

Inspiration of God

Open your Bibles to 2 Timothy 3:16 as we will be spending some time today analyzing the first part of that verse. There the apostle Paul writes: **(2 Tim 3:16) All scripture is given by inspiration of God....**

These are some of the final words of the Apostle Paul to the young man Timothy. Timothy was a young Christian and more than that he was a young preacher. Here Paul is confronting him with what God expected of him as a faithful minister of the gospel. In essence, Paul is telling him to preach the word. **(2 Tim 4:2) Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.** Paul instructs him to preach the word and “the word” he has reference to is the “word of God” the “Holy Scriptures.” Paul reminds Timothy that from a youth he had known the Holy Scriptures that are able to make him wise unto salvation. So Timothy has the responsibility to preach faithfully the word of God; not opinions, not his ideas, not what he may think to be correct, but to preach the word faithfully and truthfully to those who hear. To explain why that is so important, Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16 explains the real nature of scripture/why it’s so special.

One reason the Bible is special is because it **is an amazing book.** It is a book that has some forty different authors. Men wrote it from almost every walk of life: kings, prophets, priest, farmers, fisherman and while all these different people were involved in the writing of the Bible, there was another sense in which it has only one author. I find that amazing; 40 authors and yet only one author.

It is a book that is composed of 66 different books and yet it is only a single volume. These 66 different books were composed by these 40 different authors over a period of 1600 years on two different continents with different languages. These authors wrote at different times, different cultures, different governments and most of which never met one another. Yet in spite of that, there is one book with one central theme that focuses on one central personality. That central theme of scripture is Jesus Christ. It has been said that the theme of the OT is, “*He is coming.*” The theme of the gospels (first 4 NT books) is, “*He has come.*” The theme of the remainder of the NT is “*He’s coming again.*”

You put all these things together, a book with one author and at the same time 40 authors, a book consisting of 66 different volumes yet only one volume with one theme, you must conclude that the Bible is truly an amazing book. But it is more than that.

Secondly, It is a unique book. There is no other book like it. Paul explains v 16 that there is no other book ever written that can make the claim that the Bible makes. He tells Timothy to preach the word of God because every scripture (all scripture) is given by inspiration of God. You see, the Bible is unique because it is the word of God. **(1 Thessalonians. 2:13), when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.** He is simply saying that this book is more than the word of men; it is the word of God. That’s why it is so precious and so valuable and why we ought to love and appreciate it. That’s why we ought to study and memorize it. **This book teaches us how to live.** Maybe that’s why David wrote in *Psalms 119, Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.* It is God’s book thus making it the greatest book of all times.

In our text, Paul takes us into the classroom and explains to us what this matter of inspiration is all about. As God’s people, it’s important for us to understand this principle because if we don’t understand what inspiration involves, we will never have a great deal of use for the word of God. If you have questions and doubts about who its author is, it will never have much of an impact on your life. But when you understand the real meaning of inspiration, then this book will be more important to you than any other book.

Paul begins this verse by saying *ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPRIATION OF GOD*. Notice the end of that phrase...given by inspiration of God. These five words translate from a single word in the original language. It is a compound word. It is a word made up for the term GOD (*theos*) from which we get our word theology which means the study of God or the nature of God. Then there is the word for breath (*peno*). It's the term from which we get our word pneumonia. You know when someone has pneumonia, they have a respiratory problem, they have a breathing problem. So this compound word is from the words meaning God and Breath. Simply put, this word means that all scripture is GOD BREATHED. It originated with God himself. That's the Bible claim for itself. God breathed his thoughts into the hearts of man who wrote it down.

Some object to that reasoning and say, "You Christians when you talk about the Bible argue in a circle because all you do is tell us what the Bible claims for itself and as far as we are concerned, that's not good enough."

Well, there are other lines of evidence for the inspiration of the Bible. But it is important to know what the Bible claims for itself. *Let's suppose that a fellow came in here and we didn't know who he was or where he came from. We really wanted to know that information. So we brought in scientist and he took a sample of DNA and he did some analysis and testing. Then we brought in a dental expert and he looked at the man's teeth and he took some x-rays and then he compared that data with some dental records. And we brought in a handwriting expert to compare his handwriting with other samples from different places. Then we recorded his voice and had a voice expert analysis that recording pattern. Then we get all those experts together to study their information and finally they conclude by saying we believe this is who he is and this is where he is from. Maybe they could come up with the right conclusion, but you know the simplest thing to do would be ask the man, "Who are you and where are you from?"*

The same thing is true with regard to the Bible. You can look at other lines of evidence for the inspiration of scripture. There is evidence within/without the Bible. You can look at its scientific accuracy; you can consider it's historically accuracy; you can notice how all the Bible prophecies were fulfilled in detail. All those things proof without a shadow of a doubt that the Bible is inspired. But what does the Bible say about itself? If God gave us an inspired book to guide and direct us in life and to show us the way to heaven, He would let us know within the pages of that word that it was indeed from him. And that's exactly what the Bible says. It's says with regard to itself that all scripture, every word is given by inspiration of God. It is God Breathed.

Not only that, the Bible interprets for us what it means by inspiration. It's referring to authorship; the amazing thing is that as you read through the Bible you will note that it claims to have a dual authorship, a two-fold authorship. Every book, every passage, every word was written by at least two individuals. There is the human side and there is the divine side. Notice Matthew 1:22. This is where the angel appeared to Joseph and announced to him that Mary is going to have a child. He is announcing the birth of the Savior/explained that the child would have no earthly father and that the birth would be a virgin birth. The angel then cites a passage from Isaiah 7:14 which predicted the virgin birth of Christ. Notice what he says in ***(Matthew 1:22) Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet.*** Notice the wording, it was spoken of (or by) the Lord but it was spoken by (or through) the prophet. It was the word of God delivered by man. God was the origin of the message and source of the prophecy but the man was the human instrument through which it came.

Go back to the book of Acts. After Christ ascended back into to heaven and the apostles were waiting in Jerusalem and Peter stands up and speaks concerning the prophecy in Psalms 41:9 and he says in ***(Acts 1:16) Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas*** Who spoke it? The Holy Spirit did. How did he speak it? He spoke it through the mouth of David. We can see then the human and divine authorship and that's true of all of God's word.

There is the DIVINE SIDE of the authorship given by God himself. Remember back in Matthew 10:19-20, the Lord Jesus is speaking to his disciples just before he sends them out on limited commission. He warns them that they are in for some rough times ahead; there is going to be opposition; you're going to be arrested and brought

before governors and kings. Then he tells them that when that happens, they were not to worry about how or what they will speak (*Matthew 10:19*)... ***for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. (20) For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.*** God will give them the message. God is the author, the divine side of inspiration.

There is also the HUMAN SIDE of inspiration. God used men to write the message down. Someone argues that if that's the case, then there is no way that the Bible is infallible, without mistakes because men are imperfect. It's true that man is fallible and makes mistakes. Even the writers of the Bible made mistakes. You think about ole Simon Peter. There was that evening when Jesus was arrested and Peter's faith just collapsed. That evening in the courtyard he denied Jesus three times and the last he swore that he never knew Jesus.

Paul himself was also fallible. He started out as a great persecutor of the church and stood in opposition to the Lord Jesus Christ. People are fallible so some claim there is no way the Bible is without error. What these people overlook is the fact that when they wrote on God's behalf God directed them and guided them so that they made no mistakes. God oversaw the process but that does not mean that God removed their personalities all together. As you read through the pages of scripture, it is obvious that the personalities of the writers show through. For instance, you read the book of Jeremiah and you see his compassion and tender heart. In fact, his compassion has led some to refer to Jeremiah as the "weeping prophet."

In the NT book of Luke, his background as a physician shows through. God revealed his word in a marvelous way. He guided the writers so that what they put down was absolute accurate, yet He did it through the personality of the individual. *Someone has said that the writing of the Bible is like a man creating a beautiful stain glass window. He selects the color of the glass, the shape of the glass and the size of the glass so that when the light reflects through it gives the desired effect.* And that's the way that God selected the writers of his word. He chose men who would produce the desired effect when the light of his word shown through. When Peter wrote, he wrote as a fisherman; when Paul wrote, he wrote as a scholar; when Amos wrote, he wrote as a farmer. God chose the right man for the right occasion and right situation to produce the desired effect. In that we see the marvelous of God.

Turn over to (*2 Peter 1:20*) ***Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. (21) 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.*** This passage tells us how the writings came about. Notice it says that no scripture is of private interpretation, it did not originate in the mind of man. It originated in the mind of God. These men didn't just sat down and decided to write a book and have it put in the Bible. It didn't work that way. Man did not decide to write. Instead they were selected by God and God inspired them, guided them so that they wrote without error. So verse 21 goes on to say that they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The word "MOVED" carries with it the idea of a boat being moved along by a gentle wind through the water. The wind would catch the sails and move that boat. So, Peter is simply saying that's the way inspiration works. The H.S. caught the sails of these men and guided them, directed them and gave them the words to speak.

We have an infallible God; a God that makes no errors, a perfect God who has revealed unto us a perfect, infallible word. It is a supernatural inspiration. That simple means that the most important thing in life is for you to not only understand what this book teaches, but to obey it.

Doesn't it make sense to you that if there is a God, and there is, and if he loved us enough to send his Son to die for us, and He did, that He would in some way seek to communicate to us His will for us, and He did. That communication is in His word, the Bible.

I hope it is your desire to study and understand what that word is and obey it to the best of your ability. I hope you will grow in your understanding and that you will spend time pouring over the word of God. *Gene Stallings one time encouraged a banquet of young athletes that whatever walk of life they wanted to be and*

succeed in, they need to spend at least one hour a day in preparation. That's good advice for the child of God regarding God's word.

If you are not a Christian, you need to understand how to become a child of God. You see, Paul told Timothy back in verse 15 that from a child he had know the scriptures that were able to make you wise unto salvation. That's God's purpose for giving scripture. The Bible teaches that a person is to:

Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God
You must repent of your sins
You must confess your faith in Christ
You must be immersed in the waters of baptism.

At that point, he will wash your sins away and add you to his family, the church. Do you need to respond to the Lord's invitation?