

G.I.F.T. Growing In Faith Together

Systematic Theology--Bibliology Part Two

Key Verse--2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Bibliology is the study of the Bible, the Word of God.

Characteristics of Scripture that we will study: 1. Authority of Scripture 2. Inspiration of Scripture 3. Inerrancy of Scripture 4. Preservation of Scripture

The doctrine of inspiration is the teaching that the Bible is God-breathed and is therefore our infallible rule for faith and practice.

Objections to inspiration: Some will say that God used fallible men to record Scripture, therefore, scripture cannot be infallible and inerrant.

The objection is refuted by asking the question; what about the Virgin Mary? She was a descendant of Adam yet God used her as the human instrument that brought the sinless Son of God into this world.

Three major views of Bible inspiration.

1. The dictation view of inspiration

The dictation theory of inspiration sees God as the author of Scripture and the individual human agents as secretaries or amanuenses taking dictation.

2. The view of limited inspiration

The theory of limited inspiration says that God guided the human authors but allowed them freedom to express themselves in their works, even to the point of allowing factual and historical errors.

3. The view of plenary verbal inspiration

Verbal plenary inspiration is the view that every single word in the Bible is the very word of God. It's not just the ideas or thoughts that are inspired, but the words themselves.

Some evidences that the Bible is inspired (God-breathed) by God, as declared in 2 Timothy 3:16.

1) Fulfilled prophecy. God spoke to men telling them of things He would bring about in the future.

2) The unity of Scripture. The Bible was written by approximately 40 human authors over a period of approximately 1,600 years.

3) The Bible presents its heroes truthfully with all of their faults and weaknesses. It does not glorify men as other religions do about their heroes.

4) Archaeological findings support the history recorded in Scripture.