

THE BIBLE

God's Providential Preservation of the Scriptures

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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1. **God inspired the Scriptures to thoroughly equip the man of God for every good work, therefore it is God's sovereign will to _____ the Scriptures.**

*"In God's providence, the very _____ of the church, having elders in the position of teaching and admonishing and leading, requires it to have access to this God-breathed source of authority, the Scriptures."
- James White*

2. **Since the Scriptures are God-inspired, they are inerrant and infallible as given in the _____ manuscripts. God has providentially preserved these manuscripts.**
- a. Though we do _____ have any of the original manuscripts for the Scriptures, amazingly more than 5,700 Greek New Testament manuscripts are still in existence.
- b. Some numbers that need to be understood:
- 1) The Greek NT contains around _____ words.
- 2) There are as many as _____ variants among the manuscripts.

- 3) Over _____% of these variants have no effect on the wording of the original text.
- 4) Even those "meaningful" variants have _____ effect on any cardinal Christian doctrine or essential truth.

*"The abundance of variants is the result of the very large number of remaining NT manuscripts, which itself gives a _____, not weaker, foundation for knowing what the original manuscripts said."
- ESV Study Bible*

- 5) The original _____ of the Scriptures can be determined by textual critics with great accuracy.

3. **Existing translations that are produced by sound translation principles are trustworthy representations of the original manuscripts and can therefore be rightly called the Word of _____.**
- a. When Jesus and the apostles quoted from the Old Testament, they did not quote from original manuscripts but from a _____ translation.
- b. Christians should consider carefully the English _____ of the Scripture they use as they are being prepared and equipped for every good work.

Essentially Literal

Dynamic Equivalent

Paraphrase