

Lesson 3-8

The Doctrine of Scripture

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

II Timothy 3:16-17, NIV

I. What are the various names and titles given to the Bible, the Word of God?

- A. THE BIBLE: The word “Bible” come from the Greek word *biblios* which simply means “book” (John 20:30; Heb. 10:7; Rev. 22:7, 9-10, 18-20).

Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God.’ ” Hebrews 10:7

The Bible is the Book of Books for it is one book consisting of 66 books. These 66 books are divided into two main sections, the Old Testament consisting of 39 books and the New Testament consisting of 27 books. It is still a best seller.

1. The book of Moses (Mark 12:26).
 2. The book of the prophets (Luke 3:4; 4:17; Acts 7:42).
 3. The book of David, the Psalms (Luke 20:42; Acts 1:20).
 4. The book of the law (Galatians 3:10).
- B. THE HOLY BIBLE: Although this term is never found in the Bible itself, it is a good term because it describes the nature of the Book of Books. The word “holy” means “separated.” This book is separated from all other books and has the ability to lead us to a Holy God. The Bible can be called the “holy book.”

1. It is a holy book when seen in contrast to all of the books of man.
2. It is a holy book because the human writers were “holy men of God” (II Pet. 1:20-21).

*...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but **holy men of God** spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

3. It is a holy book because it was inspired by the Holy Spirit (II Pet. 1:21).

4. It is a holy book because it tells of the way in which sinful man may approach a holy God, and how he might be made holy himself.
- C. THE SCRIPTURE: This word literally mean “writings” and refers specifically to the written nature of the Word of God as opposed to that which is oral (Matthew 21:42; 22:29; 26:54).

Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. Matthew 22:29

- D. THE WORD OF GOD: The Bible not only contains the Word of God, but it is the Word of God. It is God’s Word to His creation. It is God’s letter to man (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 4:12; I Th. 2:13).

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe...

I Thessalonians 2:13

Because the Bible is the Word of God it reflects the nature of God. A person’s word and a person’s name are synonymous.

1. God is faithful and so is His Word (I Cor. 1:9; II Pet. 1:19).

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. I Corinthians 1:9

*And so we have the prophetic word **confirmed** [a more sure word], which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts... II Peter 1:19*

This word means, “steadfast, sure, firm, stable or trustworthy.

2. God is incorruptible and so is His Word (I Pet. 1:22-23).

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...

3. God is eternal and so is His Word (I Pet. 1:25; Is. 40:8).

“All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever.” I Peter 1:24-25

4. God is powerful and so is His Word (Heb. 4:12; Ps.107:20; 147:18).

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. Psalm 107:20

5. God is holy and so is His Word (Rom. 1:2; II Tim. 3:15).

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God² which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures... Romans 1:2

6. God is creative and so is His Word (Ps. 33:6).

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

7. God is good and so is His Word (Iss 39:8; Heb. 6:5).

...and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come... Hebrews 6:5

8. God is righteous and so is His Word (Ps. 33:4).

For the word of the LORD is right, and all His work is done in truth.

9. God is true and so is His Word (Ps. 119:43,160).

The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever. Psalm 119:160

10. God is unchanging and so is His Word (Ps. 119:89).

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations.

11. God is light and so is His Word (Ps. 119:105).

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

12. God is spirit and so is His Word (John 6:63).

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life

13. God is fire and so is His Word (Heb. 12:29; Jer. 23:29).

“Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?” Jeremiah 23:29

14. God is pure and so is His Word (Ps. 119:140; Pro. 30:5).

Your word is very pure; therefore Your servant loves it. Psalm 119:140

*Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.
Proverbs 30:5*

15. God is the source of life and so is His Word (Ps. 119:50).

This is my comfort in my affliction, or Your word has given me life.

16. God is awe inspiring and so is His Word (Ps. 119:161).

Princes persecute me without a cause, but my heart stands in awe of Your word.

17. God is the source of hope and so is His Word (Ps. 130:5; 119:74, 81, 114).

Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, because I have hoped in Your word. Psalm 119:74

My soul faints for Your salvation, but I hope in Your word. Psalm 119:81

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word. Psalm 119:114

18. God is to be feared and so is His Word (Is. 66:2, 5).

For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist,” Says the LORD. “But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word. Isaiah 66:2

19. God never fails and neither does His Word (Is. 55:10-11; Jer. 1:12).

“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:10-11

- E. THE OLD AND THE NEW TESTAMENTS: The word “testament” means “will” or “covenant.” This book contains God’s heritage or God’s will to man (Ex. 24:7; II Cor. 3:14). The Bible gives of a record of God’s covenants with man and how man can enter into the provisions of those covenants.

Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.” And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.” Exodus 24:7-8

But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.

II Corinthians 3:14

- F. THE ORACLES OF GOD: The word “oracle” means “speaking place.” God presently speaks to us through Jesus Christ His Son (Heb. 1:1-2), but it is the Word of God that is the means through which He speaks. If we want to know what God says, we should consult the oracles of the Word of God (Rom. 3:2).

Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.

Romans 3:2

II. What does the Bible say concerning itself?

- A. The Bible claims to be divinely inspired (II Tim. 3:16; Ex. 17:14). The Bible says that all Scripture is literally “God-breathed.”

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God [lit. God-Breathed]. II Timothy 3:16

1. Moses understood that he was writing the word of God (Ex. 17:14; Deut. 4:2; 17:18; 18:18-20; 28:58).

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua...” Exodus 17:14

2. David understood that he was at times inspired to write (I Chr. 28:19).

“All this,” said David, “the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans.”

3. The various prophets recognized that they were speaking the very word of God.

- Jeremiah (1:9)

Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

- Isaiah (1:10)
- Ezekiel (2:7; 3:10)
- Daniel (10:9-10)
- Hosea (1:1)
- Joel (1:1)
- Amos (3:1)
- Obadiah (1:1)
- Micah (1:1)
- Habakkuk (2:2)
- Zephaniah (1:1)
- Haggai (1:1)
- Zechariah (1:1)
- Malachi (1:1)

The key phrases in the life of the prophets was, “The word of the Lord came...”, “The burden of the Lord came to...” and “Thus says the Lord...”

4. The New Testament writers indicate that they accepted the Old Testament writers as being inspired by God.
 - a. They continually use the Old Testament to prove or validate their teachings as if the authority of the Scriptures was unquestioned (Acts 2:16ff; 2:25, 29; 3:22, 24; Acts 15:15).

And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written...

Acts 15:15

- b. They state the fact of inspiration as it applied to the only Scripture that they had, the Old Testament (II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:20-21).

That no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. II Peter 1:20-21

5. The New Testament writers also claimed to be speaking the Word of God.
 - a. Jesus, who was the Son of God and who was sent from God, declared that He did not speak His own words but that all that He spoke came from God (John 12:47-50; 14:24; 17:8).

And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— the word that I

have spoken will judge him in the last day. ⁴⁹For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. ⁵⁰And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

John 12:47-50

- b. Paul who wrote most of the New Testament claimed that what he spoke were the very words of God (I Cor. 2:13; I Th. 2:13, See also II Th. 2:15; 3:14).

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. I Thessalonians 2:13

- c. John declared the faithfulness of his witness to the word (I John 1:3-4).

...that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

- d. Peter attests to the fact of inspiration (II Pet. 1:21).

- B. The Bible claims to be the final authority and, hence, the final court of appeal and only source and norm for all doctrine.

- 1. We are not to add anything to what God has said (Deut. 4:2; Josh. 23:6). This rules out all of those cults that place the books of other men or religious traditions on the same level as the Word of God (e.g. The Book of Mormon).

You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Deuteronomy 4:2

- 2. We are not to take anything away from the declarations of God (Rev. 22:18-19). This rules out all of those who accept only a portion of the Bible as having authority in their lives.

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

- 3. We are not to formulate doctrines that are contrary to the Word of God. All other authorities must submit to the declarations of the Word of God (Gal. 1:6-9).

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

- a. The church and its tradition must not be our source of doctrine (Mt. 15:9; Mark 7:1-13).

Jesus did not have much use for tradition if it nullified the Word of God. Whenever our traditions and the word of God disagree, we must abandon our tradition and go with the clearly revealed Word of God.

Read: Mark 7:1-13

- b. Our powers of reason or rationalism must not be the source of our doctrine. Many divine truths will never be discovered or be acceptable to the rational mind (I Cor. 2:14).

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

- c. Our experiences must not be that which determines our doctrine. There are such things as lying signs and wonders (Acts 8:9-10; II Th. 2:9).
- Simon appeared to be of God because of his miracles (Acts 8:9-10).
 - Satan can produce lying signs and wonders (II Th. 2:9).
 - We have something more sure than experiences (II Pet. 1:16-21).

Peter could have used his experience on the mount of transfiguration to be that which defined his doctrine. But he indicated that we have something more certain than the greatest of experiences.

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private

interpretation,²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. I Peter 1:16-21

- d. Private or prophetic revelations must not be the source of Christian doctrine. All such revelations or prophecy must be tested against the clear teaching of the Bible (Is. 8:19-20).

And when they say to you, “Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,” should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living?²⁰ To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

The written Word of God is the ultimate criterion for judging prophecy, dreams or other “revelations”. If the prophetic word is not in harmony with the Scripture it is to be rejected. Failure to do this can cause people to run the risk of placing prophecy on the same level as the Word of God. This will cause instability and will open the person up to being seriously misled.

- C. The Bible demands obedience as only God can expect (Luke 24:25-27; John 8:31-32; 12:48).

Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Luke 24:25

III. Why is the Bible necessary?

The Bible is absolutely necessary for man to have an intimate knowledge of God. If God would not reveal Himself to man, there would be no way in which man could know God.

- A. God has revealed Himself to man by primarily three avenues:

- 1. God has revealed Himself to man in **creation** (Rom. 1:18-23; Ps. 19:1-6).

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Romans 1:18-23

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. Psalm 19:1-2

- a. This source of revelation tells us that there is a God.
- b. This source of revelation demands that we respect and fear God.
- c. This source of revelation reveals His power.
- d. This source of revelation cannot reveal God's person, which is, His nature, character and attributes.
- e. If this is the only source of revelation on which we have to draw, it leads to idolatry or the worship of the creation of God rather than the God of creation (Romans 1:25ff.).

2. God has revealed Himself to man through the **conscience** (Rom. 2:11-16).

For God does not show favoritism. ¹² God will punish the Gentiles when they sin, even though they never had God's written law. And he will punish the Jews when they sin, for they do have the law. ¹³ For it is not merely knowing the law that brings God's approval. Those who obey the law will be declared right in God's sight. ¹⁴ Even when Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, instinctively follow what the law says, they show that in their hearts they know right from wrong. ¹⁵ They demonstrate that God's law is written within them, for their own consciences either accuse them or tell them they are doing what is right. ¹⁶ The day will surely come when God, by Jesus Christ, will judge everyone's secret life.
-NLT

- a. This source of revelation tells us that God is a moral being, that is, a being having laws or principles.
- b. This source of revelation is not always accurate because of man's fallen condition and the fact that his conscience may be faulty as a result (Tit. 1:15; I Tim. 4:2).

To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work. Titus 1:15-16

- They may have a defiled conscience (Tit. 1:15).
 - They may have a seared conscience (I Tim. 4:2).
- c. This source of revelation fails to reveal God's person or character.

- d. If this is the only source of revelation that we have to draw upon we will attempt to approach God by working righteousness which can never satisfy the demands of a holy God. To offend God in one point makes a man guilty of all. All of our righteousness is as filthy rags. The conscience can only be cleansed by the blood of Christ (Heb. 10:22).

*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled **from an evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water.*

3. God has revealed Himself to man by **divine intervention** (Heb. 1:1-2; Num. 7:89; II Sam. 23:2).

Now when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim; thus He spoke to him. Numbers 7:89

If man is to know God, God must take the initiative and reveal Himself to man. God has done this in His Word—the Bible. It is through the Word of God that we can know God's nature and the plan that He has for our lives.

- B. It is only by the means of the Scripture that we can know and experience salvation (II Tim. 3:15; Rom. 10:17).

They are able to make us *wise for salvation* (II Tim. 3:15).

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17)

1. It is the Scripture that gives us the testimony of the love of God incarnate, our redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 5:39; Luke 24:27, 44).
 2. It is by the hearing of the Word of God that faith comes alive in our hearts (Rom. 10:17; Acts 17:2-3).
 3. It is the Word of God that is the incorruptible seed that is planted into our hearts that leads to the new birth (Luke 8:11; I Pet. 1:23).
- C. The Scriptures are able to give us a confident hope for the future (Rom. 15:4). If we did not know God's nature and how to enter into His plan for us and eternal salvation, we would have nothing to which to look forward. We would truly be without hope and without God in the world.

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

IV. What are some symbols connected with the Word of God and what do they tell us?

- A. The Word of God is a **hammer** (Jer. 23:29). It is able to break up and make an impression on hard hearts.

“Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

- B. The Word of God is a **mirror** (Jam. 1:22-25). It reveals to man his true spiritual condition.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

- C. The Word of God is a **two-edged sword** (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12). It works for us to bring victory to our lives. It works on us to convict and divide (II Tim. 3:16; Jam. 1:23-24).

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor [lit. judge or critic] of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

- D. The Word of God is a **judge** (Heb. 4:12) (In the Greek, the word for “discerner” literally means “critic” or “judge”). The Word of God passes right judgment on the innermost nature of man. It is like an umpire or the one who calls the shots.

- E. The Word of God is **water** (John 15:3; Eph. 5:26). It refreshes, cleanses and purifies the soul from the defilements of sin.

- F. The Word of God is **seed** (Luke 8:11; I Pet. 1:22-23). It is sown in the heart to bring forth a spiritual harvest.

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, ²³having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever. I Peter 1:22-23

- G. The Word of God is **food** (Jer. 15:16). It is that which imparts strength to the spiritual man (Deut. 8:3; Ps. 119:103; Job 23:12).

Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

Jeremiah 15:16

1. It is milk for babes (I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-13).

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. I Peter 2:1-3

2. It is bread for the mature (Is. 55:1-2; Mt. 4:4).

So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. Deuteronomy 8:3

3. It is strong meat or solid food for the adult (I Cor. 3:2; Heb. 5:12-14).

4. It is as sweet and delightful as honey (Ps. 19:10; 119:103).

How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.

Psalm 119:103

- H. The Word of God is **a lamp** (Ps. 119:105; Pro. 6:23; II Pet. 1:19).

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

1. It imparts life to darkened man (John 6:63; II Cor. 3:18).
2. It exposes areas of sin in our lives (Heb. 4:12-13).
3. It gives direction and guidance (Pro. 6:22-23).

- I. The Word of God is **true riches** (Ps. 19:10; 119:72). It makes the possessor rich and wise.

The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver.

Psalm 119:72

- J. The Word of God is **a fire** (Jer. 20:9; 23:29).

Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name." But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones, I was weary of holding it back, and I could not. Jeremiah 20:9

1. It warms the heart.
2. It gives zeal for service.

3. It exposes the wood, hay and stubble in our lives (I Cor. 3:12-15).

V. What is meant by “plenary, verbal inspiration?”

- A. The word “plenary” means “full” or “complete.” Plenary inspiration means that the entire Bible is totally inspired by God.
 1. Inspiration does not merely apply to portions of the Bible, but it applies to the entire book.
 2. Inspiration does not merely apply to doctrinal issues, but it applies to every area covered.
- B. The word “verbal” means “relating to words.”
 1. Verbal inspiration means that God not only gave the subject matter to be recorded, but the very words that are used are inspired of God (Jer. 1:9; I Th. 2:13; I Chr. 28:11-12,19).
 2. Verbal inspiration does not mean that the writers were in a trance and that their personalities were totally overruled by the Spirit.
 3. Verbal inspiration means that the Scripture is perfectly inerrant (without error) in all of its words and every one of its words (John 10:35b; Mt. 5:17-19; Acts 24:14).

John 10:35 says that “*the Scripture cannot be broken*” or annulled.

Paul said that he believed “*all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets*” (Acts 24:14).

“For 40 different men to write 66 books in three languages over a period of 1600 years and have them become one harmonious book is humanly impossible. The unity and progression of thought together with the absence of contradiction indicates that the Bible really had only one author.”

--Kevin Conner

- C. The word “inspiration” means “God-breathed” (II Tim.3:16-17; II Pet. 1:21; II Sam.23:2).

VI. What is the difference between inspiration, illumination and revelation?

- A. **Revelation** is the act of communicating divine knowledge to man (Deut. 29:29). The Bible is not man’s thoughts about God, but God revealing Himself to man. In such a

case it would usually involve the communication of knowledge that could not otherwise be known.

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

- B. **Illumination** is the divine ability to understand that which is given by revelation (I Pet. 1:10-12; Luke 24:32, 45). Many of the prophets of old had revelation but did not have illumination on their revelation.

Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

- C. **Inspiration** of Scripture is the divine ability to write down revelation without making a mistake (II Pet. 1:21).

1. Inspiration has to do with the recording of the truth—the process.
2. Inspiration was the power that enabled men to write things accurately in a book (Ex. 17:14; Jer.30:2).

“Inspiration is the strong, conscious inbreathing of God into men, qualifying them to give utterance to truth. It is God speaking through men, and the Old Testament is therefore just as much the Word of God as though God spoke every single word of it with His own lips. The Scriptures are the result of divine inbreathing, just as human speech is uttered by the breathing through a man’s mouth.” -- Great Doctrines of the Bible, William Evans

- D. The believer receives **illumination** on the **revelation** which was given by **inspiration**.

VII. What are some proofs for the inspiration of the Scripture?

- A. There are many internal proofs for inspiration.
1. The Bible claims to be inspired (II Tim.3:15-16).
 2. The phrase “thus says the Lord” occurs over 2000 times. The phrase “God said” or “the Lord said” in one form or another occurs over 3800 times.

3. The Old Testament portions that are referred to in the New Testament are referred to in such a way as to indicate inspiration (Mt. 1:22; Heb. 3:7).

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying... Matthew 1:22

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice..."
Hebrews 3:7

4. Christ and the Apostles treated the Scripture as being inspired (Matthew 8:16-17).
5. There is great authority suggested in the phrase "it is written" (Mt. 4:7; Luke 4:10; Gal. 3:10).

B. There are also many external proofs for the inspiration of the Scriptures.

1. One of the greatest proofs is the fact of fulfilled prophecy.
 - a. Note a few messianic prophecies that were fulfilled, in some cases over 500 years after they were uttered.

- Christ to be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2; Mt. 2:1-8).
- Christ to be manifest after 483 years (Dan. 9:25; Mark 1:15).
- Christ to be sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:13; Mt. 26:14-15; 27:3-10).
- Christ to die by crucifixion (Ps. 22; Is. 53). (Note: Crucifixion as a form of execution was not even practiced when David wrote this Psalm).
- Christ's garments divided (Ps. 22:18; John 19:23; Mt. 27:35).
- Christ's burial with the rich (Is. 53:9; Mt. 27:57-60).

- b. Many other amazing prophecies of the Bible proved to be very accurate.

- The prophecy of Isaiah and Daniel concerning Cyrus and the fall of Babylon given over 100 years before it happened (Is. 44:28-45:1; Jer. 50-51; Dan. 1-5).

Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," and to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." ' "Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—to subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors... Isaiah 44:28-45:1

- Ezekiel 12:13 is a remarkable prophecy that was fulfilled to the letter (See: II Kings 25:7).

I will also spread My net over him, and he shall be caught in My snare. I will bring him to Babylon, to the land of the Chaldeans; yet he shall not see it, though he shall die there. Ezekiel 12:13

But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king [Zedekiah], and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him. ⁶So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they pronounced judgment on him. ⁷Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon. II Kings 25:7

How could Zedekiah be brought to the land but not see it? Because they put his eyes out before they brought him to the land!

- The prophecy of Jesus concerning the destruction of Jerusalem (Luke 21:20-24).

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²²For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

2. The miraculous spread of the Gospel is a proof of the truth of what is claimed.
3. The fact that no other religion in the world transforms men like Christianity attests to the validity and power of the Word of God.
4. The miraculous preservation of the Bible in spite of numerous attempts throughout history to destroy it attests to its validity.
5. The fact that the early apostles who would have known the truth or falsehood of the resurrection were willing to die rather than to forsake the truth attests to its validity. No one would be so willing to die for a lie.
6. The fact that the Bible records accurate scientific facts prior to their universal acceptance by the scientific community attests to the fact that this was composed by a mind that had and, indeed, has all of the hidden knowledge and wisdom.
 - a. The Bible tells us that the earth is round and hangs in space (Job 26:7; Is. 40:22).

He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.
Job 26:7

It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. Isaiah 40:22

- b. The Bible tells us that the winds have regular circuits and that rain clouds are only evaporated water (Job 36:26-29; Eccl. 1:6-7).

“Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him; nor can the number of His years be discovered. For He draws up drops of water, which distill as rain from the mist, which the clouds drop down and pour abundantly on man. Indeed, can anyone understand the spreading of clouds, the thunder from His canopy?” Job 36:26-29

The wind goes toward the south, and turns around to the north; the wind whirls about continually, and comes again on its circuit. All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; to the place from which the rivers come, there they return again. Ecclesiastes 1:6-7

- c. The Bible speaks of an empty place in the North (Job 26:7). Modern telescopes have found this to be true (i.e. the black hole).
- d. The Bible tells us that the stars are innumerable (Gen. 15:5; Heb. 11:12). Galileo was the first scientist to teach this.

Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. Hebrews 11:12

- e. The Bible is the only ancient book in the entire world that insisted on quarantining contagious diseases (Lev. 13:45-46).

NOTE: The Bible is not a scientific book, but when it makes a scientific statement, that statement can always be relied upon.

- 7. The fact that the Bible records accurate historical data which has only recently been accepted by modern researchers.
 - a. The discovery of the Hittite civilization (1906).
 - b. The discovery of proof of the four kings of Genesis 14 (1920).
 - c. The discovery of the city of Nineveh
 - d. Etc.

Doctrinal Statement

We believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the accepted canon of the Scriptures as originally given and that they are infallible and uniquely authoritative and free from error of any sort in all matters with which they deal, including scientific and historical as well as moral and theological issues.

**Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.
Psalm 1:1-3 – NKJV**