

THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Introduction:

1. The Bible is unique among the millions of books in the world.
 - a. It is the best loved, but most hated of all books.
 - b. It is the most read, but most neglected of all books.
 - c. It is perennially the world's best seller.
 - d. It has been translated into more languages than any other book.
2. More efforts have been made to discredit the Bible than any other book.
3. More people have placed their hope for eternity on the Bible than on any other book.
4. The Bible is unique because it alone is inspired of God.

Discussion:

I. WHAT IS INSPIRATION?

- A. Webster's College Dictionary defines inspiration as "a Divine influence directly and immediately exerted upon the mind or soul."
- B. The Scriptures claim to be inspired by God:
 1. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Ti. 3:16).
 - a. "Inspiration" comes from "theopneustos."
 - b. It means "breathed of God."
 2. "Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pe. 1:20, 21).
 - a. The prophecies were not human interpretations of current events.
 - b. The prophets were "borne along" by the Holy Spirit.
 - c. David said: "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me" (2 Sa. 23:2).

II. HOW IS THE BIBLE INSPIRED?

- A. Some believe in "genius" inspiration.
 1. The Bible is inspired like the writings of Shakespeare.
 2. This is talent, not inspiration!
- B. Some believe in "partial" inspiration.
 1. Part of the Bible came from God and part from men.
 2. The Bible is inspired in message, but errs in facts.
 3. The Bible claims it is all inspired of God (2 Ti. 3:16).
- C. Some believe in "thought" inspiration.
 1. God gave the idea to the writers and allowed them to express it as they chose.
 2. What if they did not correctly understand the message, or did not choose the right words to express it?
 3. This is the fallacy behind some modern translations such as the NIV which use the "dynamic equivalence" approach.

- D. Some believe in “mechanical” inspiration.**
- 1. God dictated His word to the writers and the writer was little more than a typewriter or word processor.**
 - 2. There are two instances of mechanical dictation in the Scriptures.**
 - a. Balaam’s donkey (Nu. 22:22-35).**
 - b. Peter’s prediction that the Gospel was also for the Gentiles (Ac. 2:39; 10).**
 - 3. This view does not account for the differences in style and vocabulary among the writers of the Bible.**
- E. The only correct view of inspiration is verbal, plenary inspiration.**
- 1. This view affirms all the Bible is inspired by God.**
 - 2. It also affirms the Holy Spirit allowed the writer to express himself in his characteristic manner, but superintended his choice of words from his vocabulary so that the message was correctly expressed.**
 - 3. Biblical writers claimed this kind of inspiration:**
 - a. David said: “The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me and His word was on my tongue” (2 Sa. 23:2).**
 - b. The Lord told Jeremiah: “I have put My words in your mouth” (Je. 1:9).**
 - c. Paul said the revelation was given “not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual words” (1 Co. 2:13).**
 - 4. Jesus based arguments on the tenses of verbs (Mt. 22:32; Jn. 8:58).**
 - 5. Paul based an argument on the number of a word (Ga. 3:16).**

III. INSPIRATION AND REVELATION ARE THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- A. The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God (1 Co. 2:11,12).**
- B. The Spirit revealed the mind of God to the apostles.**
- 1. Jesus promised the Spirit to the apostles (Jn. 14:16-18).**
 - 2. When the Spirit came, He would teach them “all things” (Jn. 14:26).**
 - 3. He would testify of Christ (Jn. 15:26, 27; 16:14).**
 - 4. He would convict the word of sin, righteousness and judgment (Jn. 16:7,8).**
 - 5. He would guide the apostles into all truth (Jn. 16:13).**
 - 6. The New Testament is the result of the Holy Spirit’s revelation to the apostles (Ga. 1:11, 12; 1 Th. 2:13).**

Conclusion:

- 1. The Word of God is the mind of God revealed to us by His Spirit.**
- 2. This Word was confirmed by miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- 3. The revealed Word is the instrument the Spirit uses today as He works in the lives of His people (Ep. 6:17; He. 4:12).**
- 4. We must be born of water and Spirit to be saved (Jn. 3:5; 1 Pe.1:23).**

