

Class # 4
“The Bible: God’s Word, Part 2”

(I) INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES

Since all faith and practice in the Christian walk is derived from the Scriptures, we will do well to understand what the Bible says about itself. We will begin our study by examining the Scriptures in the hope of understanding how God communicates to us and what our response should be. We will be defining and using words which we will be using in our study concerning God's Word to us.

The word Bible simple means 'Books', while Scripture means "writings." When Biblical writers referred to the Scripture they were speaking of a specific body of writings: The Word of God. Jesus as well as the Apostles recognized these writings to have come directly from God.

Have the students read the scriptures following the explanations and insights you just read. Have them fill in the blanks when it applies.

(II) II TIMOTHY 3:16 SAYS

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

A. All Scripture is inspired by God. (II Tim. 3:16)

2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV) ¹⁶ All Scripture is (inspired KJV) God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

1. Inspired means God-Breathed.
 - a. Not meaning Scripture to be 'inspiring' like other literature.
 - b. This is the out-working of God.
 - c. Not that God only works 'through' Scripture.
 - d. These are actually the words of God.
- B. Scriptures are profitable for:
 1. Teaching
 - a. Common sense living (Proverbs)
 - b. About the personality of God
 - c. About the condition of man
 2. Reproof and Correction
 - a. False ideas about God and false worship practices.
 - b. False ideas about man's personality and purpose.
 - c. False ideas about values and standards of living.

3. Training in Righteousness
 - a. By teaching correct method of relationship to God.
 - b. By teaching proper values and behavior.
4. Training For Service (Ministry)
 - a. How God would be served.
 - b. Service towards fellow man (poor, etc.)
 - c. Operation and purpose of the church.

(III) WHAT EXACTLY DO WE MEAN BY INSPIRATION?

- A. That the original Scripture is totally free from error.
 1. It means that Scripture therefore is infallible.
 2. That everything is accurately recorded, not that everything is "true."
 - a. Satan lied to Eve.
 3. Assures us of supernatural intervention to prevent error.
 - a. Luke reports his accumulated information. (Luke 1)
 - b. Chronicles and Kings report history.

(IV) WHAT DO WE MEAN BY REVELATION?

- A. God "Revealing" Himself to man.
 1. Word means "unveiling"
- B. God does this in a 'general' way.
 1. Through nature (the stars declare Your handiwork).
 2. Through conscience (Romans 1)
- C. General revelation has limits.
 1. It is not infallible.
 - a. Fallen nature darkens our minds.
 - b. Sin has bias against truth. (Rom 1:28)

Romans 1:28 (NIV)

²⁸ Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

- c. Minds are limited.
- D. Does not teach us about redemption.
 1. If we were sinless general revelation might be sufficient.
 2. Conscience deals with law, justice and wrath.
 3. Christianity's distinctive feature: Salvation.

(V) HOW DOES GOD THEN SPEAK TO US?

- A. Through His Word
 - 1. Knowledge which we cannot know except God convey it.
 - 2. Teaches us of sin, fall, Trinity, incarnation, redemption, Satan, Eternal life, etc.
 - 3. Discloses new truth not accessible to the ordinary or unaided mind.

(VI) HOW DID GOD CONVEY HIS WORD?

- A. Sometimes in audible voice.
 - 1. i.e. Commandments to Moses.
- B. Sometimes by dictating to prophets.
- C. Sometimes through visions.
- D. By supernaturally preserving tribes, researchers from error.
- E. By actually writing. (i.e. Ten Commandments)
- F. Through personalities writing spontaneously.

"Thus saith the Lord" is used 359 times in Scripture, but could actually be placed before every book, chapter, paragraph, sentence, word, and letter.

(VII) THE BIBLE ON THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURES

Have the students read these scriptures in a circle around the room, noting their insights, observations, reactions and questions.

(A) Exo. 19:7 "...and laid before their faces all these words which the Lord commanded him."

(B) Exo. 20:1 "And God spake all these words."

(C) Exodus 24:4, 12 "And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Come up to Me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them'."

(D) Exodus 25:21 "...the testimony, which I shall give thee."

(E) Exodus 31:18 "...stones...written with the finger of God."

(F) Exodus 32:16 "...stones...written with the finger of God."

(G) Job 23:12 "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food."

(H) Isaiah 34:16 "Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read: No one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate, for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them."

(I) Jeremiah 30:2 "Thus speaketh the Lord God of Israel, saying; 'Write thee all the word that I have spoken unto thee in a book'."

(J) Jeremiah 36:1-2 "...This word came unto Jeremiah from the Lord, saying; 'Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words I have spoken unto thee...'. "

(K) Daniel 10:21 "but I will shew thee that which is noted in the Scripture of truth. (Spoken by an angel)"

(L) Hosea 8:12 "I have written him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing."

(M) Zech. 7:12 "Yea, they make their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the Lord of hosts hath sent in by the former prophets..."

(N) Matt. 22:31 "But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying..."

(O) Scripture is the transmission of God's Word to us, through the Holy Spirit, through the prophets.

(P) Luke 1:70 "As he spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began."

(Q) Acts 1:16 "Men and brethren, this Scripture must needs be fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus."

(R) Hebrews 1:1, 2 "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds."

(S) 2 Peter 1:19-21 "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts; knowing first that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any interpretation, for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

(VIII) 2 TIMOTHY 3:16 ON INSPIRATION

2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed (inspired KJV) and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

(A) SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE FOR

(1) Teaching

- (a) Common sense living (Proverbs)
- (b) About the personality of God. (What God wants us to know.)
- (c) About the condition of man.

(2) Reproof and correction

- (a) False ideas about God and false worship practices.
- (b) False ideas about man's personality and purpose.
- (c) False ideas about standards and values.

(3) Training in righteousness

- (a) By teaching correct method of relationship with God.
- (b) By teaching proper values and behavior.

(IX) REVELATION IS GOD'S SELF-DISCLOSURE OF HIMSELF

(A) "Thus saith the Lord," appears 359 times in Scripture, could be put before all chapters, books, and verses.

(B) IT IS NOT:

(1) Mechanical writing or any process by passing human mind

- (a) 2 Peter 3:2 Apostles knew they were writing God's commandments.

2 Peter 3:2 (NIV)

² I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

(2) Obliterating of personality, style, or outlook of those used to pen Scripture.

