

The Book of God #3

Text : **II Timothy 3: 10-17 ; II Peter 1: 12-20**

- A. When men rejected the rule of those who usurped the throne of Christ our mantra became “Sola Scriptura” which means, the scriptures only.** S#1.
S#2.
1. Since that time many have been martyred in their struggle to be ruled by scripture.
 2. From the sixteen hundreds until now the Bible has remained the most popular book.
 3. As Christians we profess to follow the scripture in all matters of faith and practice.
- B. Today the bible and Christianity are under attack as never before in our time.**
1. Science and pleasure have become America’s gods of choice.
 2. Both Christianity and our sacred scriptures are ridiculed as myths, and superstition.
 3. Though many still pay lip service, actual believers are nearly an endangered species.
- C. Many who still bear the name “Christian” do not openly live their faith.**
1. The world offers so many pleasures, many no longer have time for a spiritual life.
 2. Fewer and fewer of us have the strength of character displayed by Moses.
Heb. 11: 24-26 – By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. S#3.
 3. Moses had more temptations than we have :
 - a. No TV or stereo ... He could order any live entertainment that he wanted.
 - b. No sports cars or motorcycles ... Fast horses and sports chariots
 - c. No bass boats or jet skis ... Luxurious Nile River cruises with entertainment
 - d. He would have been popular among the groupies and had unlimited women
- D. Though we claim the scriptures as our sole guide for all matters of faith and practice, few spend significant amounts of time studying God’s word.** S#4.
1. We started observing meditation as a way to develop a deeper understanding.
 - a. Not a mystical eastern practice stemming from Buddhism, but a focused mind.
 - b. A process by which the Word of God is brought into our hearts in practical ways.
 - c. Meditation on the word can occur as we are in the course of our daily life.
 - 1) God to Joshua regarding His law : **Josh. 1: 8** – you shall meditate on it day and night, **SO THAT** you may be careful to do all that is written in it.
 - 2) The Apostle commanded us : **Col. 3: 2** – set your mind on things above, not on

2. We then looked at the history and makeup of the bible.
 - a. God revealed Himself to us via general revelation and special revelation.
 - b. The only specific knowledge man has of God is revealed in His book.
 - c. Over a period of 1500 years God used 40 men to reveal Himself to man.
3. In our last lesson we saw that the Bible was given to man by inspiration of God.
 - a. We looked at some theories of inspiration : Neo-orthodox, limited, dictation.
 - b. We affirmed that the proper view of inspiration is : verbal, plenary, confluent
 - 1) Verbal : Every word comes from God.
 - 2) Plenary : God's inspiration extends to every portion of the bible.
 - 3) Confluent : Dual authorship .. Man wrote the scriptures, but God is the author.

S#5.

E. *This lesson will introduce a discussion of the inerrancy and infallibility of bible.*

S#6.

F. Some of you may be thinking, "*I don't need this lesson, I already believe that.*"

1. In order to convince people we must be able to explain WHY we are believers.
2. The inerrancy of scripture has been a major debate among the denominations for the past few years and it is leaching into the church.
3. Two major denominations (*Missouri Synod Lutherans and southern Baptists*) have had major upheavals over this doctrines.

I. We begin with a definition of terms.

S#7.

A. Infallibility :

S#8.

1. Incapable of making a mistake, cannot fail, indefectible
(Indefectible : not liable to fail, to end or to decay, perfect, faultless)
 - a. Infallible is a higher term than inerrant. Inerrancy does not require inspiration only the absence of errors.
 - b. Being inerrant today does not guarantee one will be so in the future.
2. Example, a student may get 100% on a spelling test today, but miss word next

B. Inerrant : Free from errors.

S#9.

1. "When all the facts are known and properly interpreted, the bible does not present anything that is contrary to fact."
2. We believe that there are NO errors anywhere in the bible.
3. To believe that there are errors in the bible one must believe one of two things :
 - a. One, God can err. OR
 - b. Two, the bible is not from God.

S#10.

II. Belief in the inerrancy and infallibility of the scripture requires some faith.

A. The Apostle taught us that unspiritual men cannot accept spiritual things. S#11.

1. **I Cor. 2: 14** – But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

2. Some people literally do not have the ability to understand.

- a. One reasons **from** what he knows **to** what he **seeks** to understand
- b. Faith grows out of exposure to the word.

Rom. 10: 16-17 – However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, Who has believed our report" **17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

S#12.

- c. After repeated hearing, faith begins to develop and also understanding.

3. THUS, one who is not exposed to the scriptures has difficulty to accept them.

B. Inerrancy and infallibility cannot be imperially proven. S#13.

1. The scriptures say God created the earth in six days which had morning and evening.

- a. How can you prove He did ? There are no witnesses.
- b. One accepts it on faith in the testimony of scripture.

2. This gets down to the very core teachings of our Christian faith.

- a. The virgin birth cannot be proven.

No one ever had imperial evidence except Mary herself.

- b. We have no living witnesses of the miracles of Jesus.

The Apostles saw them and wrote down what they witnessed so we trust them.

** There is no one alive who saw George Washington so we trust witnesses.*

- c. All of Christianity relies on the resurrection of Jesus, but we must trust testimony

I Cor. 15: 6 – He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

S#14.

C. Current science cannot be assumed to establish facts because science changes.

1. Men have an ongoing tendency to think what they believe to be true is fact.

2. "In the year **1861** the **French Academy of Science** published a list of fifty-one so-called scientific **facts**, each of which, it was alleged, disproved some statement in the Bible. Today the Bible remains as it was then, but not one of those fifty-one so-called **facts** is held by men of science." (liberals deny this)

3. With the advancement of technology, "settles science" evolves quickly.

- a. When Columbus discovered America, he fought mutiny b/c crew thought earth flat

- b. George Washington, our first President was bled to death by medical science.

Lev. 17: 11 –For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you **S#15.**
on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood
by reason of the life that makes atonement.'

III. The inspiration of the scriptures demands inerrancy and infallibility. **S#16.**

A. The scriptures claim to be from God.

1. **II Tim. 3: 15-16** – and that from childhood you have known the sacred **S#17.**
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;
2. **II Pet. 1: 21** – for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, **S#18.**
but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

B. Inerrancy is the natural fruit of inspiration. **S#19.**

1. An all-knowing God can make no errors so words from Him can have no errors.
2. Thus, one who believes the scriptures are breathed by God will of necessity
believe that the scriptures are both inerrant and infallible.
3. E.J. Young wrote in his classic book *Thy Word is Truth* saying, “According to
the bible inspiration is a superintendent of God the Holy Spirit over the writers
of the scriptures; as a result of which these scriptures possess divine authority
and trustworthiness are free of error.”

C. The eternal God will not change. **S#20.**

1. Imagine trying to serve a God who would change His mind about things.
 - a. The Greeks and the Romans created gods in their own image with faults.
 - b. The eternal God of the universe will never change.
James 1: 17 – Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is
no variation or shifting shadow.
2. The word of God is infallible because the all-powerful God cannot lie.
 - a. **Titus 1: 2** – ... according to godliness, **2** in the hope of eternal life, **S#21.**
which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,
3 but at the proper time manifested, even His word,
 - b. **Heb. 6: 18** – God ... interposed with an oath, **18** so that by two unchangeable **S#22.**
things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken
refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope
set before us
 - c. Deceit isn't in the character of God, but as sovereign, whatever He says is true

IV. Why is it important to study inerrancy and infallibility?**S#23.****S#24.****A. Inerrancy and infallibility is at the heart of the debate for the soul of Christianity**

1. Many today affirm infallibility, but deny inerrancy ... deny our foundational truth.
2. As previously noted, some denominations have split over this debate.

B. The doctrine of “partial inerrancy” has become popular.

1. This doctrine states that the bible is inerrant ONLY in matters of faith and practice.
2. It's often simply stated as, “Scriptures are inerrant in matters of faith and practice.”
3. This liberal persuasion believes that references not essential to faith are not inspired.
 - a. Historical and geographic references are from human authors only and may error.
 - b. It is thought that some things are solely based in the life experience of the writer.

C. There is great debate as to what constitutes “faith and practice.”**S#25.**

1. These often come into play as liberals seek to adjust doctrine to social changes.
 - a. Large, formerly conservative, old denomination used this to ordain homosexuals
 - b. A number of denominations used this to violate scripture by ordaining women
2. While not overtly stating it as the reason, the church has made such changes.
 - a. Many have gone to the Christian church denomination to get instrumental music.
 - b. Evangelistic zeal has been curtailed because of political correctness.
 - c. Quit saying amen, quit wearing head coverings, preachers became teachers, etc

S#26.**D. One's attitude toward the scriptures affect his attitude toward other things :**

1. It affects one's attitude toward the gospel. *If scripture is unreliable so is ...*
2. It affects one's attitude toward the Christ.
3. It affects one's attitude toward science. (*Look for ways to compromise.*)
2. It affects one's attitude toward preaching the word. (*Scripture = manna from Heaven*)
 - a. One who has no confidence in the source, will have no confidence in his message.
 - b. One who has no confidence in his message will not preach it with conviction.
 - c. The scriptures should never be a lion with no teeth.

CONCLUSION :**S#27.**

Our attitude toward the written word is our attitude toward the giver of the word.

S#28. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**II Timothy 3: 10-17**

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.

II Pet.1: 12-21

12 Therefore, I will always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. **13** I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, **14** knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. **15** And I will also be diligent that at any time after my departure you will be able to call these things to mind.

16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. **17** For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased" — **18** and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

19 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.

Life cannot have had a random beginning ... The trouble is that there are about 2000 enzymes, and the chance of obtaining them all in a random trial is only one part in $10^{40,000}$, an outrageously small probability that could not be faced even if the whole universe consisted of organic soup. - Fred Hoyle

Sir Fred Hoyle (1915 - 2001), an astronomer,