

God-breathed Words # 2

Text : **II Tim. 3:10-17**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Have you ever watched the demolition of a large building ? Amazing !

1. One building out of a row can be blown up without damaging any others.
2. It has become a well-honed science.
3. The interior supports are destroyed causing the building to collapse inward.

B. Sadly, this is what is happening to the house of God today.

1. Satan did his best to destroy it from without, but failed.
 - a. He tried direct attacks via the persecutions.
 - b. He cast to whole world into the dark ages. (*Imagine the loss of all progress*)
2. He is now working from within Christians themselves.
 - a. The pillars which support the structure are being weakened step by step. (*bible*)
 - b. The very foundation upon which the pillars stand is under attack.

c. **Eph. 2: 19-22** **So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.**

* 3. Without the integrity of the writings of the Apostles the Christian religion falls.

C. Satan's attacks against the bible are ever more refined.

1. He tried to overtly destroy it, but copies always survived.
2. He tried keeping the bible in unknown languages, but many translations were made.
3. He tried locking it away from the people and chaining it in church buildings, BUT
 - a. Codex Vaticanus locked away in the Vatican was memorized by Tregelles in 3 lang.
 - b. The invention of the printing press made it impossible to restrain.
4. Modern opponents question and seek to discredit the sacred origins of the scriptures.
 - a. As Christians grow increasingly ignorant of the scriptures fewer can defend it.
 - b. Increasingly it is being taught as ancient literature. (*subjected to literary criticism*)
 - c. The scriptures are now largely in the hands of a generation of skeptics.
5. To compound the problem, secular humanism has diluted respect for the scriptures.
 - a. Religion has become more about the needs and wants of man than about God.

- b. Christian assemblies are increasingly focused on entertainment.
- c. Even “conservative” Christians have incorporated traditions into their doctrine.

**Therefore, it is important that we take time to examine ourselves
With a view toward suring up the foundations of our faith.**

I. The Holy Scriptures are an inspired revelation from God.

A. Many today espouse that the bible contains words from God.

1. This is very different from saying that the scriptures are the words of God.
2. “Contains” indicated that there are portions of the scriptures that are not from God.
 - a. This opens for debate as to what is God’s word and what is not.
 - 1) Are the miracles real ?
 - 2) Are O.T. stories of faith just myths ?
 - b. To question any part of the scriptures casts dispersions on all.
3. **II Tim. 3: 16 - All Scripture is inspired by God ...**

B. “Inspired by God” means that God put HIS words into the mind of the writers.

1. God is the source of the words, **not** the man who wrote them down.
2. Translates on compound word “*theopneustos*”, literally “*God-breathed, God-blown.*”

C. The bible writers did not write from their own initiative.

1. They did not decide, “Well, what will I teach about today ? How about idols ?”
2. **II Pet. 1:19-21** **So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.**
3. “**moved by**” translates the word original word “*phero*” which means :
 - a. “To carry or push along”
 - b. It is a nautical term used to describe a ship being pushed along by the wind or “of persons borne in a ship over the sea.”
 - c. **THUS**, the prophets were pushed to record the words of God.

II. How does inspiration work ?

A. The scriptures do not tell us exactly how inspiration works.

1. Speculation about that which is unrevealed is sin.
Deut. 29:29- The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.
(This is the most liberating verse in the bible. We don't have to understand all.)
2. We know God has communicated to man in a variety of ways.
 - a. He walked with Adam in the garden. **Gen. 3: 8**
 - b. God spoke to Noah. **Gen. 6: 13**
to Abram. **Gen. 12: 1**
 - c. God spoke to Lot through angels. **Gen. 19: 1ff**
 - d. God spoke to Job out of a whirlwind. **Job 38: 1**
 - e. God spoke to Moses out of a burning bush. **Exod. 3: 4ff**
 - f. God spoke to Balaam using the mouth of a donkey. **Num. 22: 28ff**
 - g. God spoke to Jacob (others) in a dream. **Gen. 19: 1ff, Dan. 7:1, Num. 12: 6**
 - h. God has written on stone tablets. **Exod. 24: 12**
 - i. God has written on the wall. **Dan. 5: 5**

B. There are a variety of theories about inspiration.

1. Not taken over like a robot. **I Cor. 14:32** .. spirits of the prophets are subject to ..
2. God dictated each word to the writers.
 - a. In times of old it was common for those who could not write to dictate to scribes.
 - b. This theory proposes that God used the writers like a typewriter.
 - c. The obvious problem with this theory is that all of the writers have different styles.
3. Others postulate that God just gave them general ideas to be taught. (*concepts*)
 - a. *"Teach them that they should not worship idols."*
 - b. Realistically, this theory actually denies true inspiration.

C. The bible writers affirmed that they were writing the actual words of God.

1. No bible writers says, "God told me to write instruction on (topic) ."
2. The Prophet David said, **"The spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue."** **II Sam. 23: 2**
3. The Prophet Moses was instructed to speak the words of God :
 - a. **Exodus 4:12-** **"Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say."**
 - b. **Exodus 20:1-** **Then God spoke all these words, saying, ...**
4. The Prophet Ezekiel was commanded,
Ezekiel 2:7- **But you shall speak My words to them whether they listen or not,**

for they are rebellious.

5. The Apostle Paul said,

I Cor. 2:12-13 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, **12** which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

D. The Apostles believed that the scriptures were the words of God.

1. Paul taught doctrine based upon the exact wording of O.T. Scriptures.

Gal. 3: 16- Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.

2. Paul’s whole argument rests upon whether a specific word is singular or plural.

3. *Therefore, he is asserting that the specific wording came from God.*

E. From passages already examined it is clear that the bible writers knew God was using them to transmit HIS words. Even so, they did not always understand everything they wrote.

1. Those who prophesied of the coming of Jesus did not understand His coming.

I Pet. 1:10- 11 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, **11** seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

2. The Apostles did not always understand all things God instructed to be written.

a. **II Pet. 3:15b-16** ... just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, **16** as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

b. Compare ... **Gal. 2: 11** ff

3. Because of inspiration, God did not have to use scholars to write His book.

a. The Prophet Amos was a shepherd and fruit picker. ... **Amos 7:14**

b. Most of the Apostles were fishermen.

c. **Acts 4:13-** Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

Question : *Without the direct assistance of God, could untrained and uneducated men have written a book that would direct people’s lives for millennia ?*

III. What is inspired ? (Obviously they were not inspired at every moment. Cf- Gal. 2)

A. ONLY the original manuscripts were inspired of God. (autographs)

1. Many copies of the originals were made.
 - a. For the first 1500 years all copies were made by hand.
 - b. Some honest errors were made while copying the originals. (e.g. *skipped words*)
2. Some scribes sought to improve the text.
 - a. Make a sentence more clear
 - b. Make sure a doctrine was presented

B. It is fortunate that none of the autographs still exist today.

1. People have a strong tendency to worship religious artifacts.
 - a. Israel took the Ark of the Covenant into battle and lost it. **I Sam. 4**
 - b. Israel worshipped the bronze serpent for years.

II Kings 18:4- He (Hezekiah) removed the high places and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan.
2. “Christians” also have this problem.
 - a. There are more than 400 certified foreskins of Jesus.
 - b. “There are enough pieces of the cross to build an ark.”
 - c. Indiana Jones is still looking for the golden chalis and the ark of the covenant.

C. The bible has been translated into more languages than any other book in history.

1. Most translations have been made by men of sincere faith and some ability.
 - a. Good motives do not always produce good results.
 - b. We all have a certain amount of bias and some preconceptions produced by life.
2. ALL translation involves an element of interpretation.

* **This is why one should never buy a translation made by any one religion.**

- a. Most often, one will choose the words that best present HIS understanding.
- b. Few will translate a document in a way that contradicts his basic beliefs

Note : *This is why so many English translations are slanted toward Calvinism and Premillennialism.*

- c. Translation errors occur even when the translators honestly seek accuracy.

D. One must choose his translation of the bible carefully.

1. Paraphrases are not to be confused with translations. (*Living Bible*)
2. “Thought-for-thought” versions are not true translations. (*New International Version*)
 - a. These give the sense of the original, but not the exact words.
 - b. If every word comes from God, **every** word is important.
 - c. These can be good for reading, **CANNOT** be used for serious study.
3. A student must have a translation which is word-for-word and somewhat literal.
 - a. A literal translation requires more effort, but yields highly accurate results.
 - b. However, being too literal can also be a problem. (*1901 American Standard*)
 - c. The **1901 ASV** remains the most accurate English ever made, but is too difficult.
4. The New American Standard is the single most accurate translation available today.
 - a. It is the update of the 1901 American Standard. (**1901 was word for word**)
 - b. In 1995 the 1960 edition of the NASV was again updated.
5. Living languages change over time so translations become inaccurate as time passes.
 - a. The King James became obsolete because the English changed.
 - b. The New King James translation is greatly improved.

CONCLUSION :

- A. **Though we do not understand the exact process, Christians believe the bible to be the word of God. (not just to contain words from God.)**
- B. **We believe the inspiration of the bible to be :**
 - Verbal** = every word comes from God
 - Plenary** = each and every part is equally inspired
 - Confluent** = spoken by God through man
 - Inerrant** = it contains no errors
 - Authoritative** = the scriptures carry the full authority of God

Lesson Text :

II Timothy 3:10-17 (NASV)

10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, **11** persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! **12** Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. **13** But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad to*

worse, deceiving and being deceived. **14** You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, **15** and 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. **16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.