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Mark T. Tonkery

God's Inspired Word
 Text: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Purpose: To teach the value of the Bible and were we got it.

Introduction

- A. The Bible. It has been careful translated in over 1200 languages and dialects, About 30,000,000 copies of the complete text of the Bible, or of its principle parts, are distributed annually. The first book printed with movable metal type was the Gutenberg Bible, printed by Johannes Gutenberg, before August 15, 1456, in Mainz, Germany. The first printed Bible divided into verses was a Latin edition by Pagninus, printed in 1528. The first complete English version of the Bible divided into verses was the Geneva Bible, printed in 1560. The Bible was written by some 40 men, only one of whom (Luke) was a Gentile.
- B. The unity of the Bible by itself is evidence of its inspiration. Some forty men writing over a period of sixteen centuries produced the Bible. In many cases the writers had no access to nor knowledge of each others' writings. Some writers were educated and other uneducated. Some were rich and others poor. Some wrote in one language and some another. Yet the Bible stands today as a complete, 66 books, unit, with no part missing and no superfluous part. Inspiration alone can account for this fact.
- C. So what does it mean that the Bible is inspired? Lets read 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

Body

- I. Inspiration refers to God as being the ultimate source for the Bible. 2 Peter 1:12-21
 - A. It's Origin. The Bible is not a collection of stories, fables, myths, or merely human ideas about God. It is not a human book.
 1. This does not mean that the Bible just dropped out of Heaven either. "God did not dictate to the writers of the Bible as a man might dictate a letter to his secretary. If He had done so there would be no such thing as individual writers' having their own style or characteristics of writing. But as it is each writer wrote in the style and with the vocabulary which were characteristic of him. Luke, for example, being a physician, used a vocabulary in describing certain of the healing miracles of Jesus that an ordinary person would not have used. Paul's writings can be identified by certain characteristic expressions. If a man spoke and wrote in the Hebrew tongue inspiration did not make him write Greek, and vice versa. Inspiration merely saw to it that, regardless of the style or vocabulary he might employ, each writer accurately received and communicated God's revelation. It seems obvious that inspired men occasionally used expressions not common to them and which they did not understand, but which were dictated to them by God.
 - a. Peter's expression in Acts 2:39 concerning "all that are afar off" seems to be an example of such in view of the fact that it took several years and a miracle finally to convince Peter that the gospel was for Gentiles and Jews alike." (by Bobby Duncan).
 - b. 1 Peter 1:19-21.

2. There is a difference between the origin of the Mormon book and the Bible. Mormon's claim there book is totally inspired by God so do we. Yet there is a difference. They no evidence of their inspiration. Peter states that He was eyewitness to these events, prophets agreed with these things, and we could look at other proofs of the truth of God's inspired word. Such fulfilled prophecies, archeology, astronomy, and other scientific evidences prove the inspiration of the Bible.
- B. Inspired by God 2 Tim. 3:16.
1. God is a God that can not lie Titus 1:1-3; Heb. 6:18.
 2. The word translated "inspiration" in II Tim. 3:16 is a word compounded from two Greek words, theos 'God', and pneustos 'breath'.
 3. The Scriptures then are "God breathed." "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Pet. 1:21).
 4. In I Cor. 14:37 Paul said, "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord."
 5. Holy Spirit John 16:13.
 6. Paul also said concerning the things he preached and wrote, "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit . . ." (I Cor. 2:10). And then in practically the next stroke of the pen he claimed for himself and other New Testament writers verbal inspiration: "Which things we also speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (I Cor. 2:13).
 7. That the very words of the Bible, not just the ideas, are inspired is seen from the fact that in Gal. 3:16 the writer stakes an argument upon the number of a noun: "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."
 8. Such an argument would have no strength if only the ideas of the Bible are inspired, and not the very words. The Bible, then, claims to be a revelation from God written by men who were divinely guided, even in the choice of words which they employed. This means simply that the writers of the Bible were rendered incapable of error in their reception and communication of God's revelation.
- C. A distinction must also be made between inspiration and omniscience (all knowing). The fact that a man was inspired does not mean that he knew everything.
1. The inspired man of God who prophesied against Jeroboam's altar at Bethel did not know that the old prophet was lying to him (I Kings 13:18).
 2. In Acts 15:36 Paul proposed to Barnabas that a visit be made to certain brethren to "see how they do." Paul was inspired, but he had no news

concerning the welfare of these brethren. Paul also did not remember who all he had personally baptized at Corinth (I Cor. 1:16).

II. Inspiration refers to the way God guided those who wrote the Bible. 2 Tim. 3:16-17

A. We have already talked about how God guide those who wrote the Bible, be also guided them to “for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”

1. Tells us what sin is Gal. 5:19-21, 1 Cor. 6:9-11.
2. Keeps us from sin Ps. 119:11
3. Lights our way Ps. 119:105
4. Enlightens Us 2 Tim. 3:15
5. Instructs Us 2 Tim. 3:16-17
6. Purifies Us 1 Peter 1:22
7. Frees Us John 8:32
8. Saves us James 1:21

B. In the 1930s in Stavropol, Russia, Stalin ordered that all Bibles be confiscated and Christian believers be sent to prison camps. Ironically, most of the Bibles were not destroyed, yet many Christians died as "enemies of the state."

1. With the dissolution of the U.S.S.R., a Commission team arrived in Stavropol in 1994 for ministry. Their request to have Bibles shipped to Moscow was being held up. But someone told them about a warehouse outside of town where confiscated Bibles were still stored. Remarkably, the team was granted permission to distribute them. Hiring several local Russian workers, they began to load their trucks.
2. One young man, a hostile agnostic, came only for the day's wages. But not long after they had started, he disappeared. He was found in the corner of the warehouse, weeping, a Bible in his hands. Intending to steal it for himself, he had picked his own grandmother's off the shelf! Her signature was on the front page. Today, that young Russian is in the process of being transformed by the very Bible that his grandmother was persecuted for, but still held dear. (-- Ken Taylor, Christian Reader, Vol. 33, no. 5.)

III. Inspiration refers to the reliability of God's Word.

A. The Bible is reliable.

1. All Truth John 16:13
2. All Things 2 Peter 1:3
3. Whole Counsel Acts 20:27

B. The Bible Warns

1. Do not add to or subtract from
 - a. Deut. 4:2
 - b. Prov. 30:6
 - c. Rev. 22:18-19
2. Do not substitute human ideas Mark 7:7-9
3. Preach and teach only God's Word.
 - a. 2 Tim. 4:2

b.1 Peter 4:11

4. Believe no other Gospel Gal. 1:8
5. God's Word will judge us John 12:48

C. The Bible is:

1. The Mind of God (His love for us, His will, His words)
2. The State of Man (We are sinners)
3. The Way of Salvation (How to be saved)
4. The Happiness of Believers (How to go about the work of the Lord, and Life)
5. The Doom of Sinners (Reality of Heaven and Hell)

IV. Inspiration refers to the it's Indestructibility

- A. Last Forever Matt. 24:35; I Peter 1:25 No matter what man tries to do it.
- B. The first translators of the English Bible were persecuted and some were martyred for their efforts. Yet the Bible continued on.
- C. Ingersoll held up a copy of the Bible and said, "In 15 years I'll have this book in the morgue." Fifteen years rolled by and Ingersoll was in the morgue.
- D. Voltaire said that in one hundred years the Bible would be an outmoded and forgotten book. At the end of the century, Voltaire had died and his house was used by the Geneva Bible Society to print, store and distribute the Bible. The Bible lives on!

Conclusion

A. The Hammer and the Anvil

Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door
 And heard the anvil ring, the vesper chime;
 When looking in I saw upon the floor,
 Old hammers worn with beating years of time.
 How many anvils have you had, said I,
 To wear and batter all these hammers so?
 Just one, said he, then said twinkling eye,
 The anvil wears the hammers out you know.
 And so, I thought the anvil of God's Word
 For ages skeptic's blows have beat upon;
 Yet, thought the noise of falling blows was heard,
 The anvil is unharmed—the hammers are gone!
 But The Word of the Lord Abideth Forever
 by Clifford

B. To benefit from the enduring word of God, one must be willing to RESPOND to it:

1. "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22).
2. It is not enough to read or to hear the Word; we must do it. The blessing comes in the doing, not in the reading of the word (James 1:25).
3. In Acts 2, we find a group of hearers that were blessed in doing the Word. To those hearers who believe in Jesus and were convicted of their sin of crucifying the Son of God, Peter gave the following words of instruction: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the

name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

4. "Then those who gladly RECEIVED his word were baptized [RESPONSE]; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them" (Acts 2:41).
5. "He who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" (James 1:25).
6. Will you respond to the Word of God? Come forward now as we stand and sing.

Parts of this sermon came from sermons by:

THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE by Bobby Duncan

David A. Sargent, Minister *Church of Christ at Creekwood, 1901 Schillinger Rd. S.*
Mobile, Alabama 36695