

Prov. 30:5 – THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE AS THE FINAL AUTHORITY

The Oxford Dictionary's word for 2016 was "post truth". They defined it as when "objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief". Judges 21:25 – where "everyone did as they saw fit – what was right in THEIR eyes."

John 18:37,38 - "Everyone on the side of truth listens to Me." And Pilate retorts, "What is Truth?" John 14:6 - "I am the way, the Truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Me." John 17:17 - "Sanctify them through the Truth – THY WORD is Truth."

Prov. 30:5,6 - "Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. ⁶ Do not add to His words, or He will rebuke you and prove you a liar."

The point is that God's Word is trustworthy; it has no defects and flaws, nothing _____ or misleading. The second half of the verse explains the significance of this point – it is safe to trust the Lord.

II Tim. 3:12 – 17: ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. II Tim. 4:1-4: I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

We believe the Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and our Final Authority.

I. WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THIS STATEMENT?

A. VIEWS OF INSPIRATION

1. Intuition – _____ insight – Paul and Shakespeare are on the same level. Denies I Cor. 2:14 – natural man unable to see spiritual things.
2. The Bible _____ the Word of God. Parts of it might be the Word of God to you, but not to me.
3. Only the _____ were inspired – not words. But how do you express thoughts? By _____!
4. Inspired purpose – "matters relating to faith and practice"
5. Mechanical dictation – secretary taking dictation
6. Dynamic – "The inward work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and minds of chosen men who then wrote the Scriptures so that God got written what He wanted written."

The word Paul uses that is translated “given by inspiration of God” is Theopneustos - “God-breathed”

Does the Bible claim to be inspired by God? Old Testament – 2,000 times it claims to come from God – “thus saith the Lord”.

Christ – Matt. 5:18 – not one jot or tittle. He quoted from every part of the OT (Law, Prophets, Writings (Psalms))

New Testament: II Peter 1:19 – 21 - We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

I Thess. 2:13 - ¹³ And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

B. TERMINOLOGY OF INSPIRATION

1. Plenary - _____ the Bible is fully and equally inspired (not equally inspiring!)
2. Verbal – the very _____ are inspired
3. Inerrant – without error on _____ subject on which it speaks, in the original manuscripts – there is nothing contrary to fact
4. Doctrine of Preservation – no doctrinal error in the manuscripts

II. WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

If you deny this, then you have _____ objective standard of right or wrong; and NO objective _____. Ultimately, when you deny the inerrancy of the Bible, other doctrinal concessions will follow.

Back to II Tim. 3:16,17 - ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

A. Profit of the Scripture

- 1) Doctrine (teaching) - what God _____
- 2) Reproof/Rebuke - showing us our error – where we fall short
- 3) Correcting - helping us get back on track – to set something straight
- 4) Instruction - structured training – disciplined life-style

B. Purpose of the Scripture

- 1) _____ – to be adequate/ to be in complete adjustment
- 2) Equipped – able to _____ what God has for you.

Don’t deny in practice what you affirm in principle. Bring your life under the Bible’s authority.