

Series: Things That Become Sound Doctrine

THE INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURE

2 TIMOTHY 3:16; 2 PETER 1:20-21

Text: 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 Peter 1:20-21

²⁰ Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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.

Introduction:

We have met here because we believe the Bible. We believe in the God of the Bible; the Christ of the Bible; the plan of salvation revealed in the Bible; and everything else written in the Bible.

We hold up our Bibles and we say, "This book is the Word of God! I believe it is true from cover to cover. It is without error and it is absolutely perfect."

I believe that too, but I fear that many do not know why they believe that.

Everything we believe either stands or falls on the accuracy of the Bible.

Therefore, it is imperative that we know why we believe what we believe about the Bible.

A good word that describes the Bible is the word “unique”. The dictionary defines the word “unique” as follows:

1. Existing as the only one
2. Having no like or equal; unparalleled; incomparable

It is the only book of its kind in existence!

Several features point out its uniqueness.

Note some of these things that make the Bible unique:

- The Bible was written over a period of 1,500 years
- The Bible was penned by over 40 different people (Among them were kings, military leaders, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, tax

collectors, poets, statesmen, musicians, scholars and shepherds.)

- The Bible was written in many different places, at many different times and by people experiencing many different moods.
- The Bible was written on three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe.
- The Bible was written in three different languages: Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic.
- The Bible addresses hundreds of difficult issues without a single contradiction.
- The Bible is a book of great diversity, yet, in spite of this, it unfolds a single continuous story, and it does so without ever contradicting itself.
- The Bible has for its main character God Himself, made known through the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible is a unique book!

But, this uniqueness was not accidental, it was purposeful.

How can this be?

The Bible achieves its uniqueness through a process known as Inspiration.

Inspiration means:

lit., “God Breathed.” The scriptural doctrine that the Bible is a God-breathed and therefore perfect book whose writers were guided supernaturally by the Holy Spirit who kept them free from all error

If God has given His Word, delivered by His very breath, then it stands to reason that the scripture He has given us is absolutely perfect.

Notice: We see in this passage:

1. The Extent of Inspiration – “All”
2. The Essence of Inspiration – “literally God Breathed”
3. The Effect of Inspiration – “Profitable”

Let’s look into the matter of inspiration.

What process did God use to get His Word into the hands and hearts of men?

There are two terms that will assist us in understanding this.

- Revelation

The first step in getting the word of God on paper is the process known as revelation.

This is the process whereby a man hears from the Lord; and just what the Lord wants written down.

The second term is:

- Inspiration

The second step in the process is inspiration. This is man writing on paper what God has told him to say. As we have already seen this process is said to be “God breathed”.

Notice:

- The Marvel of Inspiration – “More sure Word”

2 Peter 1:19

¹⁹ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

- The Methods of Inspiration – “spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”

2 Peter 1:21

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.

At varying times, God used varying means to give His revelation to men.

- He spoke through angels

Genesis 18, 19; Luke 1-2; Matthew 28

- He spoke through an audible voice

Genesis 3:9-19, 6:13-21, 12:1-3; Exodus 20:1-17; Joshua 1:1-9; 1 Kings 19:11-12

- He spoke in a still small voice

1 Kings 19:11-12

1 Kings 19:11-12

¹¹ And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: ¹² And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

- He spoke through nature

Psalms 19

- He spoke through animals

Numbers 22:28

Numbers 22:28

²⁸ And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?

- He spoke in dreams

Genesis 28:12; Matthew 1-2:19-22

- He spoke through visions

Isaiah 6:1-6; Daniel 7, 8, 10; Acts 16, 19

The Bible clearly claims inspiration for itself

2 Timothy 3:17

¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Peter 1:20-21

²⁰ Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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.

Hebrews 1:1

¹ God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Let me say about 2 Peter 1:20-21:

If it's new it probably not true and if it's true it's not new.

Someone once said about Inspiration as:

“God’s superintendence of the human authors so that, using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in the words of the original autographs.”

Transition:

We would all agree that Christ has a name above all names.

Psalm 8:1

¹ O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

His name is above all names.

Acts 4:12

¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

There is no other name by which salvation is secured.

So again we all would agree that His name is above all names.

But note Psalms 138:2

Psalm 138:2

*² I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: **for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.***

Note:

1. THE SCRIPTURES ARE SURE (VS. 19)

2 Peter 1:19

*¹⁹ We have also **a more sure word** of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:*

What God's Word is true it is sure.

God's Word is also settled.

Psalm 119:89

⁸⁹ For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

We see in this one verse:

The Perpetuation – “Forever”

The Place – “Heaven”

The Permanence – “Settled”

Notice not only the “Scriptures Are Sure” but also:

2. THE SCRIPTURES SHINE (VS. 19)

2 Peter 1:19

¹⁹ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

We live in a world of light and darkness.

When we find ourselves in a situation that we don't know what to do we need light.

If we do not have God's light we will try to do the best we can but that is always lacking.

Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

- Light Points Our Direction (vs. 105-108)

Psalm 119:105-108

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. ¹⁰⁶ I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments. ¹⁰⁷ I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word. ¹⁰⁸ Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me thy judgments.

- Light Presents Our Defense (vs. 109-110)

Psalm 119:109-110

¹⁰⁹ My soul is continually in my hand: yet do I not forget thy law. ¹¹⁰ The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy precepts.

- Light Provides Our Delight (vs. 111-112)

Psalm 119:111-112

¹¹¹ Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart. ¹¹² I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, even unto the end.

Notice not only the “Scriptures Are Sure” and the “Scripture Shine” but also:

3. THE SCRIPTURES ARE SPIRIT GIVEN (VS. 20-21)

2 Peter 1:20-21

²⁰ Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 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.

The Bible didn't originate with man.

God has given His Word to man by divine revelation and it necessary for us to meditate, and memorize or hide it in our hearts.

Matthew 4:4

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.

Close:

Keep in mind what Peter is doing in writing these letters. He is making an attempt to strengthen the brethren as the Lord had instructed him to do.

He uses a word here that we too are dealing with today.

2 Peter 1:16

¹⁶ *For we have not followed **cunningly devised fables**, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

Note again Paul's warning to Timothy

2 Timothy 4:1-4

¹ *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;* ² *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.* ³ ***For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*** ⁴ ***And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.***

Many today are following fables instead of the truth of God's Word.

What are we following today?

Are we allowing the Word of God to light our way, and direct our paths?

Remember the Word of God is:

- Infallible
- Incomparable – “more sure”
- Illumination (2 Peter 1:19)

2 Peter 1:19

¹⁹ *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, **as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:***

- Inspired (2 Peter 1:21, 2 Timothy 3:16)

2 Peter 1:21

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2 Timothy 3:16

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