

All Scripture is Inspired By God

2 Timothy 3:16

Introduction

1. Over the centuries there has been much conflict and debate on how the scriptures came to us and how they are to be viewed.
2. One of the great benefits of the bible is that it answers all of those questions for us. Of course whether or not we are willing to accept those answers is up to us.
3. 2 Tim. 3:16 is one such verse that gives great insight into what exactly the bible is, how we are to view it, and our responsibility to it.
4. *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for proof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (vs. 16).*

Discussion

I. What Is Inspiration?

- A. Inspiration is the method in which God revealed His word to his prophets and eventually to His people.
 1. There are several “methods” of inspiration that men use in their vocabulary.
 2. Most of the time the scriptural method or definition of authority is mixed up with the more popular uses of the word.
- B. False claims or definition of Inspiration
 1. “Inspired Concept theory” - “God revealed a basic concept and the writers were free to explain it as best they could.”
 2. “God chose men who had good cultural insight during their time and had them write things that would be profitable for life”
 3. “God “inspired” men to write by provoking their emotions with goodness, but it is just the word of men.”
- C. Scriptural definition of Inspiration
 1. 2 Peter 1:20 – “Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Spirit.”
 - a. How were they moved by the Spirit?
 - b. Notice they spoke as they were moved, or they spoke in the manner that the Spirit directed them, not in their own manner.
 2. 2 Sam. 23:2 – “*The Spirit of the Lord spoke by men and His word was on my tongue.*”
 - a. It does not say, “His concepts were on my mind and my own words were on my tongue.”
 - b. See the emphasis on “His word was on my tongue.”
 - c. This does not leave room for the “inspired concept theory.” Rather, men spoke the exact words that God gave them to speak.
 3. This process of inspiration is summed up in Zechariah 7:12:
 - a. The Lord > The Spirit > the Prophets > the People
 - b. Notice also that the people in this passage were condemned for listening and not doing what was written in the law and the prophets.

II. How Is the Bible Inspired? (seeking to avoid accountability)

- A. Many admit that the prophets were inspired, but they avoid accountability by claiming that what they wrote has no authority today.
 - 1. Let them use that excuse before a court of law when they are on trial for stealing.
 - 2. “Yes your honor, the price was written on the price tag, but no body told me to my face that I had to pay for it.”
- B. The Bible is inspired because these men that spoke the exact words of God, they also wrote those very same words.
 - 1. Ex. 34:27 – “Write thou these word.”
 - 2. Deut. 17:18, 19 – If what is written is not authoritative, how will it teach us to fear the Lord all of our lives?
 - 3. Rev. 1:11 – “write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia”
- C. Isa. 30:8 – The reason for writing it down.
 - 1. Many people try to diminish the value of what is written, at the same time there life is run by what is written
 - a. A verbal contract is void in a court of Law, but a written contract is substantial evidence.
 - b. Stodamire was ruled innocent because the police didn’t have a “written warrant” to search his house.
 - c. The phrase, “I will not believe it until I see it in black and white,” shows without a doubt the great emphasis on the written word verses the spoken word.
 - 2. The Bible is inspired because it is the same word that the inspired prophets spoke by their mouth; it is the written word of God.

III. O.T. and N.T. Claims of Inspiration

- A. Old Testament Claims of Inspiration
 - 1. Ex. 34:27 – “Write down these words.”
 - 2. Jer. 36:4 – Jeremiah had Baruch “*write all the words of the Lord which he had spoken to him.*”
 - a. Vs. 28. These were the same words that were to be read in the house of God.
 - b. If the written word is not as authoritative, why then would Jeremiah have it read in the temple in his place?
 - 3. We could go on like this all week if we desired because the Old Testament alone has around 3,800 claims or statements of inspiration. The phrase, “Thus saith the Lord,” (or its equivalent) occurs over 2,000 times in the OT.
- B. New Testament Claims of Inspiration
 - 1. 1 Peter 1:22-25 – incorruptible.
 - 2. Gal. 1:11, 12 – It came through the revelation of Jesus Christ
 - 3. Eph. 3:1-4 – “by which when you read you may understand.”

IV. What Jesus Viewed As Inspired?

- A. Red letter Christians claim, “The only inspired words in the bible are the words that Jesus spoke, the “red letter words.”
 - 1. The “red letter words” state that men ought to have known the truth by the writings of Moses and the Prophets (Lazarus and the Rich man)
- B. According to the “red letters” we must accept those who Jesus sent with the Lord’s word

1. These who are sent are the apostles and prophets that wrote the books of Acts through Revelation (John 16:13-15).
 2. Gal. 1:11-12 - The apostle Paul who was spoken to by Christ (Acts 9:1-9) and was set aside by Christ to preach to the gentiles (verse 15) wrote only what came through the revelation of Jesus Christ (the Red Letters).
 3. By the word of Christ the epistles that we have heard and preach today are as inspired as every other passage in the Holy Scriptures.
 4. It is with this inspiration that the Book of Revelation is addressed to the seven churches of Asian and to every other church that will hear it.
- C. Some may ask, "Why is it so important that we know all of this?"
1. All scripture, being divinely inspired, is profitable for teaching. Teaching about what?
 - a. Teaching about God, who He is, what He wants.
 - b. Teaching about man, the sin that he is in
 - c. Training in righteousness
 - d. Teaching about how to be free from our sin, how to live godly
 - e. Teaching about everything that pertains to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)
 2. These same scriptures are profitable for reproof.
 - a. Think about how hard it would be to teach people and to reprove them with the scriptures if there were no scriptures.
 - b. How could the scriptures be useful for correcting those who have gone off from the word if it was not written down for us? How would we know if they had gone off?
 3. That the man of God may be adequate (perfect)
 - a. Perfect as in free from sin, pure, holy. Perfect as in wise, righteous, like Christ.
 - b. The man of God can only be perfect if he is willing to use His inspired word for teaching, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness.
 4. Will you submit to this word and be baptized being made perfect by the word of God?

Conclusion

1. The Bible is God's inspired word.
2. If we believe in God, let us believe in the authority of His word. If we respect God, let us also respect the instructions and limitations He has given us in His word.
3. His word is truth (John 17:17).