

# CHURCH NEWS

AN INSPIRING MOMENT WITH

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## Why the Bible?

Scripture teaches that knowledge of God's existence is "evident" to humanity, even to those who have not read the Bible. "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse" (Rom 1:20). As preliminary truth, general revelation is sufficient to condemn those who "suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Rom 1:18).



The conscience is another source of knowledge of God's existence, even for those "who do not have the Law," that is, moral truth with regard to God's person and will. Romans 2:15 teaches that the conscience is "the work of the Law written in their hearts." All humanity has a moral sensibility, that is, a cognitive awareness of right and wrong. The human conscience is the result of being created in the "image of God" (cf. Gen 1:26).

The Bible is not merely a record of revelation; rather, it is the divine record of revelation. Scripture is not merely a revelation from God; rather, it is the only written revelation from God. Whereas revelation is the content and medium by which God has given truth, inspiration is the manner in which the

truth has been recorded. Second Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:20-21 are two primary biblical texts that affirm the doctrine of inspiration. 2 Timothy 3:16 affirms, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. Likewise, one reads in 2 Peter 1:21, "for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

The extent of inspiration includes "all Scripture," which means the entire Old and New Testaments are inspired, not merely portions of the Bible (this doctrine is called plenary, or full, inspiration). The word "inspiration" is derived from the Greek theopneustos, which means "God-breathed." The origin of Scripture is God, and the Bible represents His thought. God inspired the very words of Scripture (this doctrine is called verbal inspiration). Verbal inspiration applies only to the original autographs, which were penned by the biblical authors (who were not, in actual fact, inspired; rather, they were "moved by the Holy Spirit" so that the text itself, that is, the words are inspired).

Prophecy of Scripture" is used broadly in 2 Peter 1:20, and has reference to God's revelation by means of prediction (foretelling) and proclama-

## The Ten Commandments

Exodus Chapter 20

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
2. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the

sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

5. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

tion (telling). The gift of prophecy enables humanity to receive truth directly from God. The origin of prophetic Scripture is not the human will; rather, the biblical authors "spoke from God." Scripture is repeatedly stated as originating with God. The word translated "moved" in 2 Peter 1:21 is the passive participle pheromoi, which is a word picture of the biblical writers being impelled by the Holy Spirit to write God's words (Acts 27:15 uses the same Greek word for a ship "driven along" by the wind).

God took the initiative and gave His truth through the Holy

Spirit, who impelled erring humans as penmen, yet miraculously superintended them as they wrote thereby preventing any error or omission in Scripture. Scripture is "God-breathed," and can be trusted as being inerrant and infallible. The trustworthiness of Scripture means it is credible and is worthy of belief. God gave His Word to reveal Himself and His will for humanity. Scripture makes errant humans wise unto salvation, and hearing and heeding it will certainly grant you the strength and wisdom needed for your life.

## Esquire Fashion Scripture of the Week

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

*Ephesians 1:7*

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