



The Inerrant Bible

Lesson Subject: Believers must accept the inspired Word as flawless in doctrine and fact.

L19. Date: April 1984. **Text:** Proverbs 30:3-6; II Timothy 3:16-17; I Peter 1:22:25. **Topic:** Bible: Inerrancy of.

What is the final authority in the field of religion? It cannot be human wisdom, for that changes and grows. It cannot be human experience, for the experience of one is not the same as that of another. It cannot be a church creed, for that is written by humans and based on what humans understand is true.

The only authority, and thus the final authority, in religious life is God Himself. He has all authority in all areas in both heaven and earth. The God who exercises total sovereignty has revealed spiritual truth in His inspired Word. God speaks to us today as His Holy Spirit interprets the Bible to us. We accept the Bible as our authority in all religious matters.

How reliable are the Bibles we have today? Have errors crept into them through centuries of copying them by hand and later printing them on a press?

We believe the Bible we have today is totally trustworthy. God gave the original manuscripts through men guided by the Holy Spirit so that every word is His word.

We believe in the word-by-word inspiration of every part of the Bible. It is flawless in doctrine and in fact. The comments which follow will deal with three areas which are essential to our having a reliable Bible today. They are revelation, inspiration, and application.

I. REVELATION (Proverbs 30:3-6)

A. Human beings cannot know spiritual truth without divine aid.

Every person can say, “I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy” (verse 3). We know nothing when we approach the infinite God unaided by His Spirit (Job 8:9). Not one of us can search and find our God on our own (Job 11:7). “*The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not*” (II Corinthians 4:4). The result is that “*the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned*” (I Corinthians 2: 14).

B. There are questions that human beings can never answer without God (verse 4). “*The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us . . . that we may do all the words of this law*” (Deuteronomy 29:29). There are great mysteries concerning God which people would have never learned if they had not been revealed in the Bible and in the person of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:5). God's thoughts are as high above our thoughts as the heaven is above the earth (Isaiah 55:8, 9). That is why revelation is necessary.

C. God's revelation in the Bible is reliable: “*Every word of God is pure*” (verse 5). God says, “*I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right*” (Isaiah 45:19). Every word God speaks will surely come to pass and accomplish its purpose in the world (Ezekiel 12:25). His promises are as certain as His warnings: “*There hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised*” (I Kings 8:56). You can trust your Bible with fullest confidence.

D. God's revelation in the Bible is inviolable. “*Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee*” (verse 6). We do not need to add to or take from the teaching of the Bible, but rather we need to believe it and obey it (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32). God warns of dire consequences that come to the person who tampers with the Word of God (Revelation 22:18, 19).

Revelation means God drew back the veil and made plain to us that which we could not otherwise see. The record of that revelation was written in human language so that it was and still is a correct account of what was made known. With that truth, we pass to the second part of our study on an inerrant Bible.

II. INSPIRATION (II Timothy 3:16, 17)

A. What is the meaning of inspiration? We believe “*all scripture is given by inspiration of God*” (verse 16). But by what process did “*inspiration*” occur? The term is *theopneustos* (teh-AH-news-tahs) in the

Greek language in which Paul wrote the text. It is a compound word made up of two words: *theos* (theh-AHS) means “God,” and *pneo* (NAY-oh) means to “breathe.” The two terms together means “God breathed.” The text says, therefore, “All scripture is God-breathed.” It is the breath of God. *Inspired* is not an ideal word to describe what happened. The “in” of “inspired” suggests God put something in people and they sought to work it out. Let us say, “All scripture is God-inspired, God-breathed, the breath of God.”

B. What is the scope of inspiration? “ALL SCRIPTURE” bears the mark of inspiration. Every portion of the Bible is God-breathed — the legal sections, the historical books, the poetic portions, the biographical sketches, the doctrinal treatises, and all the rest. Even the very words of the Bible are chosen of God. It can be said over and over of the writers of the Bible, “The word of the LORD came expressly unto _____,” as in Ezekiel 1:3. God told Jeremiah, “*Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth*” (Jeremiah 1:9). The prophet's words are God's words, not the prophet's own. That is true of the written as well as the spoken portions of the Bible. God commissioned the writing, saying, “*Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee*” (Jeremiah 36:2). The result is, “*The writing was the writing of God*” (Exodus 32:16).

C. What is the function of inspired Scripture? It is “*that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*” (verse 17). Behold the ministry of the Bible!

(1) It makes one a “*man of God*.” (2) It makes one an equipped workman — the meaning of the term “*perfect*.” (3) It makes one a productive workman by equipping him for service. (4) It makes one an unashamed workman. No wonder the Lord commands, “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*” (II Timothy 2:15).

III. APPLICATION (I Peter 1:22-15)

An unbeliever who was a soap manufacturer complained to a Christian that the Bible did no good. “Look at all the wrong around you,” he challenged.

“And your soap is no good,” the Christian replied, “because there are so many dirty people.”

“But my soap must be applied to accomplish its purpose,” the businessman answered.

“Exactly so with the Bible,” the Christian concluded. What happens

when the Bible is applied to daily life?

A. Life is purified by the Word of God: *“Ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit”* (verse 22). Notice that soul is used of “the natural life of the body; the conduct.” A person cleanses his way by taking heed thereto according to the Word of God (Psalm 119:9). Jesus says to us, *“Ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you”* (John 15:3).

B. Motives are elevated by the Word of God. The purifying effect of the Bible resulted in *“unfeigned love of the brethren”* (verse 22). That love is *agape* (ah-GAH-pay), divine love which comes from God and is given to the child of God (Romans 5:5).

C. Spirits are born anew by the Word of God: *“being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”* (verse 23). The truth of the Word is used by the Spirit to bring us to conviction and cleansing by faith in Jesus Christ. So it is said we are born of the Word.

D. Truth is preserved in the Word of God. *“The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever”* (verses 24, 25). (Compare Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 5:18, and 24:35.) God's word is settled forever in heaven (Psalm 119:89) and will never be changed.

What is said about the Bible in general can be applied in specific to every verse in the Bible. The Bible is inspired and the verses you memorize this week are inspired. The Bible is true; so the principle you learned today is true. The Bible is no less God's Word when it is written than when it is spoken.

Trust your Bible. Treasure your Bible. Read it to be wise; believe it to be saved; obey it to be holy. But do not worship your Bible as some “sacred relic.” It is pure because it is the written revelation of the true God.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the Bible?
2. Why do we accept the Bible as authoritative in religion?
3. What does revelation mean?
4. Why does mankind need the revelation of God in the Bible?
5. What does “inspiration” mean?
6. What does verbal, plenary inspiration mean?
7. Why is II Timothy 2:15 important to you?

8. What effect does the Bible have on one's daily life?
9. What does Isaiah 40:8 say about the Bible?