denies this truth - in the Chicago Statement? Considering it a statement of faith when in reality, it’s a record of our unbelief in the Word of God and the testimony of the saints before us. How is it we so easily dismiss such a historical train of witnesses, including our own contained in our adopted Confession of Faith at our inception 44 which states our copy of the Word of God being: “…being immediately inspired by God, and by His singular care and providence kept pure in all ages, are therefore authentical”. Could they shout it any plainer: authentical - a genuine original! 45

The Chicago Statement was embraced by the who’s who of conservatives and evangelicals. This is documented in the words of one of its framers, Dr. Jay Grimstead, who give us the account of the formulation of their ‘Confession’ in his article, ‘How the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy Began’. In it he states:

“We see the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy (ICBI) Statement on Inerrancy as being a landmark church document, which was created in 1978 by the then largest, broadest, group of evangelical protestant scholars that ever came together to create a common, theological document in the 20th century. It is probably the first systematically comprehensive, broadly based, scholarly, creed-like statement on the inspiration and authority of Scripture in the history of the church.” 46

As they say above, the Chicago Statement was signed by the ‘blue chip’ of protestant’s who claim to hold to ‘Biblical’ inerrancy. However they redefined47 the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy from God’s preservation of a 100% pure Word, to man’s restoration to an almost pure one when they state (emphasis & brackets mine):

“Since God has nowhere promised an inerrant transmission of Scripture, it is necessary to affirm that only the autographic [original] text of the original documents was inspired and to maintain the need of textual criticism as a means of detecting any slips that may have crept into the text in the course of its transmission. 48

In order to fully appreciate the impact of this error upon this generation, I have distilled and paraphrased into layman’s language the essence of the Chicago Statement including its implications in the following seven points.

44 Timothy and Denise George; Baptist Confessions, Covenants, and Catechisms; Broadman & Holman, 1996; Introduction.
45 Webster 1828 Dictionary.
@ http://65.175.91.69/Reformation_net/Pages/ICBI_Background.htm
47 For a fuller treatment of this issue see my essay, The Fear of the Lord-Restoring the Biblical Doctrine of Inerrancy; also very good presentation by Dr. Jeffery Khoo, ‘Can Verbal Plenary Inspiration Do Without Verbal Plenary Preservation?: The Achilles’ Heel Of Princeton Bibliology’
“Children, I like to be sure I have taught you the truth about the Word of God. Therefore here is what I believe and hope you will follow my example of faith. I believe...

1. ...God never promised to preserve a Bible with ‘total truth’;

2. ...The only ‘total truth’ of the Word of God was in the originals which were inspired by God, but which no longer exist;

3. ...The Bible is not ‘total truth’ due to the ‘slips’ by those making the copies of them, but not to be concerned since none of the ‘total truth’ as been destroyed that would prevent a reader from being saved;

4. ...There is no Bible with ‘total truth’

5. ...It was never the expectation or goal of the saints to have a Bible with ‘total truth’;

6. ...Since the saints never expected a Bible with ‘total truth’ it is no issue to have a Bible with errors;

7. ...The saint’s definition of inerrancy embraced a Bible whose ‘total truth’ contained errors.”

Would you not be more than just a little bit embarrassed to tell your children you believed the above? Fifty years ago you would have been rejected by any conservative pulpit committee if you expressed such thoughts. Yet this is the definitive statement of faith on the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy by ‘the people of the Book’- amazing! Yet we wonder at this generation’s lack of faith in the veracity and authority of the Word of God, when it’s their very shepherds who are promulgating this unbelief- incredible! Do we believe God is pleased?

The real problem is not the textual critics or even the ‘emergent church’ heresy. The biggest threat to the church today are the silent pulpits who were once confident they possessed the 100% pure Word of God and proclaimed its truth unashamedly. These same pulpits now watch with only a passing whimper the secularization of their flock, afraid to confront from their pulpits the redefinition of the family and collapse of the Christian home- why? We have lost our confidence in the veracity and authority of the Word of God, being intimidated into silence by the false claims of textual criticism and science and unable to proclaim as Apostle Paul; “I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”

Whether due to ignorance or the fear of man, the results are the same: we have forfeited the custodianship of the Word of God with which we have been charged. How much has this neglect contributed to the hastening of unbelief and the rise of our post-Christian culture? Especially when given the fact God says; “so then faith cometh by hearing; hearing by the word of God.” Our Baptist Faith and Message (BF&M) offers only a fig leaf of a defense to the assaults on the veracity and authority Word of God, in the absence of an articulated doctrine of Divine Preservation. The solution is simple and singular; a revival of the Word of God precedes a revival of the people of God as in the days of King Josiah.

The first step is to restore the Biblical and historical definition of inerrancy as articulated herein and in my essay, The Fear of the Lord-Restoring the Biblical Doctrine of Inerrancy. Then with renewed faith in the Word of God and our divine commission, to proclaim the truths contained therein. This will be the beginning of the restoration of the authority of the Word of God and its custodianship back to God’s shepherds- where it belongs. In the absence of such, Dr. Olson accurately observes that our statement of inerrancy is a ‘meaningless concept’.51

49 Shun = “to be unwilling to utter for fear”; Act 20:26-27; “Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I [am] pure from the blood of all [men]”

50 2Kings 22:11; 2Kings 23:2; 2Kings 23:25; compare 1Corinthians 10:11=revival of the nation

Dr. Olson’s infers conservatives have embraced a “double-speak” in claiming to embrace inerrancy, but in reality deny it. Dr. Olson is Professor at Baylor University’s George W. Truett Theological Seminary and does not hold to the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy as contained herein. However, he takes the conservatives to task for not believing it either while claiming they hold to inerrancy. The truth is conservatives hold to inerrancy but not as defined by the Confessions of their ancestry.

Have conservatives risen to the level of “double-speak” in their definition of inerrancy? This was their charge against Liberals in the ‘Conservative Insurgence’? Double-speak employs language that deliberately disguises, distorts, or reverses the meaning of words. This behavior was noted by Ralph Elliott, Old Testament scholar at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary:

‘Doublespeak’ has become an insidious disease within Southern Baptist life. Through the years, the program at Southern Seminary has acquainted students with the best in current research in the given fields of study. Often, however, this was done with an eye and ear for the ‘gallery’ and how much the ‘church trade’ would bear. Professors and students learn to couch their beliefs in acceptable terminology and in holy jargon so that although thinking one thing, the speaker calculated so as to cause the hearer to affirm something else.

When I taught at Southern Seminary years ago, we often said to one professor who was particularly gifted at this ‘doublespeak’ game, that if the Southern Baptist Convention should split, he would be the first speaker at both new conventions ... It is my personal belief that this doublespeak across the years has contributed to a lack of nurture and growth and is a major factor in the present problems. The basic question is one of integrity rather than the gift of communication.”

Double-speak is saying you believe in inerrancy when you do not. It allows you to hold to your new meaning of inerrancy as redefined by the textual critic while allowing those who hear you to think you embrace the historical doctrine of their ancestry. This double-speak is perfected in the Chicago Statement as we will now see, which was signed by the who’s who of conservative.

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52 Ralph H. Elliott, The “Genesis Controversy” (Macon, Georgia: MercerUniversity Press, 1992), 33-34. (see link to Autonomy of a Reformation by Dr. Paige Patterson, p.12)
THE LIBERAL WITNESS

To the Absence of the Biblical & Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy of a 100% Pure Copy of the Word of God

One’s position on inerrancy has long been the dividing line between conservatives and liberals: the former subscribe to inerrancy and the latter do not. However, with the current definition of inerrancy contained in the Chicago Statement, the lines are becoming less clear. The conservative definition of inerrancy has become a hollow statement since departing from the one taught in the Word of God and witnessed to by the saints contained in the Confessions of our Baptist ancestry. This holds the Word of God is 100% pure; received 100% pure in its original by Divine Inspiration and kept 100% pure in the copy by Divine Preservation- to all ages. This departure from the faith by the conservatives on inerrancy has not gone unchallenged by the liberals, as illustrated in Dr. Olson comments from his article Why ‘Inerrancy’ Doesn’t Matter:

“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.”

53

Other liberals are even bolder, as seen in the comments of James A. Sanders, a member of the United Bible Society which published the New Revised Standard Version. Regarding the 100% pure Word of God, our Bible he says:

“The NRSV is not the Bible; no translation is the Bible. So what is the Bible? What and whence these texts? I think it is time for us to stop fooling the people, making them think there is just one Bible and that our Bible committee got closer to it than their committee did.

...I have been told by some that this would just destroy the Bible because lay folk still want to think of the Bible as somehow inerrant. It may well be that if there should ever be the possibility of discussing the text of Isaiah with Isaiah, he might very well say, ‘but I did not say that’.”

54

I have a question. Is Dr. Olson right, and is what we say and what we practice as conflicted and convoluted as that of the Chicago Statement? Do conservatives hold to the word ‘inerrancy’ but have changed its Biblical and historical meaning of a 100% pure Word of God, to an almost pure one, thus rendering it an impotent and indefensible doctrine and effectively making it no different than the liberal view? Our current BF&M, unlike the first one of our Baptist ancestry, does not address Divine Preservation and has a nebulous statement regarding Divine Inspiration. Perhaps it’s time to address this issue while we still can.

54 Sanders, The Dead Sea Scrolls After Forty Years, 1991, p.60,71; published by Biblical Archeology Review.
OUR GENERATION’S WITNESS

To the *Evolution* of the **Biblical & Historical** Doctrine of Inerrancy of a 100% Pure Copy of the Word of God

Observe how the meaning of the doctrine of inerrancy has *evolved* from the Reformation to the present, from the doctrine of the *preservation* of the Word of God to its *restoration* my man.

**PAST**: Biblical and Historical Doctrine of Inerrancy

Inerrancy Means = Inspiration → Preservation → Identification
- Witness of Word of God
- Witness of Reformation - Westminster Confession of Faith 1646
- Witness of Baptist - Philadelphia Confession of Faith 1742

**PRESENT**: Conservative and Evangelical Doctrine of Inerrancy

Inerrancy Means = Inspiration → Restoration
- Baptist - 1925 Baptist Faith & Message (BF&M)
- Lutheran
- Methodist (UMC) 1962 Statement of Faith does not address inerrancy
- Presbyterian (PCA)
- Presbyterian USA (PCAUSA)

**FUTURE**: Coming ‘Emergent Church’ Doctrine of Inerrancy

Inerrancy Means = Nothing
- Question: Eventually, who will follow, if we fail in our witness to the 100% pure Word of God?

Today, among mainline Protestant denominations there is **NO** witness on the planet for the **Biblical** and **historical** doctrine of inerrancy of the Word of God, holding that the Word of God is 100% pure, in its original and copy. At best, all hold to the *Chicago Statement* definition of inerrancy of an **almost** pure Word of God, ascribing inerrancy only to the originals. But they do not extend inerrancy to the copy of the Word of God, as kept by Him 100% pure by Divine Preservation. Thus they have forsaken the **Biblical** and **historical** doctrine of inerrancy as taught in the Word of God, memorialized in the Confessions of the Reformers and witnessed to in our Baptist ancestry—"How have the mighty fallen?"^55

"Since God has nowhere promised an inerrant transmission of Scripture, it is necessary to affirm that only the autographic text of the original documents was inspired and to maintain the need of textual criticism as a means of detecting any slips that may have crept into the text in the course of its transmission.

How bad is the situation?

**NO** ‘blue chip’ conservative or evangelical group bears witness to the 100% pure Word of God in its copy, as did their ancestry!

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^55 2Samuel 1:27
Conventions & Associations

- SBC - no clear witness to inerrancy in the copy
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - no clear witness to inerrancy in the copy
- Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) - no clear witness to inerrancy in the copy
- Presbyterian (PCA) - inerrant only in the original
- Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA) - inerrant only in the original
- Methodist & Evangelical United Brethren - no clear witness to inerrancy in the copy
- Episcopal (Anglican) - no clear witness to inerrancy in the copy

Seminaries

- Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) - inerrant only in the original
- Dallas Theological Seminary - inerrant only in the original
- Westminster Theological Seminary - no clear witness to inerrancy in the copy

Societies

- Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy 1978 (ICBI) - inerrant only in the original
- Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) - inerrant only in the original
- International Society of Christian Apologetics (ISCA) - inerrant only in the original
- National Association of Evangelicals - no clear witness to inerrancy in the copy
- Wycliffe - no clear witness to inerrancy in the copy

Publishers

- United Bible Society - no witness to inerrancy in the copy

Media

- Christianity Today - inerrant only the original

Isn’t it time to sound a certain trumpet on this doctrine which is central to all other doctrines and awaken the saints to the truth: that they hold the very Word of God in their hands, and not the words of men? We must begin sowing this seed of faith, otherwise the judgment of God will continue and overtake us when He warns; “For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.” Therefore we must start by asking ourselves, ‘is what we say congruent with what we do’, or are we practicing the ‘double-speak of which we once accused the Liberals?

At the heart of this is issue lays the Fear of man versus the Fear of the Lord. This is a battle we all must resist, or we become the very thing of which we accuse the world of being. What will be our legacy? Will our names be listed beside those who were praised by men in their generation, only to be found by their children to have failed the test in defending the Word of God?

May our vision be to restore the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy, which holds that the Word of God is 100% pure, given so by Him in the original by Divine Inspiration and is kept so by Him in the copy by Divine Preservation- to all ages. Then let us rededicate ourselves to spend whatever remaining capital we’ve been entrusted in our golden years - in time, energy, wealth and reputation- to this end: laying them at the foot of the Cross, and if necessary, going without the camp as Jesus did in spending His all for us. (Phil 2:5-11; Heb 12:2)

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56 Hosea 8:7a
CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, it should be apparent even to the casual observer we have departed from the faith, “which was once delivered unto the saints.” 57 Why did we trade our doctrine of inerrancy, of a 100% pure Word of God, our Bible for an almost pure one? Do we have any concern as God’s under shepherds that we will give an account to Him, or have we also lost the Fear of the Lord as well? 58 Have we become content with the fading crown of the praises of men over the eternal crown of God- “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” 59

We have forsaken the well spring of the 100% pure Word of God for the broken cisterns of man- that have proven to hold no water! 60 How can we look this generation in the face and tell them to stand alone against this world, when we have failed to stand for the 100% pure Word of God as ‘handed down unto us’ from the saints – because of our fear of man? The words of Dr. Patterson are instructive when he stood at the threshold of what eventually became known as the ‘conservative insurgence’ when he wrote:

“In the final analysis, we did not attempt a reformation movement because we thought it would succeed but because we sincerely believed that we were right about the inerrancy of the Bible and because we did not want to tell our children and grandchildren that we had no courage to stand for our convictions.” 61

What will our enduring legacy be? In researching and writing this paper, I came across the names of men ‘of the faith’, like B.B. Warfield and A.T. Robertson, who somehow felt free to discount the witness of the Word of God, the saints and their ancestry as to the 100% pure Word of God. I ask myself- how? We do not have to be partakers of this error, particularly since the ‘jury’ is now in, and the verdict of Textual criticism has been rendered by them in their words as shown below. The textual critics have concluded that their high hopes of establishing a history of the text of the New Testament and restoring it back to its almost purity is an- ‘impossible possibility’, and that they have come to a ‘dead-end’ with no way to recover the original text and a “better and better Bible”.

- **Grant, Robert M.**
  “The primary goal of New Testament textual study remains the recovery of what the New Testament writers wrote. We have already suggested that to achieve this goal is well nigh impossible. Therefore we must be content with what Reinhold Niebuhr and others have called, in other contexts, an “impossible possibility”.” 62

  “it is generally recognized that the original text of the Bible cannot be recovered.” 63

- **Parvis, Merrill M.**
  “Each one of these critical texts differ quite markedly from all of the others. This fact certainly suggests that it is very difficult, if not impossible to recover the original text of the New Testament.” 64

57 Jude 1:3; “...it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
58 1Peter 5:4; “And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”
59 Revelation 3:11
60 Jeremiah 2:13; “...they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”
• **Epp, Eldon J.**
  "The establishment of the NT text can be achieved only by a reconstruction of the history of that early text ..."  
  
  "we simply do not have a theory of the text."  

• **Clark, Kenneth W.**
  "Great progress has been achieved in recovering an early form of text, but it may be doubted that there is evidence of one original text to be recovered."
  
  "... the papyrus vividly portrays a fluid state of the text at about A.D. 200. Such a scribal freedom suggests that the gospel text was little more stable than the oral tradition, and that we may be pursuing the retreating mirage of the "original text.""
  
  The textual history that the Westcott-Hort text represents is no longer tenable in the light of newer discoveries and fuller textual analysis. In the effort to construct a congruent history, our failure suggests that we have lost the way, that we have reached a dead end, and that only a new and different insight will enable us to break through."  

• **Lake, Kirsopp** (1872-1946)
  "In spite of the claims of Westcott and Hort and of von Soden, we do not know the original form of the Gospels, and it is quite likely that we never shall."  

So Westcott and Hort have led us 129 years to nowhere. After reading the above, why would any man 'of the faith', consider rowing one more mile down the river of textual criticism and its impeding falls? They convinced us to give up our 100% pure Bible, in exchange for the mirage of a 'better and better' Bible as envisioned by Warfield when he said (emphasis mine):

  "The inerrant autographs were a fact once; they may possibly be a fact again, when textual criticism has said its last word on the Bible text. In proportion as they are approaching in the processes of textual criticism, do we have an ever better and better Bible than the one we have now."

Now we're told the Word of God will never be found– incredible! The shepherds of God's flock were dubbed, intimidated by the false claims of textual criticism and science into handing over their God-given custodianship of the 100% pure Word of God, deposited to our keeping. It stands as the heist of the century! Then we dare turn and tell this generation to believe the Bible we ourselves have forsaken - instead we rather ought to lead them by our repentance!

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66 Ibid., p. 403.
71 Warfield, B.B., ET, p. 53.
What is the legacy of textual criticism? It’s a self-inflicted loss, producing a post-Christian culture and a redefinition of the family that springs from a crisis of faith in the veracity and authority of the Word of God. The poster child of this error can be seen in Bart Ehrman, one of their own who denies the faith he once proclaimed. At the heart of this train wreck is the sad fact that the praise of man has trumped the praise of God!

We have lost the Fear of the Lord. We’ve arrived at the point where we fear offending man more than we do God. This is well stated by Dr. Jeffery Khoo, Principal of Far East Bible College in his essay entitled: ‘Can Verbal Plenary Inspiration Do Without Verbal Plenary Preservation?: The Achilles’ Heel Of Princeton Bibliology’, when he says:

“Textual criticism introduced by Princeton Seminary is the Trojan horse in Reformed, evangelical, and fundamentalist Bibliology today. No Reformed, evangelical or fundamentalist "scholar," without wanting to look stupid or foolish, would dare affirm without equivocation that the Bible in our hands today is infallible and inerrant, without any mistake. This is the tragedy of compromise....May God’s people not adore and exalt seemingly great scholars or schools of the past and the present, and deem them infallible and inerrant, for only the inspired and preserved words of God in the Holy Scriptures are infallible and inerrant, pure and perfect in every way, and our sole and supreme authority of faith and life to the glory of God.”

The erosion of the veracity and authority of the Word of God will continue until we repent and return to the pier of Biblical inerrancy. The ‘hemorrhaging’ of New Testament Greek texts is due to this unbiblical view of man’s restoration of the Word of God, rather than embracing its Divine Preservation. It will not be stopped just by reclaiming our institution, but only by an accurate diagnosis and remedy of the problem. The remedy is to return to the Biblical doctrine of inerrancy which includes Divine Inspiration and Divine Preservation. If we do not return, then below is perhaps where the naturalistic textual critics see the future, having failed in their high expectations of ‘restoring’ the Word of God:

“My final example of a new current in the discussion of ‘original text’ is the work of David Parker, who comes to this issue from a different perspective in his introductory volume, The Living Text of the Gospels. Parker begins by challenging the common belief that ‘the purpose of textual criticism is to recover the original text,’ followed by a call to examine whether there is an original text to be recovered. Indeed, this question is ‘the principal theme’ of his book.

“The gospels are ‘not archives of traditions but living texts,’ and, therefore, ‘the concept of a Gospel that is fixed in shape, authoritative, and final as a piece of literature has to be abandoned.’ ... The free text indicates that to at least some early Christians, it was more important to hand on the spirit of Jesus' teaching than to remember the letter.... The material about Jesus was preserved in an interpretive rather than an exact fashion.”

The above statements are the result of our rejection of the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy. It’s creating an environment where we feel justifiably comfortable doing what’s ‘feels right’ in our own eyes, and makes this generation ripe for an ‘emergent church’ appeal with its subjective interpretation of the Word of God.

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72 Dr. Jeffery Khoo, Principal of Far East Bible College entitle; ‘Can Verbal Plenary Inspiration Do Without Verbal Plenary Preservation?: The Achilles’ Heel Of Princeton Bibliology’.
74 Ibid., 3-4.
75 Ibid., 7.
76 Ibid., 119.
77 Ibid., 93.
78 David C. Parker, ”Scripture is Tradition," Theology 94 (1991) 15.
What should we do? The answer: it’s time to no longer be intimidated from fulfilling our commission as shepherd of God’s flock and custodians of His 100% pure Word. Let me get more personal, do we believe today we hold the 100% pure Word of God in our hands as was the testimony of the Reformers? Then why do we allow His flock, whom God has entrusted to us to teach and protect, be taught differently with not even a rebuttal? Nowhere is it made clear in the Baptist Faith and Message that we are referring to both the original and the copy of the Word of God:

“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.”

The raging issue today is whether the copy we possess is the 100% pure Word of God, not the original which we don’t possess. Therefore, let me ask a question; please identify for me the Holy Bible to which the above Baptist Faith and Message refers to which we can point to today without qualification and tell our children and those whom we shepherd, this is the 100% pure Word of God! In answer to, “What should we do?, let me answer by way of analogy.

“In the atrium of our churches and seminaries grows a tree - laden with silver dross. Silver, in that it’s represented as the truth; dross in that it’s a half truth- and therefore a lie. Moreover, we are handing the poisonous fruit of this tree to those whom God has put into our custodianship to teach and protect- for which we will give an account. This corrupt tree is our unbiblical doctrine of inerrancy that holds the Word of God is almost pure.”

What should we do? The first thing we should do is repent of our sin of unbelief and lack of sobriety and vigilance. The second thing is to roll up our sleeves and with joined hands lay the axe to this corrupt tree and uproot it. The third is to replace it with the good seed of the 100% pure Word of God and nurture the tree of the Biblical and historical doctrine of inerrancy- teaching it to those whom we’ve been called to teach and protect.

If this is your heart’s desire, then read further, as well as going to Standard Bearers website to see how you can join with others and enter the arena. Let’s take back our 100% pure Bible by re-taking the hill of Biblical and historical inerrancy and unashamedly planting our flag to fly high for all to see- to God be the glory!

79 1Peter 5:8, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”
STANDARD BEARERS and the JOSIAH INITIATIVE

PURPOSE

To Leverage our Gifting in the Defense of the Word of God

- **Broaden Our View** – Understand the Issue
- **Coordinated Defense** – Move in Unison
- **Comprehensive Defense** – On all 3 Fronts
- **Coherent Defense** – With Same Objective

OBJECTIVE

To Re-establish the Biblical and historical doctrine of Inerrancy, that the Word of God is **100%** pure.

- **Re-establish the Authority** – Right, Legitimacy, It is the Last word
- **Re-establish the Authenticity** – Accuracy, Precision, Truthfulness (Perspicuity)
- **Re-establish the Authorship** – Divine origin, Original, Copy (our ‘Bible’)

MISSION

To revised our Confessions of Faith to articulate the **Biblical** and **historical** doctrine of Inerrancy, that the Word of God is **100%** pure, in the original and **copy**; our ‘Bible’. As taught in the Word of God, memorialized in the Confessions of the Reformation and witnessed to in our Baptist ancestry. The **Biblical** and **historical** doctrine of Inerrancy is comprised of these three doctrines, which are intrinsically linked to each other:

- **Doctrine of Divine Inspiration** - Authenticity demands Inspiration
- **Doctrine of Divine Preservation** - Inspiration demands Preservation
- **Doctrine of Divine Identification** - Preservation demands Identification

Our Witness and Defense

“We stand as God’s witnesses to all ages that the Word of God is and will always be 100% pure, given so by God in its original by Divine Inspiration, kept so by Him to all ages in the copy by Divine Preservation, and affirmed so by the Biblical principle of its Divine Testimony (identification) in the two-fold witness of the saints - from ‘faith to faith’.

We stand by the charge of God in defense of the 100% pure, inerrant Word of God, being divinely inspired, divinely preserved and divinely identified. The New Testament in the language originally given as received from the saints in the Greek texts under the name of the Textus Receptus. The Old Testament in the language originally given as received from the saints in the Hebrew texts under the name of the Masoretic text. These texts having been faithfully translated by the witness of the saints into English in the King James Bible of 1611 (and NKJB).”
Reference: Two-fold Witness (Leadership by example)

- “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” 2Timothy 2:2-3

- “I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Act 20:35

- “But if he will not hear [thee, then] take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.” Matthew 18:16

MANDATE

As the saints of God, particularly His under shepherds, we have been charged with the feeding and protection of His flock, as well as the custodians of the faith and His Word, for which we must give and account to the Chief Shepherd.

1. **Custodian of His Flock** – to Feed and Protect  Acts 20:26-28
   “Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I [am] pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

2. **Custodian of His Word** – to Identify and Pass On  Jude 1:2-3
   “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [you] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

God bless,

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

**Louis Kole**

*Standard Bearers*

We Rest on Thee, our Shield and our Defender!
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” (Roman 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.
2Apograh 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**

- What Is Eclecticism? ~ Excerpt from *The Identity of the New Testament Text*
- 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)