

DRILLING BIBLE BASICS (IV)

THE BIBLE

Introduction

- 1) It is a fundamental truth that the Bible is the inspired and all-sufficient word of God (1 Thess. 2:13)
 - a) This basic truth must be understood, believed, and defended by all true Christians today
- 2) False claims must be refuted that the Bible was written and compiled solely by human wisdom

I) Bible = Scripture Given by Inspiration of God (2 Tim. 3:16)

- A) **Scripture** [graphe] – a writing; in the technical sense, scripture; an oracle of God
- B) **Inspiration** [theoneustos] – lit. God-breathed
 - 1) **Verbal** (every word) and **Plenary** (every part) inspiration of the Bible
 - 2) "...it is breathed out by God, 'God-breathed,' the product of the creative breath of God. In a word, what is declared by this fundamental passage is simply that the Scriptures are a divine product" (B.B. Warfield, *ISBE*, rev. ed., vol. 2, p. 840)
- C) The Bible claims *inspiration* of both the Old Testament (OT) and the New Testament (NT)

II) God Spoke in Time Past – Men Spoke and Wrote Inspired Word of God (OT)

- A) **Prophets** – holy men spoke as they were *moved* by the Holy Spirit [inspiration] (2 Pet. 1:16-21)
 - 1) Prophetic word more sure than eyewitness testimony (vv. 16-19)
 - 2) Spoken word came by inspiration, not by "private interpretation" [human origin] (vv. 20-21)
- B) "Thus saith the Lord" phrase, or equivalent, occurs more than 2000 times in the OT
- C) The OT is verbally inspired by the Spirit of God (Zech. 7:12)
 - 1) "Cannot be broken" (Jn. 10:34-35) – cannot be undone, loosed, deprived of binding authority
- D) Prophecy is important evidence of inspiration – over 300 fulfilled prophecies about Jesus

III) Revelation of All Truth from Jesus by the Spirit (NT)

- A) The Spirit brought remembrance and revelation of all truth (Jn. 14:25-26; 16:12-13)
- B) Revealed by apostles and prophets by word and epistle (2 Thess. 2:15; Eph. 3:1-6)
- C) We have been given a "pattern of sound words" (2 Tim. 1:13); therefore, we should not go "beyond what is written" (1 Cor. 4:6; 2 Jn. 9)

IV) Claims of Inspiration in New Testament

- A) Paul (Gal. 1:11-12; 1 Cor. 7:40; 14:37); Paul's epistles among the "Scriptures" (2 Pet. 3:15-16)
- B) OT and NT quoted and identified together as inspired Scripture (1 Tim. 5:18)

V) External Evidences Supporting the Inspiration of the Bible

- A) Unity of the Bible – 40 writers over 1600 years, yet great harmony of message
- B) History/Archaeology/Geography – Bible sites, geography, people confirmed
- C) Scientific Accuracy – speaks accurately about life in blood, earth in space, etc.

VI) Bible Books Compiled by Divine Wisdom

- A) Divine guidance given by Holy Spirit for early saints
 - 1) Warnings about false teachers and writings (1 Jn. 4:1; 2 Thess. 2:2)
 - 2) Inspired writings identified (1 Tim. 5:18; 2 Pet. 3:15-16); not decided by fallible men
- B) Word of the Lord endures forever (1 Pet. 1:23-25)

Conclusion

The New Testament contains the all-sufficient and authoritative word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jude 3). It is indestructible and cannot be changed or amended (Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19). The Bible is the inspired word of God!