

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY – BIBLIOLOGY

INSPIRATION Part 1

Views of Inspiration

Dictation theory: this view suggests that God gave the human writers the precise words to write. These were merely instruments in God used like a pen to put His words on paper.

There are instances where God did in fact dictate the exact words to write. Examples:

- Exodus 34:27-28
- Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, 18, 3:1, 7, 14

If the entire Bible were direct dictation, there would be only one style and one consistent vocabulary from Genesis through Revelation. There would be no individuality of the human writer's language and style. But just the opposite is seen in the texts of scripture. Examples:

- Deuteronomy 3:23-25
- Romans 9:1-3

Partial or conceptual theory: this view teaches that God gave the writers of the Bible general ideas or impressions and they wrote these impressions in their own words. The proponents of this view say this is why the Bible contains so many mistakes.

Rebuttal: the Bible repeatedly claims to be fully truthful.

- Psalm 119:41-43 & 160
- John 17:17

Biblical warning: do not tamper with God's word.

- Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32
- Jeremiah 26:1-2
- Revelation 22:18-19

Natural theory of inspiration: this one says that the writers' inspiration came from within themselves in the same way a composer is inspired or a painter etc. The Bible's claim to divine authorship debunks this theory. Examples:

- Proverbs 30:5-6
- 2Timothy 3:16
- 2Peter 1:20-21

The Biblical View of Inspiration: Verbal, Plenary

Verbal: the Holy Spirit so guided the writers that even their choice of individual words conformed to God's intended meaning.

Plenary: all of Scripture, not just certain books or portions of books, or certain types of material is inspired. Example:

- The Samaritans only accepted the Pentateuch.

The Doctrine of Inspiration

The Doctrine of Inspiration teaches that all scripture is from God. Scripture did not originate within the mind, heart, soul, or imagination of men apart from God. It was God who supernaturally caused these men to accurately record His words.

The Bible is The Word of God 2Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is inspired by God”

- All (pasa) = all or every
- Scripture (graphe) = literally means that which is written.
 - In the N.T. it is used for the scripture in part or in its entirety.
Examples: Mark 12:10-11 & Mark 12:24
- Inspired by God (Theopneustos) = God breathed

Question: Does 2Timothy 3:16 only apply to the Old Testament?

Finding the answer:

- Check the immediate context – 2Tim. 3:13-17
- The context within the writings of Paul – 1Tim. 5:18
 - “The laborer is worthy of his wages” is a direct quote from Luke 10:7
 - “You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing” from Dt. 25:4
- The context of the New Testament – 2Peter 3:13-16

Conclusion: 2Timothy 3:16 is a theological statement of fact that applies to all scripture in both the Old and New Testaments.