

Systematic Theology: Bibliology

Inspiration (Based on notes from Dr. K. Bauder)

What does GCBC teach?

We teach that the Bible is God's written revelation to man, and thus the sixty-six books of the Bible given to us by the Holy Spirit constitute the plenary (inspired equally in all parts) Word of God.¹

We teach that the Word of God is an objective, propositional revelation,² verbally inspired in every word,³ absolutely inerrant in the original documents, infallible, and God-breathed. We teach the literal, grammatical-historical interpretation of Scripture which affirms the belief that the opening chapters of Genesis present creation in six literal days.⁴

We teach that the Bible constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice.⁵

We teach that God spoke in His written Word by a process of dual authorship. The Holy Spirit so superintended that human authors that, through their individual personalities and different styles of writing, they composed and recorded God's Word to man⁶ without error in the whole or in the part.⁷

What are we talking about?

What "inspiration" is not

1. Inspiration does *not* involve _____ The RCC position is that the Vulgate was divinely superintended and is more authoritative than the originals. KJO-ism can often take some forms.
2. It does *not* involve _____ that God has said. As we mentioned before, God spoke through prophets often and there are allusions in the Bible that those words were not included in scripture.
3. Inspiration does *not* involve _____ Men made mistakes. Not all they wrote was inspired.

What "inspiration" is

Inspiration is the _____ of the act of God in which the Holy Spirit enabled men to write _____ whatever God _____ humanity to _____.

¹1 Corinthians 2:7-14; 2 Peter 1:20-21

²1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 2:13

³2 Timothy 3:16

⁴Genesis 1:31; Exodus 31:17

⁵Matthew 5:18; 24:35; John 10:35; 16:12-13; 17:17; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21

⁶2 Peter 1:20-21

⁷Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16

What has the Church throughout history taught?

Polycarp, the pupil of the Apostle John, considered the Scriptures the very voice of the Most High, and pronounced the firstborn of Satan as "*whosoever perverts these oracles of the Lord.*"

Irenaeus, the pupil of Polycarp, claimed: "*the Scriptures are perfect, seeing that they are spoken by God's Word and his Spirit.*"

Origen asserts that the Holy Spirit was a coworker with the Evangelists in the composition of the Gospel, and that, therefore, *lapse of memory, error or falsehood was impossible to them,*

Luther adopts these words of **Augustine's** as his own, and declares that the "*whole of the Scriptures are to be ascribed to the Holy Ghost, and therefore cannot err.*"

Calvin demanded that whatever is propounded in Scripture, "without exception," shall be humbly received by us, that the Scriptures as a whole shall be received by us with the same reverence which we give to God, "*because they have emanated from him alone, and are mixed with nothing human.*"

What does the Bible say?

2 Timothy 3:16.

2 Peter 1:19-21. This means that the writing of Scripture wasn't them deciding to get up and write a book under their initiative. This passage is emphasizing the _____ side of the interaction and not the _____ side.

The Testimony of Christ to Inspiration

1. Scripture is from _____.

- a. Vs. 8-9 – He calls it the _____ of God.
- b. Vs. 10 – He uses the phrase " _____ said."
- c. Vs. 13 – He calls it the " _____ of God."

2. The Old Testament is called _____.

Luke 24:27

Matt. 22:23-33 --Jesus takes a _____ that is implied and is basing an argument on a grammatical construct, and He calls it "that which was spoken to you by God."

3. He considered the Old Testament to be _____.

John 10:35 -

4. Christ accepted the _____ of the Old Testament

- a. Flood – Luke 17:26-27
- b. Burning Bush – Luke 20:37
- c. Jonah and the Whale – Matt. 12:40
- d. Lot's Wife – Luke 17:31-33

5. Jesus testifies to the _____ of Scripture.

Mark 12:35-36

The Testimony of the Apostles to the Inspiration of Their Writings

I Cor. 7:10, 12 (“Not I but the Lord . . . not the Lord but I”)

2 Pet. 3:15-16

What does this mean?

1. God worked through _____ and _____ of the men He chose to write Scripture. The books of Scripture are genuinely human documents as well as being God’s Word. The one does not negate the other.
2. The emphasis is upon the _____, not the _____. Scripture means “written word” or “writings.”
3. Inspiration resulted in writings that were without error. Why? Because God does not _____!
4. Inspiration applies properly to the _____, not to _____ of them. To the extent that the copies reflect the originals, we may speak of them as “_____.” But it is properly the originals that are God-breathed.
5. The documents were _____, not the _____.
6. Inspiration extends to _____ of Scripture. (literally, every Scripture is God-breathed.)

How does this doctrine relate to the Gospel?

“The truthfulness and authority of the Holy Scriptures must ... rank as a first-order doctrine, for without affirming the Bible *as the very Word of God*, we are left without any adequate authority for distinguishing truth from error.”⁸ (emphasis added)

What difference does it make?

How should we respond?

⁸Mohler, Albert R., “Confessional Evangelicalism” in *Four Views on The Spectrum of Evangelicalism* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011), 79.

ANSWER KEY

What are we talking about?

What “inspiration” is not

1. translations.
2. all
3. perfect men.

What “inspiration” is

result accurately wanted know.

What does the *Bible* say?

2 Peter 1:19-21. Divine human

The Testimony of Christ to Inspiration

1. **God.**
 - a. commandment
 - b. Moses
 - c. Word
2. **Scripture.**
Matt. 22:23-33 --single word
3. **unchangeable.**
4. **miracles**
5. **dual authorship**

What does this mean?

1. vocabulary style
2. written word, spoken word
3. breathe untruths
4. original documents, copies inspired
5. inspired, men.
6. all