

Systematic Theology session 4  
Scripture: God-Breathed, Part 2

- Scripture is God-breathed. Only after that fact is accepted can we go on to other attributes of Scripture.
- The Scriptures are inspired by God. Men did write the Scriptures, but they are first and ultimately from God.
  - The Scriptures did not ultimately arise from the will of man. Men were “carried along” by the Holy Spirit in their writing. Scripture is not the word of man, it is the word of God.
  - The human writers were in a sense, both active and passive in the writing of Scripture.
    - The human writers were not entirely passive, as though they simply took dictation like a court reporter, or were performing the occult practice of “automatic writing.”
    - But, the human writers were “carried along” by the Holy Spirit, so that the words did not originate from their own will; it is the word of God.
    - God prepared the human writers for their task of writing Scripture.
  - The three views of divine inspiration:
    - “Dynamic view”: God simply inspired the human writer, making him a religious prodigy, but the words of Scripture are just those man’s words (false view).
    - “Mechanical view”: The human writer took dictation (false view).
    - “Organic view”: The Holy Spirit dwelt within these men and taught them what to write. God determined what the personality and style of each author was to be, and he determined it for the purpose of expressing his message, his words. The words of Scripture, therefore, are the very words of God (true view).
  - The inspiration of the Scriptures is plenary and verbal. All of the Scripture is equally inspired (plenary), and the very words used are inspired (verbal).