



~ Week Three: How scripture became Scripture! ~

Date: January 17th, 2021

Scripture: Luke 1:1-4, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 14:26, 2 Peter 3:15, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Matthew 6:24-29

~ Message Notes ~

- † God has *revealed* Himself through *creation*, through *Israel*, and ultimately in *Jesus Christ*.

- † It can be strongly argued and demonstrated that the New Testament has greater historical, cultural, textual, and procedural integrity than any other book in human history.

- † Reality! That's still not enough. For the New Testament to move from being historically accurate to being scripture, it must be INSPIRED. It must be of GOD.

- † As people of faith, why is the concept of the Inspiration of Scripture so important? If scripture is inspired, if it is OF GOD, then:
 - It is a GIFT

 - It is a source of CERTAINTY

 - It speaks to humanity with AUTHORITY

- † As conservative evangelical Christians, we confess that scripture is INSPIRED, it is INERRANT, and it is INFALLABLE. But what does this *mean*?

- † Inspiration: What the Bible says about itself is LITTLE, but SIGNIFICANT.

‡ Historic views/theories of inspiration and inerrancy

- Naïve/dictation: Human writers were the pens of God, not the pen-mans of God.
- Inerrancy: The Spirit led human writers, through their own backgrounds and personalities, to a proper expression of the Truth without imparting the particular words or forms of expression.
- Illumination: Writers experienced an intensifying of spiritual perceptions that to a lesser degree all believers possess.
- Limited inerrancy: Without error in points dealing with salvation and core theology, but nothing else.
- Whatever. Whatever we want to make of it. Not authoritative.

‡ The bottom line

- Scripture was written by men, all possessing their own personalities, living in specific cultural and historic contexts, and writing for specific purposes.
- Scripture was inspired by God and shepherded by the Holy Spirit in its authorship, its meaning, its canonization, and its preservation through the centuries.
- Therefore, all Scripture is TRUE and TRUSTWORTHY.

‡ That said, a few important concepts

- Scripture was not written in English, by people living in 21st Century Western culture. ***The truth of scripture must be interpreted.*** (Don't miss next week!)
- Scripture is inspired, interpretation of scripture is not.

‡ How Firm a Foundation!