

**Subject: *God's Inspired Word, Part 1***

**Scripture: *2 Timothy 3:16-17***

Our text refers to the inspiration of Scripture, that it is inspired by God. The starting place in Christian growth and service is a firm conviction that the Bible is the Word of God. Everything rises or falls on your view of the Bible. Even your salvation depends on what the Bible says. "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." So much of what we believe depends on the inspiration of Scripture: the *authority* of the Bible, the *accuracy* of the Bible, and the *ability* of the Bible all are based on the fact that it is inspired by God. The Bible is not the book of the month. It's the Book of the Ages! How do we know the Bible is the Word of God? We are going to look at four areas: the meaning of inspiration, and also the mention, the method, and the marks (proofs) of inspiration. We will deal with the first two in this message and then follow up with the last two next time.

**1. The MEANING of Inspiration**

*Verse 16* literally means "All Scripture is God-breathed." When a person speaks, his breath makes words. The words of scripture are literally the words of God, breathed out by Him. This is how God created the world. He spoke and everything came into existence, *Psalms 33:6* *By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.* In last week's message we spoke about revelation, how God revealed truth to us in the His Word. Revelation is not the same as inspiration. Revelation is truth that God wants us to know about Himself and His plan. Inspiration is the process how God recorded the truth for us in written form. Revelation refers to the finished product. Inspiration refers to the process. The Bible says that "all scripture" is given by inspiration of God. That means everything that is written from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22.

**2. The MENTION of Inspiration**

Many verses describe the Bible as a book that comes from God and not man.

- *2 Timothy 3:15* *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*
- *2 Peter 1:20-21* <sup>20</sup> *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. <sup>21</sup> 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.*
- *Romans 3:2* *Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.*
- *Matthew 4:4* *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*
- *John 17:17* *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*
- *Hebrews 4:12* *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
- *Colossians 3:16* *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

- **Ephesians 6:17** *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*
- **Psalms 19:7-9** <sup>7</sup> *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.* <sup>8</sup> *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.* <sup>9</sup> *The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.* Notice the repeated phrase “of the LORD.” He is the source of all Scripture.
- **Proverbs 30:1-6** <sup>1</sup> *The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,* <sup>2</sup> *Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man.* <sup>3</sup> *I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.* <sup>4</sup> *Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?* <sup>5</sup> *Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.* <sup>6</sup> *Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.*

These verses speak of God’s general revelation and His special revelation. Through general revelation (nature) we can know the WHAT of creation, but only through special revelation (scripture) can we know the WHO.

Many times a verse of scripture begins with: “Thus saith the LORD.” When God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses, the Bible introduces this way:

- **Exodus 20:1** *And God spake all these words, saying...*

What is the big deal about Scripture being inspired by God? Why is it so important? We need to have absolute confidence in the Bible. Look again at 2 Timothy 3:1-7. We are living in “perilous times” (dangerous days). The Bible describes the attitudes and actions of the last days. He paints a dark picture, but we are seeing this play out in our world every day. All scripture is inspired, but not all of it is inspiring. A lot of scripture is depressing, frightening, and alarming.

Notice that Paul is not ranting and raving about the evils of the end times. He is just stating the facts and warning us. In verse 7, God says that people will know a lot, but be ignorant of the truth. Then in verse 13, He says it is going to get worse before it gets better.

And then he closes this chapter by reminding Timothy (vs. 14-17) that the holy scriptures are sufficient for salvation and living the Christian life because they are inspired by God. Right at the heart of this practical section is verse 15, where Paul reminds young Timothy that the scriptures are “able to make us wise unto salvation.”

- The Bible makes us wise enough to know we are sinners (the Law reveals sin). Paul said, “I had not known sin but by the law” (Rom. 7:7).
- The Bible makes us wise enough to know that God is the only God and His Son Jesus is the only Lord and Savior. **1 Timothy 2:5** *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*
- The Bible makes us wise enough to know that we must turn from our sin (repent) and trust Christ as Lord and Savior (2 Tim. 3:15).

- The Bible makes us wise enough to know how to live for Him each day until we get to Heaven.

What should we remember about inspiration? When the Bible speaks, God speaks. And for that reason we can depend on it. We can read it, study it, believe it, obey it and share it with confidence and humility.

John Rippon served as Pastor of Carter's Lane Baptist Church in London, England, for 63 years, beginning in the year 1775. Now that's a long time to be pastor of the same congregation. As I read that I wondered how he could serve faithfully for that long a time. The answer must be that He trusted God for his own needs and the needs of the church and He depended on God's Word for guidance and strength. He wrote the words to this great hymn:

### **How Firm a Foundation**

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say, than to you He hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*