

**Subject: *God's Inspired Word, Part 3***

**Scripture: *1 Thessalonians 2:1-13***

We have been thinking about God's inspired Word and what the Bible means when it says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Tim. 3:16). We have considered some important topics related to inspiration:

- MEANING of inspiration – "all scripture is given by inspiration of God"
- MENTION of inspiration – many verses refer to God as the source of Scripture
- MISUNDERSTANDING about inspiration – wrong views of inspiration
- METHOD of inspiration – the process how God directed every word
- MARKS of inspiration – the unmistakable proofs that Scripture is the Word of God

Can we trust the Bible? How do we know for sure it is the inspired Word of God? In this message we are going to consider the proofs or marks of inspiration.

**1. The ABILITY of God's Word**

It has the power to change lives. The Bible can do what no other book can do. In our text Paul makes reference to his ministry at Thessalonica. He writes about his motivation, his manner, and his message. Paul was very thankful for God's great work among the people. It was life-changing for them. The key to it all was that Paul preached God's Word and they received it.

- It has power in salvation – the ability to produce new life (regeneration/new birth).

*James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

*1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

The new birth comes from the old Book.

- It has power in sanctification – the ability to make us holy and set us free from sin

*John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

*1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.*

*Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*

**2. The AUTHORITY of God's Word**

Paul was thankful that the believers in Thessalonica understood the authority of God's Word. It wasn't the words of men, but the Word of God. Those powerful words, "Thus saith the Lord" and similar phrases are found over 3,800 times in the Bible. Many people don't want any absolute authority or definite statement of right and wrong. The Bible is the absolute and final authority for what we believe and the way we live. If God inspired the Bible ("God-breathed"), then the Bible must be our ultimate authority. The authority of the Bible exceeds all other authority.

- *Jeremiah 22:29 O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD.*

- It has authority over human reasoning. *Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*
- It has authority over the church. Sometimes even churches are wrong. This is one point where we differ from Roman Catholics. They believe the official teachings of the church have equal authority with the Bible.
- It has authority over tradition. Jesus rebuked the religious leaders in *Mark 7:9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. Mark 7:13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.*
- It has authority over experiences and feelings. Every valid experience must be confirmed by the Word of God. At times believers fall into sin and then say they “felt led” to do or say certain things. We must not be led by our feelings but by the Word of God.

### **3. The ACCURACY of God’s Word**

It is completely 100% accurate because God cannot lie and He never makes a mistake. The Bible is inerrant and infallible. Do you remember Walter Cronkite, long-time news anchor for CBS? He always finished his newscast by saying, “And that’s the way it is,” and he would give the date of that broadcast. God is saying, “And that’s the way it was, and the way it is, and the way it will be.”

- It is historically accurate – It tells us what happened, when it happened, and how it happened. Archeological evidence has proven time and again that the Bible is accurate.
- It is scientifically accurate – It reveals scientific facts long before many of them were discovered by men.
  - ✓ Earth is suspended in space  
*Job 26:7 – He (God) stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth on nothing.*
  - ✓ Earth is round, not flat  
*Is. 40:22 – It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth. Up until the 15<sup>th</sup> century people thought the earth was flat.*
  - ✓ The total number of stars cannot be known  
*Jer. 33:22 – As the host of heaven cannot be numbered...*  
In the year 130 B.C, Hipparchus counted 1,022 stars, and in A.D. 200, Ptolemy counted 1,026. Today scientists tell us there are probably as many stars as grains of sand on all the sea shores of the world. God used this very comparison when He spoke to Abraham in *Genesis 13:16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.*

- ✓ Blood sustains life in the body  
*Lev. 17:11 – For the life of the flesh is in the blood.* Bloodletting was practiced until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The death of George Washington is thought to have been the result of excessive bloodletting. It was the year 1628, when William Harvey first discovered the circulation of blood in the human body.
  
- ✓ Paths (currents) are in the sea  
*Psalms 8:8 – The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.* Matthew Maury is called the “Pathfinder of the Seas” and is the father of modern oceanography. While he was recovering from a sickness, his eldest son was reading the Bible to him and when he read *Psalms 8*, Maury stopped him and said, “Read that again.”  
Then he said, “It is enough—if the Bible says there are paths in the sea, they must be there, and I am going to find them. Within a few years he had charted the sea lanes and currents. A statue of this man can be found today in Richmond, Va., in which Maury is holding charts of the sea in one hand and a Bible in the other. We can hold science in one hand and the Bible in the other knowing that the truth of one will always match up to the truth of the other.
  
- It is prophetically accurate – It is the only religious book in the world that contains prophecy. Why? Because only God knows the future. About 330 prophecies of Christ were fulfilled when He came to earth the first time:
  - ✓ He was born of a virgin
  - ✓ He was born in Bethlehem
  - ✓ He was betrayed, crucified, and rise again  
*1 Corinthians 15:3-4<sup>3</sup> For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;<sup>4</sup> And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.*

#### **4. The UNITY of God’s Word**

The Bible was written by 40 human writers over 1,500 years and yet it tells one story and focuses on one main character, Jesus Christ.

- ***John 5:39*** *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

The Old Testament says, “He is coming.” The Gospels and Acts say, “He is here.” The rest of the New Testament says, “He is coming again.” The Bible is a HIM book because it’s all about Him.

#### **5. The HONESTY of God’s Word**

The Bible tells just like it was and just like it is. We read many things in the Bible that men would have left out if they had written on their own. The Bible doesn’t hide the sins of its heroes. We read about Noah getting drunk, Abraham lying, Lot committing incest with his daughters, David and his adultery, the prophet Jonah running from God’s call, and on the list goes. The Bible reminds us that all God has ever had to work with are sinners like you and me. And the Bible not only tells it like it was, but tells it like it is. The Bible is not a book man would have written if he could and it is not a book could have written if he would.

The Bible tells us the truth about sin and the Savior who died our sins. It tells us the truth about repentance and faith. It tells us the truth about Heaven and Hell.