First Baptist Church of Fairburn
Systematic Theology
September 7, 2014

The Doctrine of the Word of God
“The Word of God”

A. “The Word of God” as a Person: Jesus Christ
   1. The Bible refers to the Son of God as “the Word of God.” The character of God and his will for us is communicated through the person, works, and words of Jesus Christ.
      a. John 1:1, 14 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God…And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”
      b. Rev. 19:13 – “He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.”

B. “The Word of God” as Speech by God
   1. God’s Decrees: Sometimes God’s words take the form of powerful decrees that cause events to happen or even cause things to come into being. A decree of God is a word of God that causes something to happen.
      a. Gen. 1:3 – “And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”
      b. Gen. 1:24 – “And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so.”
      c. Psalm 33:6 – “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.”
      d. Heb. 1:3 – “He [Jesus Christ] upholds the universe by the word of his power.”
   2. God’s Words of Personal Address: Sometimes God communicates with people on earth by speaking directly to them, in their own language. In these cases, it is clear to those listening that they are hearing the actual words of God. Therefore, they were hearing words that had absolute divine authority and were absolutely trustworthy.
      a. Gen. 2:16-17 – “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
      b. Ex. 20:1-3 – “And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. “You shall have no other gods before me…” (Ten Commandments).
      c. Matt. 3:17 – “And behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”
   3. God’s Words as Speech Through Human Lips: Frequently in Scripture, God raises up prophets through whom he speaks. While they are human agents, speaking in their native languages, the authority and truthfulness of these words is in no way diminished – they are still completely God’s words.
a. Deut. 18:18-20 – “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’

b. Jer. 1:9 – “Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.”

4. **God’s Words in Written Form (the Bible):** The Scriptures reveal that God’s words were put in written form, and they carried the same authority and weight as his spoken word. To disobey God’s written word is a serious sin and brings judgment from God.

   a. Ex. 31:18; 32:16 – “And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God...The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.”

   b. Isa. 30:8 – “And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever.”

   c. Jer. 30:2 – “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you.”

   d. 1 Cor. 14:37 – “If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.”

   e. 2 Pet. 3:2 – “That you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles.”

**C. The Focus of Our Study**

1. **Point:** The focus of our study in systematic theology is God’s Word in written form, the Bible. This is the form of God’s Word that is available for study, for public inspection, for repeated examination, and a basis for mutual discussion.

2. **Point:** It is most profitable to study God’s words as written in the Bible.

   a. Ps. 1:1-2 – “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.”

   b. Joshua 1:8 – “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

   c. 2 Tim. 3:16 – “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

**Next Study (9/21): Chapter 3 (Grudem) – “The Canon of Scripture”**