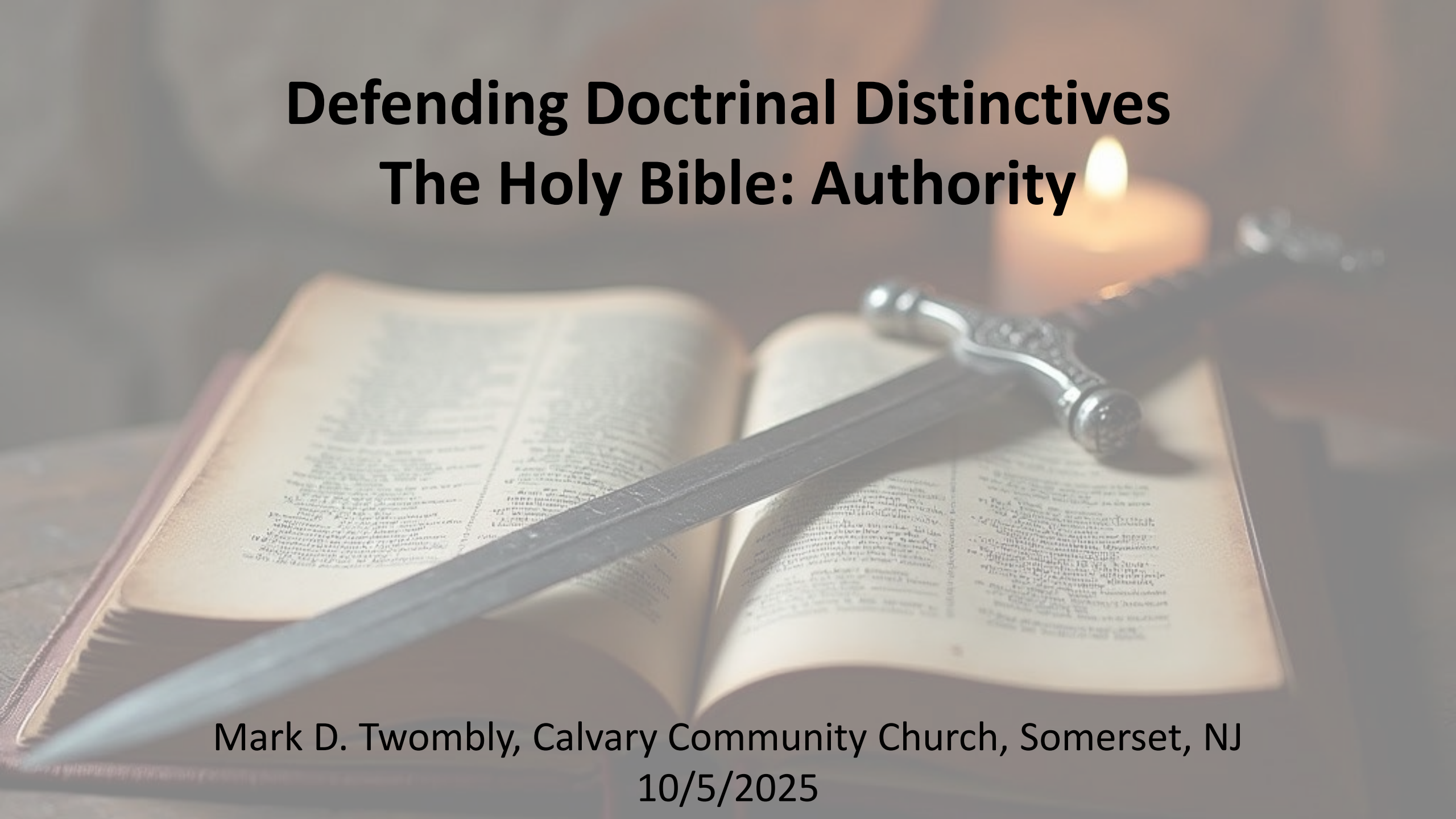


# **Defending Doctrinal Distinctives**

## **The Holy Bible: Authority**

An open Bible with a sword resting on it, symbolizing the defense of doctrine. The sword is positioned diagonally across the open pages of the Bible. The background is softly blurred, showing a lit candle and some other objects, creating a warm and contemplative atmosphere.

Mark D. Twombly, Calvary Community Church, Somerset, NJ  
10/5/2025

“But you, continue in the things you learned and became convinced of, knowing from whom you learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

(Paul to Timothy, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, LSB)

““You shall therefore **love** Yahweh your God, and **keep** His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His **commandments** all your days.”

(Deuteronomy 11:1, LSB, with emphasis)

““As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and **serve Him with a whole heart and a delighted soul**; for Yahweh searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.”

(King David, 1 Chronicles 28:9, LSB, with emphasis)

““If you **love** Me, you will keep My **commandments**.”

““He who has My **commandments** and keeps them is the one who **loves** Me; and he who **loves** Me will be **loved** by My Father, and I will **love** him and will disclose Myself to him.””

(Jesus, John 14:15, 21, LSB, with emphasis)

“For this is the **love of God, that we keep His commandments**; and His commandments are not burdensome.”

(1 John 5:3, LSB, with emphasis)

“My soul **keeps** Your testimonies,  
And I **love** them exceedingly.”

(Psalms 119:167, LSB, with emphasis)

# Lesson Outline

- Topic Review: The Nature of the Bible
- Calvary's Doctrinal Statements
- Authority Defined
- Authority Demonstrated
- Implications and Application

# **Topic Outline:**

## **The Nature of the Bible, i.e. Bibliology**

- Session 1: Inspiration and Inerrancy (9/21/2025)
- Session 2: Authority (today)
- Session 3: Perspicuity and Sufficiency (10/12/2025)
- Session 4: Necessity (10/19/2025)



# Inspiration

Inspiration means from God, not merely 'inspirational', 2 Timothy 3:16

*“Inspiration describes the process of divine causation behind the authorship of Scripture. It refers to the direct act of God on the human author that resulted in the creation of perfectly written revelation.”*

(MacArthur, John; Mayhue, Richard. Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth, p. 118)

See 2 Peter 1:19-21

# Inerrancy

*“The inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact.”*

(Wayne A. Grudem, Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine, p.90)

“The words of Yahweh are pure words;  
As silver tried in a furnace on the ground, refined seven times.”  
(Psalms 12:6, LSB)

“Every word of God proves true;  
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.”  
(Proverbs 30:5, ESV)

Because the Bible is **Inspired** (from God) and **Inerrant** (completely reliable), we have a firm foundation from which to understand and respond to its - to His - **Authority.**

# From Calvary's Statement of Faith

From Chapter 1:

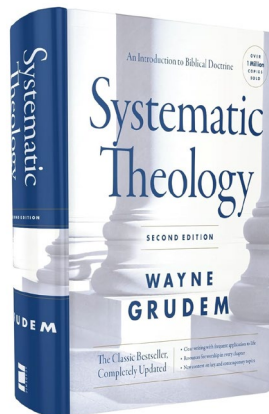
*3. We teach that it [the Bible] constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice (Matthew 5:18; 24:35; John 10:35; 16:12-13; 17:17; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 3:15-16; Hebrews 4:12).*

*Calvary Community Church Unabridged Statement of Faith*

# Authority Defined

*“All the words in Scripture are God’s words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.”*

(Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology)



“I will worship toward Your holy temple  
and praise Your name for Your loving-kindness and for Your truth  
and faithfulness;  
for You have exalted above all else Your name and Your word  
and **You have magnified Your word above all Your name!**”  
(Psalms 138:2, Amplified Bible, with emphasis)

Why ‘according to’ (NASB) or ‘above’?  
There is nothing higher than God, and while His name is a reflection of  
Him, His word is a fuller expression of God.

*“The word of promise made to David was in his eyes more glorious than all else that he had seen of the Most High. Revelation excels creation in the clearness, definiteness, and fulness of its teaching. The name of the Lord in nature is not so easily read as in the Scriptures, which are a revelation in human language, specially adapted to the human mind, treating of human need, and of a Saviour who appeared in human nature to redeem humanity. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but the divine word will not pass away, and in this respect especially it has a pre-eminence over every other form of manifestation...”*



*...Moreover, the Lord lays all the rest of his name under tribute to his word: his wisdom, power, love, and all his other attributes combine to carry out his word. It is his word which creates, sustains, quickens, enlightens, and comforts. As a word of command it is supreme; and in the person of the incarnate Word it is set above all the works of God's hands."*

(Treasury of David, Charles Spurgeon, on Psalm 138:2)





# Authority Defined

*The matter of authority is addressed frequently throughout Scripture. The descriptions of God and the titles applied to him demonstrate his absolute authority over his creation. He is identified from the beginning as the Creator of all things (Gen. 1:1). The titles Lord (Deut. 10:17) and God Almighty (Gen. 17:1) demonstrate his authority and power over all things. The nature of God expressed by his attributes equally affirms his authority. The Bible attests to God as the eternal, immortal, and only God (1 Tim. 1:17). He is described as omniscient (Ps. 139:1–6), omnipotent (Ps. 135:5; Jer. 32:17), omnipresent (Ps. 139:7–12), and righteous (Ps. 92:15). His wisdom is unsearchable (Rom. 11:33–36). His sovereignty is over all his creation (Gen. 1:1; Pss. 89:11; 90:2), now and forever (Psalm 104; 1 Cor. 15:24–28). This authority is conveyed to man through God’s Word and is an unalterably authoritative message (Deut. 4:1–2; Prov. 30:5–6; Rev. 22:18–19). (MacArthur, John; Mayhue, Richard. Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth, pp. 161-162)*

# Authority Defined

*“The internal testimony of the Holy Spirit illuminates the believer so that he knows that the Scriptures are the Word of God. The biblical basis for this clarity is derived from two sources. First, the words of Scripture are self-attesting because they claim to be from God (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20–21). Second, the Holy Spirit’s dynamic power applies the truth of Scripture, resulting in a confident assurance in the Word itself (1 Cor. 2:4–16). This ministry of the Spirit is actuated through the reading and proclamation of Scripture (Rom. 10:14, 17). That does not mean that all who hear or read believe (Rom. 10:14–21), but it does mean that those who believe do so because of the convicting and illuminating work of the Holy Spirit.”*

*(MacArthur, John; Mayhue, Richard. Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth, p. 163)*

# Authority Demonstrated: Creation

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.”

(Genesis 1:1-3, LSB)

“Then God said...heaven [skies]...dry land...plants...sun...moon...stars also...waters...with living creatures...birds...beasts of the earth...man”  
(Genesis 1:4-27)

# Authority Demonstrated: Creation

“By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,  
And by the breath of His mouth all their host.  
He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap;  
He lays up the deeps in storehouses.  
Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.  
For He spoke, and it was done;  
He commanded, and it stood fast.”  
(Psalms 33:6-9, NAS95)

# Authority Demonstrated: Creation

“Yahweh by wisdom founded the earth,  
By discernment He established the heavens.  
By His knowledge the deeps were split up  
And the skies drip with dew.”

(Proverbs 3:19-20, LSB)

“By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”

(Hebrews 11:3, LSB)

# Authority Demonstrated: Salvation

“For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”

(2 Corinthians 4:6, LSB)

# Authority Demonstrated: Sanctification

“By wisdom a house is built,  
And by discernment it is firmly established;  
And by knowledge the rooms are filled  
With all precious and pleasant riches.”

(Proverbs 24:3-4, LSB)

“seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to  
life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him  
who called us by His own glory and excellence.

For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent  
promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine  
nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”

(2 Peter 1:3-4, LSB)

# Authority Demonstrated: Glorification

“for you have been born again not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. For, “ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER.” And this is the word which was proclaimed to you as good news.”

(1 Peter 1:23-25, LSB)

***The eternal word creates eternal life.***



# Authority Demonstrated: The Church

“but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”

(1 Timothy 3:15, LSB)

***The church doesn't define the Truth; it is defined by the Truth.***

# Authority Demonstrated: In You

“Their line has gone out through all the earth,  
And their utterances to the end of the world.

In them He has placed a tent for the sun,  
Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber;  
It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.

Its rising is from one end of the heavens,  
And its circuit to the other end of them;

And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

The law of Yahweh is perfect, restoring the soul;

(Psalms 19:4-7a, LSB)

# Authority Demonstrated: In You

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are uncovered and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we have an account to give.”

(Hebrews 4:12-13, LSB)

# Implications and Application

- ***Are the “bracketed” passages of Mark 16:9-20, John 7:53 - 8:11, John 5:3b-4 authoritative?***

Internal and external evidence give scholars virtual certainty that these passages were not part of the original manuscripts and are therefore not inerrant Scripture.

They generally summarize truths taught elsewhere in Scripture, but no doctrine or practices should be based solely on them (like snake handling in Mark 16:18).

# Implications and Application

- How is revelation connected to obedience? See Psalm 111:10, John 14:21
- How is your life a demonstration of the authority of God's word? See Psalm 119:56-60
- 1 Peter 4:10-11 - we are stewards of God's word
- Psalm 119:165 - my struggle. What's yours?

***Questions? Email [mark@calvaryem.org](mailto:mark@calvaryem.org)***

# Recommended Resources

