

Lesson 2 – Inspiration of the Scriptures

*All scripture [is] given by **inspiration** of God, and [is] profitable
for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
2Ti 3:16*

The Christian Faith is inseparably linked to the Bible. The Bible is the Divine Source of all that Christians believe. It is the reason we know that Jesus came and that we know what He taught. Without the Bible our faith would be guesswork at best and fraud at worst.

Throughout the past 2,000 years of human history, genuine Christians have believed the Bible is the *Inspired* Word of God. If we do not hold to the truths God revealed in the Bible, we do not hold to the Christian faith. If we cannot be sure of the Bible, we cannot be sure of who God is, who Christ is, or any other thing we hold to as Christians.

1. Definitions

- a. *Scripture* –
 - i. When used in the plural, it means the entire Bible – Old and New Testaments. – Matt. 21:42; 22:29
 - ii. When used in the singular, it refers to part of the Bible – Mark 12:10
- b. *Inspiration* –
 - i. Greek: *Theopneustos*
 1. *Theos θεος* = God
 2. *Pneustos πνευστος* = breath or breathed
 - ii. Therefore, the Scriptures are God-breathed, i.e., they came directly from God to man.
 - iii. God superintended the writing of the Bible so that every word came from Him.
- c. *Liberalism* (refers to Church Liberalism, not Political Liberalism)
 - i. A movement in many mainline protestant churches that doubts and/or denies the absolute truthfulness and authority of the Bible.
 - ii. They will often use a lot of the same words we use, but they redefine the words to mean something else.
 - iii. They might say they believe the Bible is inspired, but they don't mean it is God-breathed. Some would say the Bible is inspired in the same way that some of the great authors were inspired. They were thinking lofty thoughts. That means they were inspired, according to many liberal Protestants.
 - iv. When you contrast what they believe to the teaching of the Sourcebook of Christianity, you see that they have willfully rejected one of the basic, fundamental truths of the Christian faith.

2. What was Inspired

- a. The *autographs*, or original copies of the Scripture were inspired.
- b. *Manuscripts*, or copies of the Bible in the original languages have some variances. These variances are so minor that no major doctrine of Christianity is affected.

Lesson 2 – The Inspiration of the Scriptures

- c. *Versions*, or translations of the manuscripts in other languages are not guaranteed 100% accurate, but scholars and most pastors can read the manuscripts in the original languages and verify the accuracy of the various translations.
 - d. The thousands of copies of manuscripts and translations make it possible to recreate the teachings of the autographs with almost 100% certainty.
 - e. The variations among the manuscripts are so minute that no major doctrine of Christianity is affected in any way.
- 3. Verbal Plenary Inspiration**
- a. *Verbal* – inspiration goes down to the exact words used. (Matt. 4:4).
 - b. *Plenary* – it extends from Genesis to Revelation. Every part of it is inspired, or God-breathed.
- 4. The Bible’s claims to inspiration**
- a. “Thus says the Lord” appears over 3,800 times in the Old Testament
 - b. Inspiration of God – 2 Tim. 3:16
 - c. Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit – 2 Peter 1:20-21
- 5. Biblical evidence of inspiration**
- a. Unity of the Bible
 - i. The Bible was written by about 40 human authors over 1,500 years
 - ii. It has an amazing sense of unity from Genesis to Revelation.
 - b. Historically accurate
 - c. Geographically accurate
 - d. Archaeologically accurate
 - i. The existence of the Hittites
 - 1. The Hittites played a large role in Old Testament history, starting in Genesis 15:20
 - 2. For many years there was no archaeological evidence they existed, and infidels used the lack of evidence to “prove” the Bible was not true.
 - 3. In 1876 archaeologists began to uncover historical evidence that the Hittites were a great nation, and the Bible’s description of them was accurate.
 - e. Scientifically accurate
 - i. Round earth – Isa. 46:22
 - ii. Blood carries life to the body – Lev. 7:17
 - 1. Ancient Greeks thought that disease was often caused by too much blood or bad blood.
 - 2. Discovered by William Harvey in 1616
 - iii. The Earth is suspended in space – Job 26:7
 - 1. Many ancients believed the earth was carried on the back of a huge animal.
 - iv. Uncountable number of stars in the Universe – Jer. 33:22
 - 1. Ancient Greeks and Romans thought there were around 1,050 stars
 - v. Circulation of the atmosphere – Ecc. 1:6
 - f. Fulfilled prophecy – Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 53
- 6. Jesus’ teaching on inspiration**
- a. He believed and taught that every word in the Scripture came from the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4
 - i. Liberal Protestants don’t believe this, yet they claim to follow Jesus.

Lesson 2 – The Inspiration of the Scriptures

- b. He blasted the religious leaders (the people who should have known better) for not knowing the Scriptures – Matt. 22:29
- 7. **The Apostles' understanding of inspiration**
 - a. It was commonly understood that the Bible was given by the Holy Spirit through the human authors – Acts 1:16
- 8. **Why a correct understanding of inspiration is so important**
 - a. The Bible gives us a standard by which we can judge between right and wrong in all areas of life.
 - b. If we do not have a clear understanding of inspiration, we don't have assurance that Christianity is true – Isaiah 8:20
 - c. If we do not have a clear understanding of inspiration, we end up with a do-it-yourself kind of religion.

This great old hymn, which, unfortunately, a lot of Christians don't even know any more, tells it all:

The Bible Stands

The Bible stands like a rock undaunted
Mid the raging storms of time;
Its pages burn with the Truth eternal,
And they glow with the Light sublime.

The Bible stands like a mountain tow'ring
Far above the works of men
Its truth by none ever was refuted,
And destroy it they never can.

The Bible stands and it will forever
When the world has passed away.
By inspiration it has been given
All its precepts I will obey.

The Bible stands every test we give it
For its Author is divine
By grace alone I expect to live it,
And to prove it and make it mine.

CHORUS

The Bible stands though the hills may tumble
It will firmly stand when the earth shall crumble
I will plant my feet on its firm foundation,
For the Bible stands.

A popular poem expressed it well

Lesson 2 – The Inspiration of the Scriptures

The Anvil of God's Word

Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then, looking in, I saw upon the floor
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one," said he, and then, with twinkling eye,
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, thought I, the anvil of God's Word,
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed--the hammers gone.