

Subject: *God's Inspired Word, Part 4*

Scripture: *Acts 17:1-12*

We have been thinking about God's inspired Word and what the Bible means when it says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Tim. 3:16). We have considered some important topics related to inspiration.

Can we trust the Bible? How do we know for sure it is the inspired Word of God? We are taking a look at the proofs or marks of inspiration.

1. The ABILITY of God's Word

- It has power in salvation
- It has power in sanctification

2. The AUTHORITY of God's Word

- Authority over human reasoning
- Authority over the church
- Authority over tradition
- Authority over experiences and feelings

3. The ACCURACY of God's Word

It is completely 100% accurate because God cannot lie and He never makes a mistake. The Bible is inerrant and infallible. Do you remember Walter Cronkite, long-time news anchor for CBS? He always finished his newscast by saying, "And that's the way it is," and he would give the date of that broadcast. God is saying, "And that's the way it was, and the way it is, and the way it will be."

- It is historically accurate – It tells us what happened, when it happened, and how it happened. Archeological evidence has proven time and again that the Bible is accurate.
- It is scientifically accurate – It reveals some scientific facts long before they were discovered by men.
 - ✓ Earth is suspended in space
Job 26:7 – He (God) stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth on nothing.
 - ✓ Earth is round, not flat
Is. 40:22 – It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth. Up until the 15th century people thought the earth was flat.
 - ✓ The total number of stars cannot be known
Jer. 33:22 – As the host of heaven cannot be numbered...
In the year 130 B.C, Hipparchus counted 1,022 stars, and in A.D. 200, Ptolemy counted 1,026. Today scientists tell us there are probably as many stars as grains of sand on all the sea shores of the world. God used this very comparison when He spoke to Abraham in ***Genesis 13:16*** *And I will make thy seed as the dust of the*

earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

✓ Blood sustains life in the body

Lev. 17:11 – For the life of the flesh is in the blood. Bloodletting was practiced until the 19th century. The death of George Washington is thought to have been the result of excessive bloodletting. It was the year 1628, when William Harvey first discovered the circulation of blood in the human body.

✓ Paths (currents) are in the sea

Psalms 8:8 – The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. Matthew Maury is called the “Pathfinder of the Seas” and is the father of modern oceanography. While he was recovering from a sickness, his eldest son was reading the Bible to him and when he read *Psalms 8*, Maury stopped him and said, “Read that again.”

Then he said, “It is enough—if the Bible says there are paths in the sea, they must be there, and I am going to find them. Within a few years he had charted the sea lanes and currents. A statue of this man can be found today in Richmond, Va., in which Maury is holding charts of the sea in one hand and a Bible in the other. We can hold science in one hand and the Bible in the other knowing that the truth of one will always match up to the truth of the other.

- It is prophetically accurate – It is the only religious book in the world that contains prophecy. Why? Because only God knows the future. About 330 prophecies of Christ were fulfilled when He came to earth the first time:

✓ Christ was born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)

✓ He was born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

✓ He was betrayed, crucified, and rose again

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 ³ *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.**

4. The UNITY of God’s Word

The Bible was written by 40 human writers over 1,500 years and yet it tells one story and focuses on one main character, Jesus Christ.

- ***John 1:45** Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.*
- ***John 5:39** Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*
- ***Luke 24:27** And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

The Old Testament says, “He is coming.” The Gospels and Acts say, “He is here.” The rest of the New Testament says, “He is coming again.” The Bible is a HIM book because it’s all about Him.

5. The HONESTY of God's Word

The Bible tells just like it was and just like it is. We read many things in the Bible that men would have left out if they had written on their own. The Bible doesn't hide the sins of its heroes: Noah was drunk; Abraham lied, and so did Jacob; Lot committed incest with his daughters; David committed adultery and conspired to commit murder; the prophet Jonah ran from God's call; Peter denied Christ three times, and on the list goes.

The Bible reminds us that all God has ever had to work with are sinners like you and me. And the Bible not only tells it like it was, but tells it like it is. The Bible is not a book man *would* have written if he could and it is not a book *could* have written if he would. The Bible surpasses man's knowledge and condemns his sinful ways.

The Bible tells us about Heaven and Hell. It tells us that many are on the broad road that leads to destruction and few are on the narrow road that leads to life. It tells us that many will be surprised to hear Jesus say, "Depart from me, I never knew you." It tells us the truth about sin and the Savior who died our sins. It tells us the truth about repentance and faith. It tells us that we must be born again. It tells us to examine ourselves whether we are in the faith.