

God's Written Word

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Introduction:

- A. Believers receive tough questions about the validity of the Bible.
 - 1. How can we know what is God's word, when there were so many other religious writings that were circulated?
 - 2. How can we call the Bible, God's word, when it was written by human beings?
 - 3. What was Jesus's viewpoint on the matter?
 - 4. What did Paul really mean by scripture?
- B. Today, let us get equipped on this subject matter as we understand the statement: *All Scripture is inspired by God.* (2 Tim 3:16).

What is Scripture? (14,15)

- A. Paul urged Timothy to c_____ in certain teachings
 - 1. What he had learned from P_____
 - a. Timothy's father was an unbelieving Greek, but his mother was a believing _____ (Acts 16:1)
 - b. Paul brought Timothy to faith in Christ and educated him in the w_____ and ways of Jesus (1 Cor 4:17; 2 Cor 1:1; Phil 1:1; Col 1:1; 1 Thess 1:1; 2 Thess 1:1; Philemon 1:1)
 - 2. What he had learned from c_____ about the sacred writings (or Holy Scriptures).
 - a. This refers to the body of writings that the Jewish people had long before Jesus walked the earth (the Old T_____)
 - b. From these writings Paul showed Timothy how Jesus fulfilled p_____ as was his custom in evangelizing in the synagogues (Acts 17:2,3)
 - 3. Why did Paul and Timothy believe that the body of Jewish writings were h_____, sacred, set apart from other writings and that they were authoritative? J_____ believed this.
 - a. Matt 21:42 – Jesus asked if they had read in the Scriptures (plural) not Scripture (singular), which means he was referring to a broader c_____ of writings.
 - b. Jesus described the above as the L_____ and the Prophets (Matt 5:17; 7:12; 11:13; 22:40; Lk 16:16; 24:44).
- B. How the Old Testament existed in Jesus's day.
 - 1. The Hebrew scriptures were made up of several s_____
 - 2. The Hebrew scriptures were translated into G_____ (called the Septuagint which included 14 extra books)
 - 3. The Jewish historian, Josephus (writing in the 70's AD), records that the holy scriptures accepted by the Jews were the Hebrew scriptures (*Against Apion 1:8*).

4. The collection of Hebrew scriptures correspond to the _____ books we have in our present day Old Testament.

C. What about the New Testament?

1. Jesus told His a _____ that they would be the preserver of His teachings (Jn 14:26)
 - a. The 3000 people who came to Christ devoted themselves to the apostles' t _____ (Acts 2:42).
 - b. Paul, formerly a persecutor of the c _____, was chosen by Jesus to be the 12th apostle (remember Rev 21:14).
 - 1) The apostle Peter viewed Paul's writings as being part of the s _____ (2 Pet 3:16)
 - 2) The apostle Paul wrote _____ books of the New Testament
 - c. The gospel of Mark is a record of the apostle P ____ 's words (Eusebius cites a writing by Papias, a disciple of the apostle John, telling us this – *Ecclesiastical History* 3.39.15-16).
 - d. The gospel of Luke is a record of eyewitnesses (the apostles) to Jesus's life and teachings put in chronological order (Lk 1:1-4). Luke also wrote A _____ while traveling with Paul, getting his information from Paul.
 - e. The book of James was written by a half-brother of Jesus who was considered to be a p _____ of the church (Gal 2:9 – thus a prophet; see also I Cor 15:7).
 - f. The book of Jude was written by a half-brother of Jesus and is a virtual duplication of the book of 2 P _____.
 - g. Hebrews has an unknown author to us.
 - 1) The author was not an a _____ (Heb 2:3,4)
 - 2) It was written prior to the destruction of the t _____ which happened in 70 A.D. since it mentions the sacrificial system as being still in place (Heb 10:11-18).
 - 3) Was accepted by the early church as authoritative.

D. What about other writings that were circulated?

1. Writings of h _____ (e.g. Josephus, Tacitus, Seutonius) held some authority but were not part of the sacred writings.
2. Writings by d _____ of apostles were cited by the early church Fathers, but never deemed part of the sacred writings.
3. "The Lost Books of the Bible" were written over _____ years after Jesus walked the earth, well after all the apostles had died, thus being immediately rejected as scripture by the earliest church fathers.

E. Therefore, the 66 books of the Bible as we have it are authoritative.

In what sense is Scripture inspired? (16)

All Scripture is inspired by God

A. Definition

1. Does not mean an emotional impulse like being inspired to write music, or to develop an idea.
2. Literally means, God-breathed or God-s_____
3. Practical meaning – God’s Spirit is behind the p_____ of producing every single scripture (i.e. sacred scripture), which includes the New Testament (Jn 14:26).

B. How was inspiration viewed?

1. By the apostle Peter (2 Pet 1:20,21) – not one prophecy of scripture was made by an act of human will, but men m_____ by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
2. Whenever a prophet spoke in the name of the Lord, the people were to see it not as the prophet’s understanding but the Lord’s w_____ (Deut 18:20-22)
3. Jesus saw David’s writing as by the Holy Spirit and so God’s word (Matt 22:43)
 - a. The Holy Spirit can only speak what the Father and Jesus speak (Jn 16:13)
 - b. Jesus only speaks what the F_____ speaks (Jn 12:49)
 - c. Jesus declared God’s word as t_____ (Jn 17:17)
4. Therefore, inspiration of the scriptures means that it is without e_____ since God can only speak the truth. It is the ultimate authority that God has preserved for us to judge all else.

Conclusion: - If asked, *How do you know the Bible is God’s word?*

1. I do not know more about this subject than Peter, Paul, or Jesus.
2. I am confident that the Bible is God’s word and is the ultimate authority in what we are to believe and practice.
 - a. Matt 21:42 - Jesus considered written scripture what the Jewish people of His day considered scripture – our Old Testament.
 - b. 2 Pet 3:16 – Peter considered Paul’s writings scripture.
 - c. Eph 2:20 – the writings of the apostles and the prophets were the foundation of the church (our Old and New Testaments).
 - d. 2 Tim 3:16 – ALL scripture is inspired by God and so is God’s word not man’s.
 - e. Jn 17:7 – God’s word is truth.