

Scriptural Authority

Student Name

School Name

Scriptural Authority

The distinction between scriptural authority and Biblical interpretation is important because it brings to bear the fallibility of man in comparison to the infallibility of God (Entwistle, 2015). Importantly, scripture is from God, and thus, it is perfect. It has full authority because it is from God, and because it is perfect (Entwistle, 2015). However, human beings are not like God in that human beings are often prone to making errors and mistakes. When human beings make those errors, they introduce imperfection and problems into scriptural reading (Entwistle, 2015). The distinction the author draws in his work is to demonstrate that although they may arise from a similar place, there is a difference between the authority that comes with scripture and the lack of authority that comes when human beings add in their own value judgments. Ultimately scripture, being from God, is supposed to be free from those biases and quirks that might make it more difficult to trust. However, when things are in human hands, even when they believe are being objective in their reasoning, it turns out that they are introducing their own thoughts. One can understand the importance of this distinction by imagining that human beings can poison the perfect words of God with their own fallibility, which makes it important to draw lines between these two things.

There are many examples of how this can play out. When scripture denotes that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of the needle than for a rich person to get into heaven, the Bible is being clear on the issue of the corrupting tendency of wealth. Human beings can get their hands on these words and add their own value judgments, which are often less than ideal. They can begin to add in their own concepts, including the prosperity doctrine, which has been taken by pastors like Joel Osteen and others to explain why wealth has no corrupting effect.

References

Entwistle, D. N. (2015). *Integrative approaches to psychology and Christianity: An introduction to worldview issues, philosophical foundations, and models of integration*. Wipf and Stock Publishers.