

Foundations of the Faith Lesson 1: “*The Scripture*”

I. Of The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

1. By “The Holy Bible” we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but IS the very Word of God.
2. By “inspiration” we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

Memory Verses - Select 3 or more passages to memorize for next week:

II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter. 1:19-21; Acts 1:16; Acts 28:25; Psalms 119:105, 130, 160; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17; Luke 24:44-45; Psalms 119:89; Prov. 30:5-6; Rom. 3:4; I Peter 1:23; Rev. 22:19; John 12:48; Isaiah 8:20; Eph. 6:17; Rom. 15:4; Luke 16:31; Psalms 19:7-11; John 5:45-47; John 5:39

Opening Questions

What separates the Bible from other “religious” books?
How do people view the Bible today? How do you view the Bible?

1. The Bible is ***Inspired*** (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

- a. *We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired...*
 - i. By inspiration we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.
 - ii. 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God...*” Inspiration literally means “God-breathed.” In other words, God is the Author and the men who wrote the Bible were the pens he used to write it (2 Peter 1:19-21).
 - iii. According to 2 Timothy 3:16 all scripture is inspired.
 1. The inspired scriptures we believe are the sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but IS the very Word of God.
 - iv. Knowing that the entire Bible is inspired, how should that affect what we read from it?
 - v. How do many people view the Bible today?
 - vi. What would it mean if the Bible was not inspired by God?

2. The Bible is ***Truth*** and ***Infallible*** (Psalm 19:7-11; John 17:17; Acts 1:16)

- a. *We believe that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter...*

- b. The Bible is the infallible, inerrant Word of God. This means the Bible is without errors and tells the truth.

Charles Ryrie states, *"Inerrancy is a crucial issue, for if the Bible is not completely without error then it must have at least one error in it...then the question becomes, How can I trust the Bible at all?"* (Basic Theology, Pg 88)

- c. How would an error in the Bible affect the rest of the Bible?
- d. Would it change the way you would interpret and apply the Bible?
- e. In John 17:17 Jesus testified to what being truth?
- f. Since the Bible is written by God, and not men, we can trust that the Bible is not only THE truth but also that is the infallible and inerrant Word of God.

3. The Bible is the **Only** Word of God (Psalm 119:89, 160; Proverbs 30:5-6; 1 Peter 1:23; Revelation 22:19)

- a. *We believe the Bible is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man...*
- b. According to Psalm 119:160 & 1 Peter 1:23 God's word is true from the beginning and it endures forever. The Bible is not just a word of God or one of the words of God but is in fact the only Word of God.
- c. What does Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:5-6 & Revelation 22:19 teach us about adding to or taking away from the Bible? It is almost as though God put a guardian at the beginning, middle and end of the Bible to protect against tampering with it!
 - i. This includes any modern day "revelation" to people by what they think is right or from what they received from an angel (Galatians 1:6-12).
 - ii. Books included in this category claiming to be God's Word are:
 - 1. The Book of Mormon (Mormonism)
 - 2. The Apocrypha (Part of the Catholic Bible)
 - 3. The Koran (Islam)
 - 4. The Vedas (Hinduism)
 - 5. The New World Translation (Jehovah's Witness' Bible)
- d. How would it affect you if the Bible was not the only Word of God?
- e. What did Satan attack in Genesis 3:1? How did this undermine who God is? Is Satan still doing the same today? How?

4. The Bible is The **Standard** (Psalm 119:105, 130, 142; John 5:39, 45-47; Romans 15:4; Ephesians 6:17; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12)

- a. *We believe the Bible is the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.*
- b. It is everything that we need and the standard to live by (2 Timothy 3:15-17)
 - i. "Salvation" 3:15 *"...the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation..."*
 - ii. "Doctrine" 3:16 - What to believe
 - iii. "Reproof" 3:16 - What not to believe
 - iv. "Correction" 3:16 - How not to act/behave
 - v. "Instruction" 3:16 - How to act/behave
- c. The purpose of the Bible is life change (John 6:63, Philippians 2:16, 1 John 1:1, Acts 5:20, John 10:10)
 - i. D.L. Moody said, *"The Bible was not (knowledge) given to give us information, but to change our lives!"*

- ii. It was given not just to know but to grow!

The Bible contains sixty-six books written by over forty authors and covers a period of at least fifteen hundred years. With only a few exceptions, the authors were Jewish men. Yet the Bible has universal appeal. Two writers were kings; two were priests; one was a physician; two were fishermen; two were shepherds. Paul was a Pharisee and a theologian; Daniel was a statesman; Matthew was a tax collector; Joshua was a soldier; Ezra was a scribe; Nehemiah was a cupbearer. The writing of these men expanded over fifteen hundred years and yet there is not one contradiction and they develop the same perfect theme! How awesome! How important is it to know the Word of God? If you seek to know God and His will for your life, know His Word! What are some ways you can learn it?