

## Lesson 2: Authority of the Bible

*In lesson one we discussed revelation and God's unveiling of Himself to man. But here I want us to see "Inspiration" – which is the chief mode God has chosen by which to reveal Himself.*

*Inspiration – This is the Mode that Paul writes about in II Timothy*

This literally means: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.

**Note:** Three points to observe

1. The process of inspiration was not a *Mechanical one*.
  - a. *Amos* was the prophet of God's justice
  - b. *Hosea* of His love
  - c. *Isaiah* of His kingly sovereignty
  - d. *Paul* was the apostle of God's grace and faith
  - e. *James* of works
  - f. *John* of love
  - g. *Peter* of Hope.

God made full use of the *Personality, Temperament, Background and Experience* of the biblical authors, in order to convey through each an appropriate and distinctive message.

2. The Bible is literally true, but not every word should be taken *Literally as Truth*.
3. The "True" inspired text is the original *Hebrew and Greek* manuscripts as it came from the author's hands.

### Arguments for the Authority of Scripture

1. *Historical Christian Churches* have consistently maintained and defended the divine origin of Scripture.
2. The *Biblical Writers* themselves claimed the scriptures to be authoritative.
  - a. *Moses* said he had received the Law from God
  - b. *The Prophet* introduced their oracles with formulas like "Thus says the Lord" or "The Word of the Lord came to me, saying."
  - c. *The Apostles* could write such statements as this one from Paul...

#### 1Thes 2:13

13 And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted {it} not {as} the word of men,

but {for} what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. (NAS)

- d. The biblical authors also *Make Similar* claims for each other.
  - i. *The prophets endorsed the Law and the Psalmist extolled its truth, beauty and sweetness* (Psa. 19; 119)
  - ii. *Peter refers to the letters of “our dear brother Paul.”* (2 Peter 3:15-16)
- 3. The *Readers of Scripture* testify to its authority.
- 4. The biggest reason Christians believe in the divine inspiration and authority of Scripture is not because of what the churches teach, the writers claimed or the reader’s sense, but because of *What Jesus Christ Himself said*.

### **Christ’s View of the OT**

- There can be no doubt to Christ belief in the authority of the OT because He *Submitted to it Himself*.
  - In His *Personal Conduct* –
  - He submitted to the OT in the fulfillment of *His Mission*.
  - Jesus submitted to the OT in *His Controversies*.

### **Christ’s Provision for the NT**