

II Timothy, Sermon #23

II Timothy 3

What is the key to Biblical living in perilous seasons when religious people live unbiblically? The Bible.

What is needed now is a revival of the Word of God:

- a renewal of our faith in the inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures
- a return to the basic tenets of the Bible
- a rebirth of Biblical preaching
- a reaffirmation of our determination to preach the Word as it is, to men as they are, which will result in a spiritual revolution that will revitalize the Christian faith.

We must come back to realize the place and position and prominence that belong to the Word of God.

I've entitled this entire series "Living in This World" Part 7

II Timothy 3:16 (A)

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

II Timothy 3:16 (A)

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

Living in This World

I. Last week, we learned that **the Scriptures are holy** (vs. 15).

II. **Secondly, the Scriptures lead us to salvation** (vs. 15) – faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God

In **vs. 16**, we find our third truth.

III. **“All scripture is given by inspiration of God.”**

The doctrine of the inspiration of Scripture is vitally important.

It is a doctrine that has been under attack by Satan from the beginning.

If some Scripture is inspired and other parts are not, the Bible is then worthless as a reliable guide to divine truth, because we would have no way to determine which part of it is inspired by God and which is not.

It is inconceivable that God would give His people a book they could not trust.

CNN Debate—Republican candidates—question came regarding the Bible

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.

We must not think of “inspiration” the way the world thinks when it says, “Shakespeare was an inspired writer.”

We commonly use that term, *inspired*, of people with extraordinary artistic, literary, or musical genius.

What we mean by Biblical *inspiration* is the super natural influence of the Holy Spirit on the Bible’s writers, which guaranteed that what they wrote was accurate and trustworthy

We are looking at the foremost Scripture in the Bible regarding inspiration!

II Timothy 3:16 – the premier verse

This verse specifies that all the Scriptures are God-breathed.

The word “all” means the entire Scriptures, the totality of Scriptures, all 66 books.

This is also known as plenary inspiration, meaning that the entire Bible is equally derived from God.

Vs. 16 - states that the source of the text was God Himself.

- If all Scripture is from God, then it must be inspired
- If we doubt some words in the Bible, then the doctrine of inspiration is irrelevant.

Scripture is the revelation conveyed, inspiration is the means of that conveyance.

God divinely superintended the accurate recording of His divinely breathed truth by His divinely chosen men.

Revelation means the communicating of truth to man by God; *inspiration* has to do with the *recording* of this communication.

The Word of God is more than just a man with a pen.

The Bible is not a collection of the wisdom and insights of godly men.

- It is God’s truth, His own Word in His own words, inerrant and authoritative.

God’s Word was given through men, superintended by the Holy Spirit, so that their writings are without error.

The Doctrine of Inerrancy

Inerrancy is a crucial issue!

The inerrancy of the Bible means simply that the Bible tells the truth.

Inspiration is the guidance or influence of the Holy Spirit on the human writers of Scripture so that God controls them in such a way that what they wrote was exactly what God wanted them to write without error.

There was no error in grammar, history, mathematics, geology, geometry, or geography.

Scripture *is inspired and inerrant in everything it teaches and reports.*

Scripture *is inspired and inerrant in its words.*

Whatever the Bible says about itself, man, God, life, death, history, science, and every other subject is true.

Some scholars maintain that, because the Bible is not a textbook on such subjects as history, geography, and science, it is inerrant only when it speaks on spiritual and moral matters.

No one need fear that any new discovery or scientific breakthrough is going to disprove any of the Bible.

It is the most ancient of books, but it is as modern as tomorrow.

I. THE SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY OF THE BIBLE

It is quite true that the Bible is not a textbook on science.

It was not given to tell us how the heavens go, but how to go to Heaven.

Nevertheless, if God inspired words, there cannot be scientific errors.

God is not limited by the ignorance of any times; so if He inspired the Bible, it follows that wherever mention is made of scientific matters, the statements of the Bible will be in harmony with true science, not only in past ages but in every age.

And this is exactly what we find.

The very fact that the Bible discloses so many scientific truths that the world's most renowned scientists did not discover for hundreds and hundreds of years, proves the divine origin of the Scriptures.

How did Job know the scientific truth when he wrote, "God hangeth the earth upon nothing" (Job 26:7)?

How did Isaiah know that the earth was round when he said, "God sitteth upon the circle of the earth" (Isa. 40:22)?

How did Jeremiah know that God caused the vapors to ascend, the water cycle (Jer. 10:13)?

In the year A.D. 125, the Greek astronomer, Hipparchus (Hi Park us) counted the stars. In A.D. 200, Ptolemy (tol uh mee) discovered a few more and said there were 1,026. Not until 1,400 years after that did Galileo venture the opinion that the stars were too numerous to be counted.

The telescope confirmed this opinion as fact.

Men of science once thought the stars could be numbered.

True science now knows they cannot be numbered.

What says the Bible?

- "Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them" (Gen. 15:5).
- Jeremiah, writing by inspiration, said, "The host of heaven cannot be numbered" (Jer. 33:22)
- Gen. 22:17 says that the stars of the heavens are compared to the sand of the sea.

It is impossible to count the sand, and the same is true about the stars.

Could you imagine the scientists arguing with Jeremiah?

Until recent years science believed the moon to be a great luminous body like the sun. It was counted a remarkable discovery when science proved that the moon does not shine itself but only reflects the light of the sun.

Since God made the moon, He knew about this.

What is more, He told Job about it and directed Job to write it down: “The moon. . . it shineth not” (Job 25:5).

In 1615, William Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood—of which many called him crack-brained.

It was then seen that the life of the body was in the blood.

Before Harvey's discovery, doctors tried to cure people by bloodletting.

- They didn't know that the blood was the very life.
- But way back in Leviticus 17:11 we read, “The life of the flesh is in the blood.”

As men scan the heavens with giant telescopes, they find that the sky is, comparatively speaking, thickly populated with stars—in every place, that is, except the north.

Scientists have been profoundly puzzled over the fact that there is, in the north, a vast empty space.

They need not have been so startled had they read the Bible.

Some fifteen hundred years before Christ, Job wrote, “God stretcheth out the north over the empty place” (Job 26:7).

Incidentally, some believe that Heaven is located in that vast northern space.

- Isaiah 14:13 tells how Lucifer, in the wickedness of his heart, said: *“I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.”*

It was not until many centuries after the Gospels were written that men came to understand that night and day reigned at one moment on this earth!

Moreover, the Bible tells us that the earth rotates on its own axis, that it is turning around and around in space.

In Genesis, chapter 1, we read of the days of creation.

The Bible speaks of “the evening and the morning” of the first day, “the evening and the morning” of the second day, etc.

There is no way to explain the succession of morning and evening and morning and evening and morning and evening unless the earth is rotating on its own axis.

Otherwise, that part of the earth that was facing the sun would always be in daylight and the other side of the earth would always be in darkness.

It is quite clear that the Lord Jesus understood this fact too.

In speaking of His coming again to earth, He said:

- “I tell you, in that night there shall be two in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.
- “Two shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
- “Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.”— Luke 17:34-36.

Notice that it would be nighttime in some places.

In other places of the world, it would be broad daylight.

II. THE HISTORICAL INERRANCY OF THE BIBLE

Through the centuries, some scholars have pointed to “mistakes” in the Bible, statements about people, places, and things that did not jive with the accepted “facts” of history, archaeology, or modern science.

The history of the Bible is true history.

It is more reliable than profane history books because Bible historians were inspired of God to record facts as they really happened.

- They had more than human wisdom to guide them.
- They had the guidance of the Holy Spirit of God.

In Daniel 5, we have a most interesting proof of the historical inerrancy of Scripture.

It declares that Belshazzar was king of Babylon when the Medo-Persians took the city and slew Belshazzar.

But contemporaneous history knew nothing of a King Belshazzar.

Moreover, the king of Babylon was known not to have been in Babylon on the night when the city fell.

Here, then, were two samples of Bible inaccuracy, and for years the critics held this chapter up to ridicule.

Meanwhile, archaeologists continued to dig.

Finally a tablet was unearthed bearing the name of a soldier-king named Belshazzar and giving the information that he ruled in Babylon co-jointly with his father in the last years of his father's reign.

With this discovery in mind, Bible believers then reread Daniel 5 and found light on a problem that had perplexed many.

To Daniel, the king had said, "If thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom." (5:16)

Why the third? Why not second to Belshazzar himself?

Because the history of the Bible is inerrant. Belshazzar and his father were co-rulers, and the third place was all Belshazzar could give.

Until recently, there was no record of Pontius Pilate.

It is in the light of such facts as these that the Bible's claim to divine inspiration is fully sustained.

The more one investigates the history of the Bible, the more clearly will he find this to be so.

IV. THE FULFILLED PROPHECY OF THE BIBLE

One of the most striking characteristics of the Bible, distinguishing it radically from all other books either ancient or modern, is that it contains in every part, from its first book to its last, predictions in plain language of events that were to take place.

These prophecies were soberly uttered—and uttered in the name of Almighty God.

They are not confined to events done in a corner and impossible of full investigation but have for their subjects the largest cities and most famous empires in the world.

Nor are they so indefinite and ambiguous that their meaning is obscure.

They are definite, specific prophecies regarding persons, places and events, given in such detail that time will prove one thing or another: either the Bible is vindicated as an inspired Book through the fulfillment of its prophecies, or it is exposed through their nonfulfillment as the worst impostor in history, because these prophecies were made in the name of the holy God.

This we believe, and in all confidence we proclaim the Scriptures to be a supernatural Book.

If it were not so, then how could the Lord Jesus affirm that man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4) . . .

“Three times He vanquished Satan on the mount by saying, “It is written . . .”

If it was written in the Book, that settled it for Him.

He Himself proclaimed its wondrous vitality when He said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.”

The Bible is the objective Word of God, whether man understands it or not, whether man recognizes it or not, and whether man applies it to his life or not.

Now, how important is the Word of God to our living in this world? Absolutely vital!

- Is it trustworthy?
- Is it reliable?

All Scriptures is given by inspiration of God.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

The Bible is for us today

It is holy

It tells us how to be saved from our sins—by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.

God gave us this Bible in order to be able to live in this world, Godly

Are we reading, studying, obeying it?