

The Final Authority

Study #3

10/14/18

Various ideas on inspiration (theories)

The natural view – The Bible is written by gifted men and not by God

A high level of human achievement

Written by gifted men (not God)

What does the Bible say about it?

II Peter 1:20-21 “not by the will of man”

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

The Dynamic view – Only the main thought of a paragraph is living, the thought or the idea or meaning behind the words

The content, flow and teachings are critical but not the specifics

This means Spiritual matters are inspired however scientific, historical, and geographical matters are not

This view is more conservative than the natural view but not correct

What does the Bible say about it?

Mt 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

The Partial view – Only certain parts of the Bible are inspired

Pick and choose, just the parts that speak to you

The red print of the words of Christ would be more inspired than others

The NT more than the OT

What does the Bible say about it?

II Tim 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The spiritual rule view – Not in its historical and scientific content just in its moral, ethical, and religious content

Spiritual matters are for the religious

Scientific matters for the scientist

Historical matters for the historian

The Bible is only an authority in spiritual and moral matters

John 17:17

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

John 3:12

If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

The plenary verbal view – All of the words are inspired by God

The correct view

Matt 24:35

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

I Cor 14:37

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

Inspiration is the act of God enabling the Bible writers to write down God chosen words infallibly

Vines – Inspiration attaches not only to the thought but to the words by which the thought is expressed.