

# Series On Baptist Doctrine – The Bible

**Text: II Timothy 3:16-17** (An appropriate on-going text)

## I. THE ORIGIN OF THE BIBLE

1. Our on-going text for the series tells us the origin of the Bible.

a. It was given by *inspiration* of God.

b. ‘inspiration’ – the Greek word in II Tim. 3:16 is ‘theopneustos’, literally ‘God-breathed’.

c. The actual text of the original manuscripts were literally ‘God-breathed’ to godly men, the prophets and apostles, and they wrote what God told them to write.

*We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts  
Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.*

*For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

II Peter 1:19-21

d. God’s hand moved his servants as a pen, but He did it within the framework of their personalities.

e. The effect of inspiration was to move the authors so as to produce the words God wanted.

(1) That makes it different than pure dictation.

(2) God moved his servants as a pen, not the pen of His servants.

f. The overall process of inspiration was done only once; there is no such thing as a second inspiration.

g. That is *inspiration*; we will address *preservation* later.

2. The particulars of inspiration – What was inspired?

a. There are 66 inspired books of the Bible, written by 40 different men in three different languages over a period of 1600 years.

b. The Bible is *verbally* inspired, meaning the *words* in the Bible are inspired. *The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.* Psalm 12:6

*But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.* Matt. 4:4

(1) Look at the extent to which Jesus took this:

*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*

*For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

Matt. 5:17-18

*And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.* Luke 16:17

(2) A *jot*, from the Greek, iota, the smallest letter in the Greek alphabet; and the *tittle*, the apex of a Hebrew letter (figuratively, the least particle)..

(3) Therefore, down to the minutest part – it's all inspired.

c. The Bible is **plenarily** inspired, meaning all of it is inspired as our lead text shows.

d. Verbal and plenary inspiration is what the Bible teaches.

## II. THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BIBLE

1. The Bible has two great divisions.

a. The **Old Testament** composed of the 39 books from Genesis through Malachi. The Old Testament can be divided into four groups:

(1) The Pentateuch. The word literally means “five books”. This group includes the first five books of the Bible: Genesis to Deuteronomy.

(2) The Historical Books: Joshua thru Esther.

(3) The Poetical Books: Job thru Lamentations.

(4) The Prophetical Books: Isaiah thru Malachi.

b. The **New Testament** composed of 27 books from Matthew thru Revelation and can be divided into five parts.

(1) The four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.

(2) The Acts of the Apostles

(3) The fourteen Epistles of Paul

(4) The seven General Epistles

(5) The Book of the Revelation

## III. THE BIBLE AS A BAPTIST DISTINCTIVE

1. ‘Distinctive’ – def. Web. – characteristic that sets apart from others.

a. A situation because of the apostasy the Bible said would come:

*I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;*

*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*

II Tim. 4:1-3

*Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,*

*That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; II Thes. 2:1-3*

**b.** Many have fallen away from these truths, leaving the Baptists just about the only ones left taking a true stand.

(1) “You’re too divisive!”

2. Three Baptist distinctives regarding the Bible, the Word of God.

**a. Literal interpretation** – that God says what He means and means what He says.

(1) If the Bible is verbally and plenary inspired, how can we not take it at face value?

(2) We are commanded not to add anything to it or take anything from it. *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:*

*And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. Rev. 22:18-19*

**(3) God does not inspire fairy tales. If the Bible says it happened, it happened!**

¶ *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.*

*The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.*

*The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. Ps. 19:7-11*

(4) Some examples:

*In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.*

*And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.*

Gen. 7:11-12 – That’s a fact of history, not a fairy tale. (See Catholic pamphlet, “What Is The Bible”)

*Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.*

*And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.*

*And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.* Ex. 3:1-3 – That actually happened! (Story of Naval Management Meeting)

*So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.* Josh. 6:20 – That is also a fact of history.

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

*He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.* Matt. 28:5-6 – That happened too! Our very salvation depends on it!

(5) Why would anyone have a problem with anything God would be involved with being supernatural?

(a) Isn't that what God is all about?

**b. Sole Source of faith and practice – (the on-going text)**

(1) **No command given to follow any other source for authority**

(2) Unlike the Catholics who view the ex-cathedra pronouncements of the pope to be on par with the Scriptures.

(3) Unlike the Mormons who believe the Book of Mormon equal to the Bible.

(4) Unlike Judaism that relies on the Talmud as well as the Old Testament.

(5) Unlike many of the Eastern religions (Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Baha'ism, Shintoism, other ethnic religions, etc.)

(6) What about the mainline Christian denominations? Don't they believe the Bible is their sole authority for faith and practice?

(a) Why then would the Bible be a *Baptist* distinctive?

(b) Many denominational Christians believe the Bible *contains* the Word of God or *becomes* the Word of God.

(c) Baptists (and many of those who consider themselves 'baptistic') believe the Bible *is* the Word of God, every word of it!

**c. Preservation as well as inspiration**

(1) The Word of God was preserved as well as inspired.

(2) Admittedly, a matter of great controversy, so I will be as thorough as I can here. Let's look at the facts:

(3) First, the Promises:

*The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.*

*Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt **preserve** them from this generation for ever.* Psalm 12:6-7

(a) Notice ‘the words’ are *preserved*; for how long? Forever, which includes all generations.

(b) Preservation is different than inspiration. Inspiration occurred only once but the process of preservation began with the completion of the first book of the Bible and continues until now.

(c) By the time the last book of the New Testament was written down, God’s entire revelation was then finished; the work of inspiration done.

(d) So, preservation began with the first copies, the first manuscripts.

(e) Preservation is a process by which God providentially preserves His finished Word down through the ages.

*For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. Psalm 100:5*

*Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. Psalm 119:160*

*For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Psalm 119:89*

(f) So, the words of God were inspired, preserved, settled in heaven, and endureth to all generations.

(4) One other thing they were according to our on-going text: they were given. Right? Why were they given?

*‘..for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

(a) So..the Word must be settled *on earth* as well as in heaven. Right?

(b) So, let me ask a question: How many present today have received doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness by studying the originally inspired Hebrew and Greek manuscripts?

- Why not? (Seek answers)

(c) So the process of *giving* the Word of God to man cannot stop with the process of inspiration.

(d) The process, as promised, must include *preservation* of the Word of God to all generations; to the extent that it is consistent with the meaning of ‘didaskalia’, ‘doctrine’ – teaching, communicating the truth.

(5) So the all-important question is: Where is the Word of God today given to man for the purpose of thoroughly furnishing him unto all good works by doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness?

(a) Let’s answer that with a question: Where was it in Jesus’ day? What Bible did He use?

(b) The Lord had and used the Old Testament Scriptures which were originally written in the Hebrew language but Hebrew became a dead language two centuries before Christ.

- The Hebrew Old Testament became the first books to be translated into another language, in the third and second centuries B.C.

(c) The Lord used a Greek *translation* of the Hebrew language.

Why? Because Greek was a near universal language in Jesus' day.

- So, as in Jesus' day, the Word of God must be preserved in a translation today if it is going to fulfill the purposes of II Tim. 3:16-17.

- Also remember, the *New Testament* was written down in the Koine Greek, the everyday Greek language of the common people.

- God has always intended for common man to be able to read and understand God's Word without scholars or popes.

**(7) So now the all-important question: Where is the Word of God today? What criteria do we use to determine that answer?**

(a) First, what does the Bible itself say:

*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of **incorruptible**, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. I Peter*

**1:22-23**

*For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:*

*For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.*

*But whoso looketh into the **perfect** law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. James 1:23-25*

The translation must be inerrant.

- Otherwise, the best we can say is that we have something that *contains* the Word of God.

- We need an absolute authority to go by. That means one we cannot change or correct.

(b) The translation must be sourced from the preserved line of manuscripts. There are basically two lines of manuscripts in history:

- **The Majority Text:** The overwhelming majority of manuscripts agree so closely that they may be said to present the same Greek text. Also called the Traditional

Text because it was the text of Christendom for 1800 years. Represents 80-90% of all Greek texts of the N.T. It is a theologically fuller text than the very small minority of manuscripts that make up the other line.

- **The Minority Text:** Represents a small amount of documents but exhibits the most amazing number of incorrect readings, which the Church as a whole rejected before the end of the fourth century. Readings that present in a weakened form many passages of Scripture which speak most plainly of the deity of the Son of God.

- - Two manuscripts of this family were fourth century manuscripts that became available in the 1860's. They are the oldest existing manuscripts available but shown to be the worst and least trustworthy and therefore set aside and not used for 1500 years.

- - Oldest not a good criteria (show dollar bills)

- **Only one translation today based on the Majority Text.**

(c) The language of the translation must be as near universal as the Greek was.

- Quote from 'What Was Koine Greek' by Dr. Orville Jenkins.

- Info from 'Is Greek The Most Exact Language?'

- Info from 'What Are The Most Spoken Languages In The World'.

(d) What translation in English stands out from all the rest?

‘ The only one today based on the Majority Text

- The one our country was founded upon – with every great document of its history derived from it (Constitution, Bill of Rights, Mayflower Compact)

- The one every great preacher in the history of modern evangelical Christianity preached from.

- The one by which all meaningful missionary work has been done with.

- The one used exclusively in almost all Fundamental Baptist Churches.

- The one the vast majority of soul winners use.

- The one by which countless souls have been saved.

- The one by which countless souls have heard the pure Gospel (Story of my mother-in-law's funeral).

- Which translation would that be? There's only one that meets all those requirements.

(e) To be fair, Bible translators including some missionaries, have translated the Bible into other languages from the Majority Text.  
- But remember, God did not promise His Word preserved in translations in all the languages, just in all generations.

**(8) The Process by which we got the King James Bible**

*Let all things be done decently and in order. I Cor. 14:40*

(a) In the preservation process, do you think God led that way in the translation of the KJV?

(b) The process involved (read material)

**(9) Figures of speech in the King James Bible**

(a) What is the purpose of figures of speech? To give special emphasis; to call attention to the point.

(b) To add force or power to an expression.

(c) Why it is important to understand figures of speech in the Bible? To get to the correct interpretation of Scripture.

(d) Serious misinterpretations of Scripture come from calling something literal that is figurative.

*He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: Ps. 91:4*

*Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity. Ps. 98:8-9*

*For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*

**Isa. 55:12**

*Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned. Hos. 7:8*

*Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Matt. 5:13*