



————— ∞ *Week Three* ∞ —————

Message Title: The Bible- Scripture is God's Word

This weeks memory challenge: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

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- † Reality! We cannot know God on our own, but God has chosen to REVEAL Himself first through CREATION, then through ISRAEL, and ultimately in JESUS CHRIST.
- † Reality! It can be strongly argued and demonstrated that the New Testament has greater historical, cultural, textual, and procedural integrity and accuracy that 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.

- † Why the concept of the Inspiration of Scripture is so important

If scripture is not inspired, then it is not AUTHORITATIVE.

If scripture IS inspired, then it IS authoritative: To humanity, the CHURCH, and to ME.

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

What we mean by the inspiration of scripture may be one of the least taught, but most important concepts regarding how we approach and engage scripture as the Truth foundation of the Christian Life.

- † Inspiration: What the Bible says about itself is LITTLE, but SIGNIFICANT.
2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 14:26, 2 Peter 3:15, Luke 1:1-4

‡ Historic views/theories of inspiration and inerrancy

- Naïve/dictation: Human writers were the pens of God, not the pen-mans of God.
- Inerrancy: The Bible is God's Word, and God is perfect, therefore scripture is perfect. God used human writers with their own background and personalities, but the Spirit imparted the ideas and led the writers not to use any incorrect words or expressions. OR, Spirit led writers to a proper expression of the truth without imparting the particular words or forms of expression.
2 Peter 1:19-21
- Illumination: Writers experienced an intensifying of their spiritual perceptions. 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. General guide to God, then whatever we want to make of it.

‡ 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.
- The Biblical Canon is CLOSED.

‡ An example from scripture: The sacred practice of *communion*. *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*