

Bible Doctrines I
Fundamental Baptist Bible Institute
Class Two
The Doctrine of the Bible

Text: II Timothy 3:16 *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”*

Credits: This lesson was prepared using *Bible Doctrine for Today Book One* published by *A Beka Book*.

When we study, teach, or preach, we must always approach the scriptures believing in their inspiration, infallibility, and integrity.

Homework for course: 1. Read all class notes. 2. Write or type in your own words a Statement of Faith. The Statement of Faith must detail what you believe concerning the doctrine of the Bible (Bibliology) and the Doctrine of God (Theology).

I. INSPIRATION:

- A. **The Definition of “Inspiration”**—comes from a compound Greek word which **means “God-breathed”**. II Timothy 3:16 *“All scripture is given by inspiration”* (God-breathed). That is why we call it the Word of God.
1. God breathed out His words over a period of about 1,500 years to approximately forty specially chosen and prepared men of God who wrote them down to give us our Scriptures, the Word of God.
 - a. II Peter 1:21 *“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.”*
 - b. Hebrews 1:1 *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son.”*
 2. The Bible is clear that God is the Author of the Bible: Psalms 68:11 says, *“The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.”*
 3. Inspiration is superior to eyewitness accounts because it is not influenced by fallible man: II Peter 1:16-21 *“We have also a more sure word of prophecy”*.
- B. **Verbal inspiration: The words of the Bible are God-breathed. Verbal means “word for word”**. Scripture reveals unquestionably that God gave the exact words of Scripture. **Such expressions as “God said”; “the Lord spake saying”; “the Word of the LORD”; and “The LORD commanded” occur 680 times in the Pentateuch, 418 times in the Historical Books, and 1,307 times in the Prophets. That is powerful evidence that the Bible is the inspired Word of God!**
1. Scripture References:
 - a. II Samuel 23:2 *“The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.”*
 - c. II Timothy 3:16 *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”*
 - d. 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, which was guide to them that took Jesus.”*
 2. Quotations: *“This Bible is the writing of the living God: each letter was penned with an Almighty finger; each word in it dropped from the everlasting lips; each sentence was dictated by the Holy Spirit.”* - Charles Spurgeon

3. The word translated Scripture (*graphe*) in II Timothy 3:16 and Acts 1:16 means the actual writings of God's Word. These writings can consist of nothing else than the words that were written down by the human writer on his manuscript.
 4. God reveals that not only are the words inspired, but the spelling and the difference between a singular and a plural is inspired as well!
 - a. Matthew 5:18 says "*For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*" A jot is the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and a tittle is the small appendage that differentiates between two similar-looking letters in the Hebrew alphabet.
 - b. Galatians 3:16 says "*Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*" Notice the difference between the singular and the plural.
 5. "*Liberals scoff at the truth of verbal inspiration. They ... call it "mechanical dictation", as if the human writers became robots. A secretary never becomes a robot when she takes dictation from her boss. She remains a human being with all of her faculties and personality. Similarly, the writers of Scripture did not become robots. Their intellectual faculties were at the time directed, not suspended. They knew, they felt, they willed, they recollected, they understood, they approved*". - Louis Gaussen
- C. **Plenary verbal inspiration. Every word of the Bible is God-breathed. The word "plenary" means "full".** The full Bible is inspired. The Bible is not just "word for word" inspired. It is "every word" inspired. Every word of the Bible is inspired!
1. Scripture references:
 - a. 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.*"
 - b. Proverbs 30:5 "*Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.*"
 - c. II Timothy 3:16 "*All (plenary) scripture (verbal) is given by inspiration of God (God-breathed).*"
 2. Notice these quotes concerning inspiration:
 - a. "*If every scripture is not inspired of God, how can we accept as authoritative the cardinal Christian truths it presents? For example, conversion would be impossible if the Bible were not perfect (Psalm 19:7). Thus every one born again by the Spirit of God is a fresh evidence of the perfection of the Holy Scriptures. Modernism is destitute of soul-winning simply because it teaches the imperfection of the Word of God.*" - Herbert Lockyer
 - b. "*The living God still lives, and the living Word is a living Word, and we may depend upon it; we may hang upon any word God ever spoke, or ever caused, by His Holy Spirit to be written. Forty years ago, I believed in the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures. I have proved them for forty years and my belief is stronger now than it was then. I have put the promises to the test. I have been compelled to do so and have found them true and trustworthy.*" - J. Hudson Taylor

Having learned what verbal, plenary inspiration is, we will now move on to the Bible doctrine of preservation. This doctrine is necessary to the doctrine of Bibliology.

II. **PRESERVATION**

A. **Definition of the scriptural doctrine of "Preservation":**

1. "**Divine conveyance of the inspired text from one language to another and from one age to another without contradiction or error.**"
2. "*By the preservation of the Scriptures is meant that God providentially protected His revelation, the entirety of God's Word, from being lost, destroyed, or altered.*"

He has seen that every age has had and will have a copy of His entire Word in the form in which they should have it, without provable error.” - Paul Fedena,

B. Sixteen Scripture references supporting the preservation of the Bible:

1. *"Know now that there shall fall unto the earth nothing of the word of the LORD." - 2 Kings 10:10*
2. *"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever" - Psalm 12:6, 7*
3. *"For the LORD is good, his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” - Psalm 100:5*
4. *"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven,” - Psalm 119:89*
5. *"Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." - Psalm 119:140)*
6. *"Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever." - Psalm 119:152*
7. *"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.” - Psalm 119:160*
8. *"Every word of God is pure.” - Proverbs 30:5*
9. *“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever." - Isaiah 40:8*
10. *"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." - Isaiah 55:11*
11. *"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." - Matthew 5:18*
12. *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." - Matthew 24:35*
13. *"And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.” - Luke 16:17*
14. *“The scripture cannot be broken." - John 10:35*
15. *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” - I Peter 1:23*
16. *"But the word of the Lord endureth for ever." - I Peter 1:25*

C. Arguments for Preservation

1. Inspiration without preservation would be a Divine waste of time. Why should or why would God bother to inspire a Book that He was going to allow to get “lost”?
2. If there was no preservation, then one of four questions must be answered:
 - a. Did God feel that only those who would read the original autographs needed a perfect Bible? If this was true, however, then God’s goal for His Bible would have been reached during that time and we simply don’t need a Bible today.
 - b. Did God intend for the Bible to be transported through time perfectly, but His plan was thwarted by the devil? If this is true, then Satan would be more powerful than God.
 - c. Did God desire for the Bible to be transported through time perfectly, but His plan was thwarted by man? If this is true, then man is more powerful than God.
 - d. Did God possibly preserve His Bible perfectly across time, but it simply hasn’t been found yet and is patiently waiting in some dark cave in the Middle East to be discovered? Actually, this foolish notion is what many claim to have happened already. They truly believe that the Bible was lost for centuries, and then one copy showed up in a wastebasket in a monastery and another mysteriously appeared in the Vatican library.

In our next lesson, we will study the process of canonization and translation. Let us conclude this lesson on the doctrine of the Bible with the following statements. “We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We believe that Divine preservation carried the inspired Word of God through time and translations; through languages and people; from the time it was inspired until this present hour.” We can say with confidence that our King James Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God because of the process of preservation.