

Title: The Inspiration of the Bible

Text: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to 2 Timothy chapter 3. 2 Timothy chapter 3 beginning with Vs 14. *Our Topic: The Inspiration of the Bible* I am beginning, today, a series of messages dealing

with the subject: WHAT WE BELIEVE. What is it that we believe as Christians?

Now, I want to say at the very beginning that everything that we are going to discuss is based solely and entirely upon the Bible. What we believe ought to be what God says in this book we call the Bible. Therefore, what we believe is what the Bible teaches.

And everything else is wasted time. Right? Right?

Now, we are going to look at many wonderful topics in this study. Topics such as: The tri-unity of God. The second coming of Christ. Predestination, Eternal security. Heaven and hell. And I believe it is going to be an exciting study. I hope you

will be here for each and every message. I, also, hope that you will use this as an opportunity to bring people to church. Because we are not going to deal with what

Baptist believe. But, with what the Bible says we ought to believe. Of course one person has already told me that that is a contradiction of terms. What the Bible teaches is what Baptist believe. (ha)

O.K. Let's start with 2 Timothy chapter 3 verse 14

STAND

(Read Vs. 14-17)

(Prayer)

Our Father in heaven, we thank you once again for the privilege of studying your precious Word. And father, we pray that today you would feed our thirsty souls with living water. We know that your word teaches that we should not live by bread alone. But, by every word which comes from the mouth of God. And we pray that everyone

here today would know that the Bible truly is inspired by God. And we ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Some one has described the last 90 years in relationship to all the years that have proceed it, in the history of the Christian church, as the battle over the Bible. And I believe that is true. In every period of time throughout church history, there has been some great controversy in the church. There was the great debate, once, over the person of Jesus Christ. Was he both God and man? How was He in two natures, yet one personality. There was a great controversy, once, over the subject of baptism. I don't think that this one has every stopped. *Great Controversy over preach doctrine*

There have been great controversies throughout church history. And in the last 90 years it seems as though the great controversy is over the Bible.

To refresh your minds, there was hardly a church or a denomination preceding WW1 that did not believe and teach with all of their hearts that the Bible is the inspired Word of God.

Then beginning shortly after WW1 there was a great emphases in the seminaries of our country concerning the new thoughts ands trends coming out off Europe, called higher criticism. And in the late 20's and 30's many professors from Europe were invited to teach in the seminaries of our land. Seminaries that stood for the Word of God. Soon, a changing element was being noticed. And it centered around questions concerning the Bible as God's inspired Word. *1910* In one of the great Seminaries in America, a school that was known for its orthodoxy, some of its greatest teaches and students of the Word of God were expelled from that school, to the shock of all of America, because these men insisted upon the inspiration of the scriptures *in* contradiction to what other

Joural to Germany 1968-

Colby's Rochester
Eastern Baptist

-3-

professors were then teaching. And so to be modern and relevant, people began to turn form the Word of God. And they began to question the whole concept of Inspiration.

And thus, we come to this day, when it is considered foolish and down right stupid to preach week after week that the Bible is the Word of God. ^{most people do not bring Bible to church} And believe me, if you are not aware of this, you have been isolating yourself from the world in which we live. So, this is not a minor issue confronting the church. It is essential for us to believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Because everything else we say we believe is based upon our understanding of inspiration.

And thus, ~~in some of this day, which is considered foolish and down~~
~~right stunit to preach week after week that the Bible is the Word of God and~~
~~believe me, if you are not aware of this, you have been isolating yourself from~~
~~the world in which we live. So, this is not a minor issue confronting the~~
~~church. It is essential for us to believe that the Bible is the inspired Word~~
~~of God. Because anything else we say we believe is based upon our understandi~~
~~of inspiration.~~

Now, I want to approach this subject in four areas.

(1) First of all, I want to look at some of the excuses that are often given for inspiration.

For Example
 (1) There are some folks who teach that the Bible is inspired only in parts. They say that the Bible contains the Word of God. The Bible is inspired only in parts. Of course the problem with this is who is to judge which part is inspired and which part is not inspired.

(2) Then, there are those who teach that the "thought" is inspired. This is a very popular view. It is held by many people. It is the "Thought" of the Bible that is inspired. But, this view is not very logical. You cannot express 'thoughts' without words. And so, we must believe in verbal inspiration if the thoughts are inspired. It is the only logical response.

(3) Third, there are some who believe that the Bible is inspired only in the "moral" and "ethical" teachings of Jesus." But, dear friends, if the Bible is incorrect in its history, or, in any fact of the Bible, if there is something wrong with it, then we have no right, logically, to even trust the moral and ethical teachings of Jesus. For it was Jesus, himself, who gave constant emphases to the totality of the Bible as being the very WORD OF GOD.

New Second Area, I want to
 (2) ~~So, let's~~ *concern* come ~~now~~ to the correct view of inspiration.

1500 years

It is obvious that God used men to write this book. And it is just as obvious that the personalities of the writers are included and clearly seen in the different books of the bible. Their style in the original language is very evident and real. And yet, the Bible clearly tells us how these men wrote the WORD OF GOD. And that is what I want you to see.

Take your Bibles and turn to the book of 2 Peter. 2 Peter chapter 1 and notice verses 20 and 21. Here, we will learn how these men wrote under the inspiration of God. *Here - is why we believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God -* ~~That it is not mechanical dictation, But, it definitely tells us how.~~

2 Peter chapter 1 verse 20 says: "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation."

Now, some folks get mixed up right here. They say that no person has a right to say what the Bible means on any given subject. *Dear Friends* That is not speaking about that at all. There is a difference, ~~dear friends~~, between translation... interpretation... revelation... application... and inspiration. Those words are not synonymous. And it is very important that we understand this.

What this verse is saying is that no person has a right to privately interpretate the Word of God beyond the sense of the words that are there. The Bible is to be taken according to its verbal inspiration... NOW WHY?

Vs 21..."for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

The word "moved" means "driven by" or "carried along by". For example: it is the same word used over in the book of Acts when Paul was out in a ship. And a great storm came up. And the sailors lost control of the ship. And it says that the ship was "driven by the wind and the sea." In other words, the sailors ~~lost control~~ *could not control* of the ship. *The plus?* It was now under the control of the storm.

The phrase "driven by" is the same word used here in 2 Peter translated "moved." The writers of the Bible were under the control of the Holy Spirit. These men were moved or under the control of the holy Spirit to write the different books of the Bible. *God guided them in what they were to say and write. So, that is what is meant by inspiration.*

(3.) Third, ^{and} I want you to look at some of the evidences for inspiration in the Bible. The evidence for inspiration. There are many passages that we could look at. But, I want to look at just a few in order to illustrate the point.

(1) First of all, turn to 2 Timothy chapter 3. 2 Timothy chapter 3. And please notice Vs 16...Vs 16 says, "all scripture is inspired by God."

If you were to translate that literally from the Greek it would read: "all scripture, God breathed." That is exactly what it says. "All scripture, God breathed." That means that the Word of God, the final written Word of God is the direct product of the "breath of God."

And it is interesting that the Word "Scripture" is the word for "WRITTING." ~~It is the simple word for writing.~~ It is referring to that which was written....And all that was written was the direct product of the breath of God. It is God breathed....

I am reminded that God created man in the same way. Genesis 2:7 says that "the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

~~1980~~, All scripture is God breathed.....

25 Now Jesus made several remarks about the inspiration of scripture. And I would like you to turn to some of those... *We don't have time to look at all his remarks, but let's look at a couple*

(10) First of all, turn to John chapter 10...The Gospel of John chapter 10. This is one of the strongest arguments in all of the Bible for its inspiration. And it was given by Jesus. John chapter 10....And I would like to begin at Vs 27 so that you might see the context. Please follow it very carefully

(Read John 10:27-31)

It is amazing to me how some folks cannot see that Jesus claimed to be ~~God~~ h God?.....It is interesting, isn't it, that the Jews who were listening on that occasion....there was no mistake in their minds as to what He said. He claimed to be God. And that is why ~~they~~ *They* took up stones. Why?....Because the law said to stone a man who said he was God or equal to God.....They knew what Jesus said. So they took up stones....I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE. He was saying that he was God in this one statement. NOW, NOTICE WHAT HAPPENED....

(Read 10:32-36)

Now, this is a very fascinating portion of scripture. I find very ~~few~~ *Few* people who accurately explain what Jesus is trying to say. I would like you to turn, and as you do, please keep your finger here in John 10, but turn to Psalm 82.....Psalms chapter 82.....

This argument that Jesus gave is so important to an understanding of the inspiration of Scripture. Because these are not my words about the inspiration of the Bible. But these are Jesus' words about inspiration.

out

Psalms 82 and beginning at Vs 1.....(Read Psalms 82)

It is interesting that the word for "God" ~~in the O.T.~~ ^{here in this text} is plural....

And it is oftened used for the judges and princes of Israel....Same word that is traslated for God. *Now Come back to John chapter 10*

And Jesus' argument in this passage is simply this:....In the O.T. you called certain of your leaders "Gods"...because of there position as princies and leaders of the land. And God definitely says in Psalms 82 that they will die.....

So, why do you stone me? When I say that I am the son of God. For you say that you are sons of God....And ~~His~~ argument is a very powerful one. The Scripture cannot be broken.

and ~~Now, come back to John chapter 10...Maybe you still haven't quite got awhole of what he is saying....~~ *and* the point is that in the law it was said of certain of the Jews, the Leaders, that they were gods. And Jesus said that if you called them gods unto whom the Word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken, ...Vs 36...."do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, You are blaspheming, because I said, I am the Son of God?"

So, Jesus is presenting a tremendous argument for his own diety. But, notice in the midst of this, talking about the Word of God that came to those men, HE SAYS, VS 35, THE SCRIPTURE CANNOT BE BROKEN.

2A ~~20~~ (20) Will you turn, please, to the Gospel of Matthew chapter 5....The Gospel of Matthew chapter 5. Here we have ~~another~~ ^{another} tremendous statement of Jesus concerning the inspiration of the Bible.....

(Read Matthew 5:17-18)

It is interesting to me that ~~this~~ ^{in these} veres Jesus settles once and for all, the extent of inspiration. HOW FAR DOES INSPIRATION GO? We say we believe in ~~verbal~~ ^{the} inspiration of the Bible. That the very words, as written in the written record, are inspired of God.....

NOW, HOW FAR DOES THAT GO?....Jesus tells us that the inspiration of the Bible goes to the very letter and the very marking of that letter...

~~Notice~~ Notice Vs 18....Jesus said that not ~~one iota~~ ^{even the} meaning smallest letter in the Hebrew language shall pass away from the Law, untill all is accomplished..... Fantastice...

~~I~~ ^{don't} think that ~~there~~ ^{shall be any} ~~was every~~ question in any persons mind as to what Jesus believed about the inspiration of the Bible....And notice what Bible ~~you~~ ^{you're} is refering to.....Primarily he is refering to the O.T. And ~~that~~ ^{the O.T.} is the first thing that comes under question and fire today...

30 OK Turn over to Luke chapter 24....Luke chapter 24....Here is an interesting situation because Jesus died and rose again. It is now after His resurrection. It is before his ascention into heaven. And He is with his disciples.

And beginning at Vs 36 Jesus manifest himself before his disciples. He shows them his hands and his feet. He than takes some fish and honey and eats it. That brings us to Vs 44....Now listen to Vs 44 (Read Vs 44-5)

What a tremendous passage.....So, many people just pass over this.

WHAT IS JESUS SAYING?.....The whole O.T. from Genesis to Malich is about ~~it~~ ^{Jesus}. *That is what He is saying.*

My friend if you have not seen Jesus in the pages of the O.T. you need to study under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is about Jesus. And here ~~he~~ ^{He} clearly tells us that entire O.T. is about himself.

But, notice that Jesus says that the O.T. is to be divided into three parts: the law of Moes, the prophets, and the Psalms..(literally "the writtings.")....

It is interesting that even today, the Jewish O.T. that you can go down and buy in the ~~store~~ store is divided into three parts: The law, the prophets, and the writtings.

And Jesus said: THOSE ARE CONCERNING ME.....He gave reference to the entire O.T. ^{You see} ~~and~~ some people whould have ~~you'd~~ ^{you'd} think ~~that~~, that ~~you~~ ^{you're} only refered to certain sections of the O.T. That Jesus only referred to certain of the ethical teachings of the law. ~~Oh, no, my friends,~~ ^{No Way} He referred to the entire O.T. as being about himself..

Dear Friends There is plenty of evidence about inspiration from Jesus, plenty of evidence from the Apostle Paul....from Peter....

Now, you might be thinking, "O.K., I believe the Bible is inspired. But, so what? What is that to me? What will that do in my life? Why do I need to believe in the inspiration of the Bible?

I would like you to turn, once again, to 2 Timothy chapter 3. And I want to answer those questions by sharing with you (4) THE EFFECT OF INSPIRATION ON YOUR LIFE AND MINE. The effect of inspiration. I believe there are three principles found in 2 Timothy chapter 3 which explain to us the EFFECT OF INSPIRATION. And why it is important for you to believe in the inspiration of the Bible. 2 Timothy 3:14-17. *3 things*

(1) Number one, 1 Timothy chapter 3 verse 15 says: "that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." From the verse we learn that the Bible is powerful for your life.

Dear friends, what wonderful confidence. What wonderful assurance that the Word of God from the time of childhood is able to make one wise unto salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. This book is a powerful book.

In Hebrews 4:12 we read that the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword. And it is able to pierce as far as the division of soul and spirit. And it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

WHAT A POWERFUL BOOK. There is no other book that can give you life. This book can give you life. If you are sitting, here, today, and you have considered Jesus, but you have never come to Him, you have never placed your faith in Him, I want to assure you, today, that if you place your faith in what the written record of the Word of God says about Jesus, then, God will save you.

Romans 10:17 says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

Some folks say, "Well, I don't feel saved." Oh, listen, friends, we don't need that kind of false assurance. Our faith is resting, our salvation is resting upon the written record of the Word of God. God has said it...I believe it...And the result is that it has changed my life. And it continues to do so. The Bible is the powerful inspired Word of God.

If you don't feel saved, then stop feeling and start believing the facts of the Word of God. Oh, feelings are there. But, don't let feelings take the place of the facts. Believing and putting our whole confidence in God's Word.

Do you understand why it is so important to believe that the entire book is inspired? Because if there is something wrong with its inspiration, how do I have any confidence that salvation is mine through Jesus Christ? This book tells me that Jesus died for all of my sins. Regardless of how I feel about that. Those are the facts presented by the Bible. And it tells me that if I simply ask Jesus to come into my life, I will be saved. And that I can receive from Jesus, himself, forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

* Dear friends, if this is not the Word of God, then let's go home. Why come here and play church. Do you understand.

But, since this is the Word of God, then let us in all confidence believe it. And rest our entire hope and salvation upon what God says and not what man says or how we might feel at any given moment.

Dear friends, this book is the inspired Word of God. And it is powerful and ^{able} ~~is~~ to change a person's life...PRAISE GOD.

(2) The second principle that we learn about the effect of inspiration comes from Vs 16.

We read that "all scripture is inspired by God and is profitable."

Dear friends, this book is a profitable book. It is profitable to the Christian.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW?

It is profitable for teaching....

It is profitable for reproof.

It is profitable for correction.

It is profitable for training in righteousness.

^{you see} If there is something in your life that needs to be changed, then this book is profitable for reproof..which is the outward rebuke of what we are and what we are doing.

It is profitable for correction. It tells you how to strighten out your life. How to get on the right road. After reproofing us, it tells us how to correct the situation.

Then, it is profitable for training in righteousness. That is how to live daily for Christ. *And this is done through teaching*

You know, I can't help but say a word here. Because I know that it is the experience of many of you as well as it has been mine. And that is that we are all faced with the problem of a busy schedule. And this causes us to neglect the WORD OF GOD. To act as though it is not important. Thus, when we do pick it up, many times there is not that confidence, that trust that this is the inspired WORD OF GOD. Dear friends, how we need, again, in our families and in our homes, and in our church, and in our lives, A HOLY REVERANCE AND AN AWARENESS OF THE FACT THAT THIS IS GOD'S WORD TO US.

This book is not the same as other books. It is different. It is profitable for every area of our life. It is the guide. It is the instruction. It is the direction of how we must live today and every day. How can we live apart from it? Yet, I know that your problem is like mine. And that is that we get so busy we neglect this wonderful book. OR, we become so mechanical in our haste that we read and never apply what we read. Then we set it aside and we forget that it is the inspired WORD OF GOD.

Dear friends, we need to come to the Bible because it is powerful and it is profitable. (3) Then ^{David} finally, I find in Vs 17 that it is productive. In other words, it really works....WHAT FOR? Vs 17.. 'that the ^{man} of God maybe adequate, equipped for every good work."

How would you like to be a person who is adequate and equipped for every good work? Well, you can be. Do you know how? By becoming a student of the WORD OF GOD.

I like that TV add for ITT. "How can you get the jobs of tomorrow without the training of today." How can you live in this day and age, when you don't spend time in THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD. For it is the Word of God that is inspired...WHY?...So that the ^{person} man of God maybe adequate and equipped for every, NOT SOME, but every good work.

What will make a good Sunday School teacher?....one who is in the Word of God....What makes a good BOARD MEMBER? One who is in the Word of God.

~~What makes a good choir member? What makes a good witness for Jesus? What makes a life that is a blessing to others?~~

musician
What makes a good choir member? What makes a good witness for Jesus? What makes a life that is consistent before others? What makes a life that knows and is experiencing the joy and blessings of the Lord? What makes a positive person and not a negative person? DEAR FRIENDS, IT IS A LIFE THAT IS GROUNDED, DAILY, IN THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD

Dear Friend If it has become your habit to egnore the WORD OF GOD, may there be a fresh commitment in your heart, right now. And may we believe this book to be the inspired Word of God, the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. For it is powerful and able to change our lives. And it is profitable for every area of life. And it is productive...making us adequate and equipped for every good work.

SHALL WE CLOSE IN PRAYER