

LOGOS

(1st Year)

February 27, 2011

REVERENCE OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Part 1

As we understand the miraculous way in which our great God made His holy Word available to us, we are moved to esteem it highly with great reverence; and as we reverence the Word of God, we are constantly encouraged to obey the commands and principles in it.

These steps help us understand the entire process. (Note page 117 in *Basic Theology* by Ryrie.)

REVELATION

- Revelation = God's **thoughts** from God's **mind** delivered to human minds and authors.
- God revealed **truth** to mankind other than **Scripture** until the **Canon** was completed.
- In reference to the **Bible**, making known to man **truth** which he could not learn in any other way.
- Remember that the process of "Biblical Revelation" took place over a **1600 year** span; so God **progressed** in His revelation to mankind.

INSPIRATION

THE NECESSITY OF INSPIRATION

As special revelation is God's communication to man of the truth he must know in order to be properly related to God, so inspiration deals with the preservation of that revelation so that what was received from God was accurately transmitted to others beyond the original recipient. In revelation we have the *vertical reception* of God's truth while in inspiration we have the *horizontal communication* of that revelation accurately to others. The question is how can we be sure the Bible is God's revelation to man and not merely the product of human ingenuity or merely human opinion? If what God revealed has not been accurately recorded, then that record is subject to question. The doctrine of inspiration answers that question and guarantees the accuracy of the Bible as God's special revelation.

THE MEANING OF INSPIRATION

1. The term inspiration is derived from the Latin Vulgate Bible where the verb inspire is used in 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:21.
2. The word inspiration is used in 2 Timothy 3:16 to translate theopneustos, a word that occurs only here.
3. Theopneustos is derived from theos, "God," and pneu, "to breathe."

Literally, it means "God-breathed" and expresses the concept of exhalation by God. More accurately, it emphasizes that Scripture is the product of the breath of God. The Scriptures are not something breathed into by God; rather, the Scriptures have been breathed out by God.

- God directed certain **humans** to author Scripture in such a way that they **composed** and **recorded** His message to mankind without error.
- In other words, God **breathed** it out, human authors **wrote** it, we **possess** it, and it is our sole **authority** for **faith** and **practice** because it is of God.

CANONICITY

- Canon = The **collection** of 66 books (now in our Bible) as a result of stringent **rules** of canonicity.
- As a result of these “tests for canonicity”, we **accept** only these 66 books as inspired Scripture.
- See *Basic Theology*, Chapter 15 for more background information.

TEXTUAL CRITICISM

- Textual Criticism = The process of evaluating the **original** language manuscripts for the most **accurate** Bible versions.
- This process relates to the **most** accurate **copies** of the original manuscripts. (There are **no** purely original manuscripts.)

TRANSLATION

- Translation = The **process** of taking the Old and New Testaments in their **original** language and putting them in **another** language.

Note: A small **portion** of the accuracy of Scripture (about 1%) is compromised when **translation** takes place.

(To Be Continued)