



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD! - 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17, PART 1

COLORADO

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Scripture is from God and about God. It is His self-revelation to fallen mankind. From Genesis through Revelation, God reveals His truth, His character, His attributes and His divine plan for the redemption of man, whom He made in His own image! These concluding verses from 2 Timothy 3 reveal the abiding, inerrant character of God's inspired Word.

I. ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD!-2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

(16) "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (17) that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

So identified is God with His Word that when Scripture speaks, God speaks. (Romans 9:17, Galatians 3:8, Romans 3:2, 1 Peter 4:1) All Scripture is inspired by God and we owe Scripture the same reverence that we owe to God since it has its only source in Him and has nothing of human origin in it.² God's Word is not just one good religious book among many others. No! All of Scripture is God's inerrant and authoritative word.

A. "ALL SCRIPTURE" - 2 TIMOTHY 3:16A

Paul uses a different Greek word in 2 Timothy 3:16 for Scripture than he used in the previous verse where he talks about the "sacred writings" from 2 Timothy 3:15. The sacred writings referred to the Hebrew Scriptures that Timothy had been taught from since childhood. Now Paul transitions to a broader term.

"All Scripture" Greek "pasa" referring to all of it together and every part of the whole respectively, and "graphe" refers to that which is written, words, phrases, sentences, which has been written once for all and constitutes the final authority of God's revelation. "Graphe" became a proper noun synonymous with all of Scripture. See Romans 1:2, 16:26, 1 Peter 2:6, 2 Peter 1:20. It was commonly used in the early church not only of the Old Testament writings, but also the New Testament which by the end of the 1st century AD, had been completed.

"All Scripture" Paul says, makes the point that there is more than just the "sacred writings". After 400 years of silence from God, Jesus Christ comes to earth to carry out His redemptive plan. The four gospels would contain the first divine revelation after the Old Testament prophets. Jesus Himself confirmed His divine and authoritative words as Scripture in John 12:48-50 where He says that His words are the words of God the Father and by rejecting His words is to reject God's Word. He also said in John 10:35 that "Scripture (Graphe) cannot be broken", specifically referring to the totality of Scripture, not just the sacred writings. And later Jesus

would tell His disciples that there would be no way that they could remember everything He taught so the Holy Spirit would, "teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." (John 14:26) Jesus said in John 16:12-14 that He had many more things to say but the Holy Spirit would disclose more truths later.

When Paul wrote these words to Timothy, the direct reference was to a body of sacred literature which even then comprised more than just the Old Testament. Peter wrote in 2 Peter 3:16 that Paul's letters were like "the rest of Scriptures", asserting they were in the same category as the Old Testament. So according to Peter, Paul's writings were categorized as Scripture. Paul writes in 1 Timothy 5:18, "For Scripture says: do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain, and, the worker is worthy of his wages." Here Paul uses the Greek word "Graphe" for Scripture and then quotes from an Old Testament verse in Deuteronomy 25:4 and the second quote is found in the New Testament verse of Luke 10:7. He refers to both of these quotes as Scripture. Later Paul would write, "What I write to you is the Lord's command." (1 Corinthians 14:37) Paul asserts that the words he wrote were God's words. The scope of Paul's assertion would include any writing that was considered authoritative enough to be read in church meetings right alongside the Old Testament, demonstrating their authority and continuity. In 1 Thessalonians 2:13 Paul commends these believers that they accepted the message given to them for what it really was, the Word of God.

The New Testament contains more than 300 direct quotes and at least 1000 indirect quotes from the Old Testament, almost all declaring or implying that they are God's own Word. Hebrews 1:1-2 speaks of both the Old Testament and the New Testament. God speaks through "the prophets" representing the Old Testament and now He speaks through "His Son" representing the New Testament. The Apostle John had a great awareness that he was recording God's own words. Revelation 1:1-2, 10-11 says, "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place..." Then later John was commanded to write in a book what he saw and send it to the seven churches. At the end of each message to the church, John wrote, "He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22) John makes clear he is writing God's explicitly revealed truth. (See also Revelation 19:9, 21:5, 22:6)³ So clearly "All Scripture" refers to more than just the Old Testament writings. It is the total writings of the Old and New Testament which represent the oracles of God. Paul begins verse 16 with this inclusive statement, "All Scripture is inspired". All Scripture, not part of it.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

Colorado

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16) *“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (17) that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”*

B. “ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD”-2 TIMOTHY 3:16B

The abiding character of Scripture is that it is inspired by God, not the men divinely chosen to record it. There are no inspired Scripture writers, only inspired Scripture. So here we have the first predicate adjective that describes *“All Scripture”*. It is inspired by God!

“*inspired by God*” Greek “**Theopneustos**” literally means breathed out by God. God breathed.

All Scripture is God breathed! It originates in God’s mind and was communicated from God’s mouth by God’s breath or Spirit. God breathed His words into human writers such as Jeremiah 1:9, *“Behold I have put My words in your mouth.”* God divinely superintended the accurate recording of His divinely breathed truth by His divinely chosen human instruments. They penned God’s Word entirely and exactly as God intended. God breathed out His holy Word. Just as God spoke the universe into existence, so also He breathed out His holy Word. This is the total inspiration of Scripture, *“All Scripture”* is breathed out by God; all of Scripture is inspired, not part of it. We don’t pick and choose what we will believe, like or obey. All of it is from the Spirit of God and thus good and true.⁴

The word *“God breathed”* occurs only here. The origin and contents of all Scripture are owed to the divine breath, the Spirit of God. Those who wrote were not only without error but also wrote what was of supreme value for man.⁵

Therefore, all Scripture is distinct because it is first of all and above all from God and about God. Scripture is not a collection of wisdom and insight of men, even godly men. **It is God’s truth, His own Word in His own words.** Psalm 119:89 speaks to how God’s Word is divinely authenticated in heaven. Peter affirms the inspiration of Scripture in Acts 1:16. Later, Peter describes how God revealed His Word to men in 2 Peter 1:20-21. Peter declares that *“no prophecy is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit, spoke from God.”* God given human words, humanly recorded words, became God’s written word, inerrant and authoritative as originally given. The word *“prophecy”* here doesn’t mean prediction but rather the broader sense of speaking forth, proclaiming a message, the oracles of God. The Greek word for *“interpretation”* refers to something that is released, sent out or sent forth. So Peter is saying that no message of Scripture was originated and sent forth by man’s wisdom or will. Rather they were divinely instructed by and carried along by the Holy Spirit.⁶

Because all Scripture is inspired by God it is inerrant and infallible in all its words (completely without error). God’s Word is free from any

and all falsehood or mistakes. It is absolutely and completely true because it is breathed out by God. To deny that all of the Bible is inspired is to deny that all of the words of Scripture are inspired. Such denial places man as the judge over God’s words, deciding for themselves what is true, worthwhile, meaningful or relevant. But God has a stern warning for any who would alter the words of His Word. Revelation 22:18-19 says *“I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the pages which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city which are written in this book”*. In every age the nature of Scripture is questioned. Regardless of what men may say or think, God has spoken. And just to be clear, Scripture is inerrant in everything it says, even when it comes to matters of history and science. Scripture describes history in amazing detail. God’s Word reveals incredible truths about our world because it was God Who created it. Science has the privilege of discovering these wonders.

And because all Scripture is breathed out by God, it is authoritative in all its words for all of life. Jesus affirmed this authority in Matthew 4:4, Matthew 24:35, and Luke 24:44.

Scripture is totally unique. After existing for many 1000’s of years, it continues to be taught, bought, distributed and loved more than any other book that has ever been written. But its’ true uniqueness lies in its unity, the hallmark of divine inspiration. Because the Bible isn’t just one book, but a whole library of books-39 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament; written and passed down over a period of some 3500 years by more than 40 authors all who were different from kings (David and Solomon), poets, farmers (Amos), statesmen (Daniel), priests (Ezekiel, Ezra), prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah), fisherman (Peter, John), a doctor (Luke), scholars like Paul. With such a variety in just authorship over such a long period of time, one would expect a book that was no more than a mixed bag of ideas and inconsistencies. Instead, Scripture has wonderful unity from Genesis to Revelation as it unfolds the single theme of God’s redemption.⁷ *“All Scripture is inspired by God”*. This is just part one.

¹MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.143.

²Calvin, John, 1509-1564. *The Crossway Classic Commentaries; 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus*. Crossway: Wheaton, Illinois, 1998. Pg.155.

³MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.146.

⁴Barclay, William, *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 1956, revised 1975 and 2003. Pg.102.

⁵Hendriksen, William. *Exposition of The Pastoral Epistles*. Baker Book House: Grand Rapids, MI, 1957. Pg. 302-303.

⁶MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.143.

⁷Williams, Peter, *Opening Up 2 Timothy*. One Day Publications: Ryelands Road, Leominster, New Zealand, 2007. Pg. 82-83.