

The Holy Spirit: His Work in Inspiration

March 4, 2012

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-17

Vol. 2 Num. 10

Core Competency:

Authority of the Bible- “I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.”

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters, pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Introduction

I am sure you notice how some words are tricky without a context. One such word is “inspiring.” One may call a brilliant sunset or an unusual cloud formation inspiring. An Olympic athlete may claim that they were inspired to better achievements. I have even seen a hymnal Inspiring Hymns. The words related to the concept of inspiration have various usages in our culture. We use them and understand them in their contexts, but when it comes to Scripture such meanings have nothing to do with the biblical idea of inspiration.

In our Core Competency this week, the English word ‘inspired’ translates the Greek word *theopneustos*. Literally, it means, “God- breathed.” Technically, it refers to the divine-human product, the actual written words, NOT to the authors or to the effect produced within the readers. In other words, it is correct to say that the Book of Romans is inspired, but it would be incorrect to say that Paul was inspired when he wrote the Book of Romans.

John F. Walvoord defines it this way:

“God so supernaturally directed the writers of Scripture that without excluding their human intelligence, their individuality, their literary style, their personal feelings, or any other human factor, His own complete and coherent message to man was recorded in perfect accuracy, the very words of Scripture bearing the authority of divine authorship.”

This is why Clear Lake Bible Church believes that the Bible is more than a book; it is indeed the Word of God. Why is this important? What difference does it make in the way we live?

This Week

This week, we explore why people must view the Scriptures as God’s words to man and why believers must commit themselves to living the truth found in them.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters, pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

Read 2 Timothy 3:1–17

1 But know this: Difficult times will come in the last days.

2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3 unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good,

4 traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people!

6 For among them are those who worm their way into households and capture idle women burdened down with sins, led along by a variety of passions,

7 always learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so these also resist the truth, men who are corrupt in mind, worthless in regard to the faith.

9 But they will not make further progress, for their lack of understanding will be clear to all, as theirs was also.

10 But you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance,

11 along with the persecutions and sufferings that came to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from them all.

12 In fact, all those who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

13 Evil people and impostors will become worse, deceiving and being deceived.

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you,

15 and you know that from childhood you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness,

17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work..

Notes

3:5 “a form of godliness although they have denied its power” This is a PERFECT MIDDLE PARTICIPLE (cf. Isa. 29:13; Rom. 2:20; Titus 1:16). This is a settled state of willful self-assertion. Institutionalized religion can be a cruel taskmaster!

3:15 “Avoid these people” This is a PRESENT MIDDLE IMPERATIVE (cf. II Thess. 3:6). Timothy is to willfully and continually avoid this kind of person. This is an obvious reference to the false teachers and their followers.

3:8 “Jannes and Jambres” These are the traditional names of Pharaoh’s magicians in Exod. 7:8ff. Their names are learned from Rabbinical Judaism, specifically The Targum of Jonathan, but they are not mentioned in the OT. Paul often uses Rabbinical traditions (cf. I Cor. 10:4).

3:8 “corrupt in mind” This is a PERFECT PASSIVE PARTICIPLE from the compound kata + patheirō, meaning someone who has become and continues to be depraved

through an outside agency (i.e. Satan or the demonic) resulting in their own willful rejection of truth (cf. I Tim. 6:5 Titus 1:15).

3:13 “evil people and imposters” They were charlatans like the false magicians (cf. v. 8).

3:15 “which are able to give you wisdom for salvation” This shows the primary purpose of Scripture is mankind’s redemption. It also shows us the mechanism of redemption which is mankind’s faith response to God’s Messiah. This is the essence of Apostolic preaching. However, verse 17 shows that Scripture (which in this text must refer to the OT because the NT was not yet complete or in circulation) has another subsequent purpose—equipping the saints for lifestyle

3:16 “is inspired by God” This is literally “God exhaled.” The how is not stated, but the who and the why are very specific! In II Pet. 1:21 the Spirit is the focus of inspiration, but here it is the Father. Both are active in this area!

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away God's Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.