

The Inspiration, Preservation, and Authority of the Scriptures

Ps. 138:2

Inspiration: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 4:4

From the Church Web Site:

The Bible

We believe in the Bible as the verbally (every word) and plenary (completely) inspired Word of God, and that it was written inerrant in its original languages and has been providentially preserved “for all generations forever”. All portions of Scripture are equally inspired and contain no contradiction. The Holy Bible has God as its Author (2 Peter 1:21), salvation for its end (2 Timothy 3:15), and truth for its matter (Proverbs 30:5-6).

The Scriptures are our only rule for faith and practice, the supreme standard by which all conduct, creeds, associations, and ministries should be tried (1 John 4:1). The canon, the sixty-six books of the Bible, is complete. Nothing shall be added to nor taken from it (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 1:1; Revelation 22:18-19). To eliminate confusion, all preaching and teaching will be from the King James Version. We believe the King James Version of the Scriptures has been faithfully translated from the preserved Word of God.

A. Verbal, Plenary Inspiration

Verbal: every word

Plenary: The whole of Scripture

They are God’s Words. The words He chose to give mankind.

B. The Type of Men God Chose through whom to inspire His Word

Saved, holy men

C. Methods God Used to Inspire the Scriptures

1. Prophets speak – Assistants write it down – Jer. 36:4; Rom. 16:22

2. Prophets speak – prophets write – Gal. 6:1; Deut. 1:1 with 31:9

3. God dictated – God wrote – Ex. 34:1

4. God dictated – prophet wrote – Ex. 24:4

5. God put His words in the prophets heart – prophet wrote them down – Num. 33:2

D. God places the emphasis of inspiration on the individual words

Although He speaks of Commandments, statutes, law, His word (singular), He emphasizes that every word is important, not just the message.

Jer. 36:4; Ex. 34:1; 24:4; Ps. 12:6; Ps. 119:103, 130; Ps. 138:4

E. Modern translation philosophy is that any words may be used, as long as the message is the same as the original. The truth is that an English translation must use English words that are the closest equivalents to God’s Hebrew and Greek words.

F. Statement of the Doctrine of the Inspiration of the Scriptures

Inspiration is the miraculous work of God whereby He gave His Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek words to mankind, through human instruments. God led men to write down all His words and so directed the process that they were written down perfectly, without error.

Preservation: Ps. 12:6-7; Mt. 5:18; Mt. 24:35

2 Timothy 3:14-15 says that Timothy knew the Scriptures from a child. He did not have the originals. He had copies, and yet they were called Scriptures. Moreover, Paul spoke of them as accurate copies. Many times, the Scriptures are spoken of in this same way throughout the New Testament.

| References | What will be preserved? | How long? |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Peter 1:23; Is. 40:8 Ps. 119:160; Ps. 119:89-90 | The Word of God | Forever |
| Mt. 24:35 | Christ's Words | Never pass away |
| Ps. 12:6-7; Is. 59:21 | God's Words | Forever |
| Ps. 111:7-8 | Commandments | Forever and ever |
| Ps. 119:152 | Testimonies | Forever |
| Ps. 33:11 | Counsel | Forever |
| Ps. 33:11 | Thoughts | To all generations |
| Ps. 100:5 | Truth | To all generations |
| Ps.119:160 | Judgments | Forever |
| Mt. 5:18 | Jot and Tittle | Till all be fulfilled |

The doctrine of the Preservation of the Scriptures

God has promised to miraculously preserve forever all of His Word, His Words, and all His teachings with the words in which they are expressed pure and without error. He has further promised to make them available in all ages to mankind for our good, that we may live according to them. He has determined to do this in His own way depending on Himself alone.

The Authority of the Scriptures

- A. God's Word is to be Obyed – Px 119:9-11
- B. The word of God Sheds Light on Our Path – Ps. 119:105
- C. Walking According to God's Word brings blessing – Ps 119:1-3
- D. It Should be the Desire of Our Hearts to Learn God's Word – Ps. 119:112
- E. His Word Should be the Joy of Our Hearts – Ps. 119:14; Jer. 15:16
- F. The Scriptures are for Doctrine, Reproof, Correction, Instruction in Righteousness-2 Tim. 3:16
 - Doctrine – teaches us what the right path is.
 - Reproof – tells us when we have gotten off the right path.
 - Correction – tells us how to get back on the right path.
 - Instruction in righteousness – tells us how to stay on the right path.

