

The Doctrine of Inspiration – Part II

Key Text: 2Peter 1:20-21

- From 2Pet 1:20-21 - God is the originator of prophecy.
- # 2Pe 1:20-21
- There is no independent interpretation. Nor is one interpretation equally valid with another. Thus, there is only one interpretation and it does not originate in human
 - All Scripture is prophecy, and all Scripture is inspired.
 - The Old Testament is inspired:
 - Ps 119:89; Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.
 - Pr 30:5-6; Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.
 - 2Sam 23:2; “The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.
 - Isa 40:8; The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.
 - The New Testament is inspired, Christ authenticated the NT in advance - whatever God reminds you of is truth:
 - John 14:26; “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
 - “Scripture” includes the NT.
 - 1Thess 5:27; I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren. Apostle Paul
 - 2Pet 3:16; as also in all *Paul’s* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.
 - The Apostles’ Testimonies:
 - 1Cor 14:37; If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord’s commandment.
 - 1Thess 4:2; For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.
 - 2 Pet 3:2; that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.
 - False Perspectives on Inspiration
 - Natural Inspiration - Bible is inspired in the same sense as other great pieces of literature such as the writings of Shakespeare or Homer (Iliad). But, this fails to acknowledge divine authorship.
 - Dynamic Inspiration - The Bible is used by the Spirit to point to Christ. The Bible “becomes” the Word of God. Fails to distinguish illumination from inspiration.
 - Qualified Inspiration - A rationalistic view that argues we can distinguish between inspired and uninspired Scripture. It is seen in three forms:
 - Only the mysteries of the faith are inspired, the things we can’t understand on our own.

- The Bible is only inspired in matters of faith and practice, but not history or science (Partial Inspiration). Not necessarily inspired (accurate) in matters of scientific and historical fact. But this fails to realize that such distinctions are not ultimately possible.
- The Bible is only inspired in the religious ideas it teaches, or in relation to its “purpose” (salvation & sanctification), but not in the actual words it uses. The view ignores the fallen nature of man and his depravity. Jeremiah 17:9 - “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” KJV
- Uneven Inspiration - Some parts are more inspired than others. For example, Inspiration of Paul differs from the inspiration of the writer of Chronicles, since it was merely a historical narrative and not direct expression of biblical doctrine. But this fails to acknowledge that “all Scripture is inspired” without qualification.
- Conceptual Inspiration - God inspired the concepts, not the actual words. The terminology used by the human authors was sometimes defective or inadequate. But this fails to realize that concepts are communicated through words.
- Evangelical View: Verbal-Plenary Inspiration
 - Verbal - the very words are inspired
 - Plenary - the whole thing. ☑ Authoritative - we are bound by its commands, explanations, histories, decrees, etc.
 - The primary source of theological knowledge.
 - Confluent - Fully divine authorship and fully human authorship (like Christ who is the Word of God and is both divine and human).
 - Inerrant - there is nothing in the text that deceives.
- Verbal - Plenary Inspiration: DENIALS
 - Concerning the Human Authors - The human authors were not mere stenographers, or chronologists, but rather they rearranged material, interpreted events, etc.
 - Each writer had a specific audience in mind and was making a particular point or case. The human authors did not all write from the same perspective or with the same immediate goal. The human authors did not err in or falsify what they wrote.
 - Concerning the Divine Author - He did not dictate ALL of Scripture (though He did dictate some, as in Thus saith the Lord ... "). The Divine Author did not impede the human characteristics (writing style, etc.) of the human authors.
- Verbal-Plenary Inspiration: What's the application?
 - VPI is simply a summary of the Bible's teaching about itself. o VPI acknowledges Scripture as standing above human judgment. We don't get to decide what is inspired and what isn't. Any other standard ends up putting reason above Scripture (or some other text!).
 - VPI acknowledges the value of external evidence for demonstrating the rationality of believing the inspiration of the Bible.

- VPI requires submission to the Bible as the Word of God, intellectually - Our beliefs are critiqued by Scripture, Our values are critiqued by Scripture and Our judgments are critiqued by Scripture
- VPI requires submission to the Bible as the Word of God, practically - Our character is to be shaped by Scripture, Our actions are to be shaped by Scripture, Our ministries are to be shaped by Scripture.
- Acceptance and application of VPI requires and develops the “Universal Virtue” of humility.