

# Theological Equipping Class

## The Inspiration of Scripture

March 5, 2023

*The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Isaiah 40:7-8*

### Introduction

2 Timothy 3:16 *πᾶσα γραφὴ θεόπνευστος* (pasa graphe theopneustos)

- KJV: All scripture is given by *inspiration* of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...
- NASB: All Scripture is *inspired* by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness...
- ESV: All Scripture is *breathed out* by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...

### All Scripture

- *The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.* Luke 10:16
- *And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.* Acts 10:39-42
- *that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles...* 2 Peter 3:2
- *For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard.* Hebrews 2:2-3
- *If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized.* 1 Corinthians 14:37-38
- *We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.* 1 John 4:6
- *And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.* 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- *And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.* 2 Peter 3:15-16
- *For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."* 1 Timothy 5:18

**Definition:** *Inspiration is, therefore, usually defined as a supernatural influence exerted on the sacred writers by the Spirit of God, by virtue of which their writings are given Divine trustworthiness.* (Benjamin Warfield)

- *For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that **no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*** (2 Peter 1:16–21, ESV)

Insufficient views of the manner of inspiration:

1. Natural inspiration
2. Mechanical dictation
3. Accommodation

Theologians use a variety of verbs to describe the way the divine author (the Holy Spirit) interacted with the human author: moved, led, guided, directed, composed, supervised, superintended

Amanuenses?

- *Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at the dictation of Jeremiah all the words of the Lord that he had spoken to him.* (Jeremiah 36:4)
- *I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.* (Romans 16:22)
- *By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.* (1 Peter 5:12)

Summary

1. the divine element
2. the human element
3. the result of the divine-human authorship is the recording of God's truth without error
4. inspiration extends to the selection of very words by the writers (verbal plenary)
5. Inspiration is the foundation of the entire doctrine of Scripture. All of the other characteristics of Scripture are implications of this central doctrine