

Origin: "We often profit without perceiving it."

All Scripture is Inspired by God

Jerry Cisar — January 21, 2018

- B. Scripture is our memory... without it the church gets amnesia.
- C. To say that the Bible is the final authority does not mean that it is the only way God speaks.
 - i. Psalm 19:1 and Romans 1:19-20
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 14
- D. To say that Scripture is the final authority does not mean it is the only authority.
- E. To say that Scripture is the final authority does not settle everything.

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- How might the idea of "organic inspiration" differ from the idea that God dictated the scriptures to those who wrote it?
- Why is it important that the Scriptures themselves claim that the writings in it are the Word of God?
- What are some of the implications that you might draw from the fact that the Bible is the supreme authority in life and doctrine?
- Why do you think that it is also important to recognize the importance of lesser authorities for doctrine, such as the church or tradition? Can you think of problems one might have if they do not?
- In 2 Timothy 3:16, it says that all Scriptures are ... useful, or profitable. Can you think of some practical implications for that in the life of the church?

Text: 2 Timothy 3:14–4:4

I. What does it mean?

- A. What is included in "all Scripture"?
- B. *Inspired by God* translates a word that means *God-breathed*.

J.I. Packer: "Scripture is not only man's word, the fruit of human thought, premeditation and art, but also, and equally, God's word, spoken through man's lips or written with man's pen. In other words, Scripture has a double authorship."

- C. John Frame diagram



- D. "We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts...".
 - i. Our English Translations
 - ii. Original Manuscripts
- E. We believe in "organic inspiration," rather than dictation.

"The Spirit of the Lord entered into the prophets and apostles themselves and so employed and led them that they themselves examined and reflected, spoke and wrote as they did. It is God who speaks through them; at the same time it is they themselves who speak and write... Their native disposition and bent, their character and inclination, their

intellect and development, their emotions and willpower are not undone by the calling that later comes to them but, as they had been already shaped by the Holy Spirit in advance, so they are now summoned into service and used by that same Spirit. Their whole personality with all their gifts and powers are made serviceable to the calling to which they are summoned.... They retain their powers of reflection and deliberation, their emotional states and freedom of the will.” (Herman Bavinck, Reformed Dogmatics, Abridged ed., pp. 104-5)

F. Does the Bible tell us everything we need to know?

- i. Scripture is the final authority in faith, doctrine, and practice. (2 Timothy 3:15)
- ii. The inspired writers were given truth about God to write in their language and thinking constructs of their own day.
- iii. Although the Bible is not about all truth, it is about the most important truth.

II. How do we know it?

- A. In all learning, we build on truth that has been handed down from those who came before us.
 - i. Jesus and the apostles treated the Old Testament as the Inspired Word of God.
 - a) John 10:34-35
 - b) Acts 1:16-21
 - c) Acts 4:25
 - d) Hebrews 3:7; 10:15-17
 - e) Acts 20:35

f) 2 Pet. 3:15-16

ii. Peter explains how the Scriptures came to us. (2 Pet. 1:20-21)

B. Is it circular reasoning to look to Scripture about its inspiration?

C. Examine the lives of those from whom we've learned it. (2 Tim. 3:14)

i. The apostles

ii. Timothy's mother and grandmother testified to the fact that these writings were God's word.

D. We don't have to solve every problem before we accept its validity.

*“While not all questioning of Scripture reveals hostile unbelief, it is important to underscore the duty of every person to be humble before Scripture. Holy Scripture must judge us, not the reverse.... Submission remains a struggle, even an intellectual one. We must acknowledge our limitations, the reality of mystery, and our weakness of faith, without despairing of all knowledge and truth.... **This does not mean that the believer is delivered from all questions about Scripture. Believers are not freed from all doubt, and in Scripture too there is much that raises doubt....** Here on earth no one ever rises above that battle. There is no faith without struggle. To believe is to struggle, to struggle against the appearance of things. **Easy concessions to intellectual challenges weaken believers but do not liberate them.** We need not disguise the intellectual problems in Scripture nor ignore them, even if many will probably never be resolved.”* (Bavinck, pp. 106-7).

E. The church didn't *create* the canon of Scripture, but *recognized* it.

III. What are the implications?

A. The Scripture is profitable... (2 Tim. 3:16-17)