

## The question of Scriptural inerrancy is moot

It has occurred to me that it really doesn't matter whether the Scriptures are "inerrant" or not. The result is the same. Theologians disagree on most important doctrines, regardless of their views on inerrancy.

There are literally thousands of different Christian denominations and sects, most of which subscribe to the doctrine of Scriptural inerrancy. They differ in significant ways on the requirements for salvation. The list of requirements include: 1. Belief in the substitutionary atonement, 2. Belief in the deity of Christ, 3. Water Baptism, 4. Repentance from Sin, 5. Receiving Jesus as personal Savior, 6. Belief in the bodily resurrection of Christ, 7. Producing a sufficient amount of good works, and 8. Continuing to believe and not "falling away." In addition to those supposedly "essential" doctrines, there are a host of less important doctrines on which they also disagree, relating to morality, Heaven and Hell, modes of baptism, eschatology, soul sleep, spiritual gifts, speaking in tongues, healing, miracles, tithing, homosexuality, abortion, politics, materialism, and many, many more.

Those who believe that the Scriptures are inspired by God, but not inerrant, also differ on the same doctrines, some holding more or less orthodox views and some not.

Does it seem odd to you that God, who is infinitely smarter than all of us, would be incapable of communicating to us in clear and unambiguous terms? Does it trouble you that the Bible does not convey truths in such a way as to avoid distortions due to errors in translation and interpretation? If I believed in a place called Hell, where "unbelievers" and "incorrect believers" are tortured for all eternity after they die, I would be deeply troubled by God's unwillingness to communicate the saving Gospel message in a format that is easily understood by all.

I believe that the Bible, when correctly understood and interpreted, teaches that God is the Savior of all men regardless of what they believe. Yes, there are benefits to believing in Christ, but all are saved, or will be saved, regardless. I believe this is what is expressed in 1 Timothy 4:10, that God *"is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe."*

To me, it is ironic that the correct interpretation of the Scriptures is that it is not necessary to interpret them correctly.