

# **“This is the Word of the Lord”**

**2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21**

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## **I. The Bible is the Inspired Word of God**

**2 Timothy 3:14-17** “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

**2 Peter 1:20-21** “Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> 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.”

The Words of Scripture are breathed out by God and written by human authors. Scripture was not written by merely divine dictation or from only human inspiration but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Spirit.

## **II. The Bible is the Inerrant Word of God**

*“...the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation...” ~ GFC Statement of Faith*

People will use the fact that we have copies and not the original manuscripts as a way to tear down the reliability of the Bible, but it is actually the complete opposite. The fact that we have so many early manuscript copies is a STRENGTH in showing that the Bible you have today is an extremely close copy and translation of the original manuscripts.

Helpful (and nerdy) resource for you: [netbible.org](http://netbible.org). The NET Bible is a great translation that includes notes which function like a study Bible for translation decisions and manuscript variants.

## **III. The Bible is the Authoritative Word of God**

**Isaiah 45:9** “Woe to the one who argues with his Maker—one clay pot among many. Does clay say to the one forming it, ‘What are you making?’ Or does your work say, ‘He has no hands’?”

If God's Word is AUTHORITATIVE then it needs to be the ULTIMATE authority in my life and it trumps all of my opinions.

**Hebrews 4:12** "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

"Now, what happens if you eliminate anything from the Bible that offends your sensibility and crosses your will? If you pick and choose what you want to believe and reject the rest, how will you ever have a God who can contradict you? You won't! You'll have... A God, essentially, of your own making, and not a God with whom you can have a relationship and genuine interaction. Only if your God can say things that outrage you and make you struggle (as in a real friendship or marriage!) will you know that you have gotten hold of a real God and not a figment of your imagination. So an authoritative Bible is not the enemy of a personal relationship with God. It is the precondition for it."

~ Tim Keller, *The Reason for God*

What is one area of your life where you need to allow Scripture to shape and form you? Is there anything in God's Word that He is calling you to obey as an act of faith and trust?

#### IV. The Bible is God's Word of Good News

**Colossians 1:21-22** "And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him."

Christians must change their perspective of reading the Bible from being that of a chore that needs completed to a treasure that blesses. Reading the Bible doesn't have to be an obligation, but an opportunity to know God. Don't let this morning be a guilt-trip, but a loving reminder that this is the Word of the Lord. Guilt and obligation have a short fuse that will burn out - to read your Bible consistently for the long run requires viewing it as a gift from God that is to be treasured.

*"We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises."* ~ GFC Statement of Faith