



Section 1: Concerning The Bible

Question 1: What is the Bible?

Answer 1: The Bible is the word of God, given by the inspiration of God through holy men of old.

Memory Verse: **II Timothy 3:16**

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

Support Verses: **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.

Romans 3:1-2

1 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?

2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

Discussion Points:

1. What does the word "inspiration" mean in this context?

- The word "inspiration" is translated from the Greek word "theopneustos" which means "God breathed."
- A good example of this concept is found in Genesis 2:7 where God "breathed into" Adam's nostrils the "breath of life."
- This act of God resulted in man becoming a "living soul."
- The Lord Jesus testifies to this same truth regarding the word of God in John 6:63 where He says His words are "... spirit, and they are life."
- So just as God breathed into man to give him life, so too, He breathed into the scripture (inspired) to give them life.
- They are, as a result, the source of eternal life John 6:68.

2. What does "private interpretation" mean?

- This is a reference to the source of the words as well.
- None of the inspired Scripture is the product of man's thoughts or reasoning.
- The Scripture has God for its source.
- This truth is clearly stated in 2 Peter 1:20-21 where it describes the actual work of the Holy Spirit in the inspiration of scripture.
- The terminology that we often use to describe this process of inspiration is called the "verbal, plenary" method.
- This method of inspiration leaves the method solidly in the hands of God.



- The word "verbal" in this method of inspiration speaks to the individual words of scripture being the exact choice of God.
- The word "plenary" in this method of interpretation speaks to the entire collection of those words as a whole.
- The concept then is that the very words are inspired and all of them put together are exactly what God desired to give us.

3. How does the process of inspiration take place?

- The Holy Spirit moved on the hearts and minds of the prophets/writers in such a way that He communicated precisely the very words that He desired them to pen.
- At the same time the Holy Spirit used the personality and experience of the human penman to communicate the truth.
- It is clearly set forth in the scripture by a number of examples, the most common being the style of the writers, and the complexity of their method.
- One example of this truth is demonstrated in the Gospel of Luke, in the account of the woman with the issue of blood. (Luke 8:43-44)
- Notice the technical language with which Luke, the physician, speaks.
- This is certainly a contrast to the other accounts in Matthew and Mark.
- Another obvious demonstration of this truth is found in Peter's writing regarding Paul's writing. (2 Peter 3:15-16)
- Peter says that Paul's writings are "hard to be understood."
- This is a testimony to the education and skill of the Apostle Paul in writing.
- This is a seemingly logical reason for Paul to be the author of the New Testament books from which we get our Church Age theology.

Notes:

Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs:

- "The B-I-B-L-E"
- "The Law Of The Lord" (Scripture Chorus - Psalm 19:7-10)
- "Holy Bible, Book Divine" (Hymn - #179 - Rejoice Hymns)