

The Bible: Given By the Inspiration of God
2 Timothy 3:14-17

Topic: The Bible

Aim: To show that the Bible claims to be the word of God giving us the mind of God through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

1. I want you to use your imagination for a few moments. You have been raised on a deserted island, isolated from the rest of the world. You are ignorant of the teachings of Christianity. A box floats up and inside is a book labeled the Bible.
2. You read it. What would you think? What would your conclusion be about this remarkable book?

I. What is the Bible?

- A. As you read you would find some remarkable claims made in the book itself.
 1. Over four hundred times you would read the phrase "Thus says the Lord. . ." Over 230 times "The Lord Said..." 44 times "God said..." 138 times "the Lord spoke..." 264 times "the word of the Lord..." Over 1,000 times comes the affirmation that these are God's words!
 2. You would read of the creation of the world and mankind.
 3. You would read of his sin and separation from God.
 4. You would read of how God worked through a long history to bring one called Jesus into the world to redeem fallen mankind.
 5. You would read of man's final destiny in either heaven or hell.
- B. All of this would be impressive but why would you give any of it any credence?
 1. Because of the phrase "Thus says the Lord. . ." and other similar phrases.
 2. And such verses as our reading.
- C. An unknown author has written about the Bible:

"This Book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, Practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character.

"Here is paradise restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good is its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to a resurrected life in Christ; yes, to glory itself, for eternity."

II. How did the book we know as the Bible come to be?

- A. It came to be as God revealed His mind and will to mankind.
 1. 2 Corinthians 2:6-16.
 2. 2 Timothy 3: 16.
 3. 2 Peter 2:16-21.
 4. Hebrews 2:1-4.
 5. Ephesians 3:1-5.

B. Three powerful examples of God communicating with man.

1. Moses before the burning bush, Exodus 3: 1-6.
2. Isaiah 6: 1-10
3. Acts 2:1-4.

C. The conclusion? The Bible is the word of God, revealing the mind of God and which came to mankind by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God.

III. But that admission and/or claim raises two issues for our further consideration.

A. The claim of inspiration is an amazing one.

1. Many scoff at such an idea.
2. Is there any reason beyond its own statements to accept the Bible's claim to be the mind of God?
3. Yes. In subsequent lessons we will consider some of those reasons.

B. What should we do with this book called the Bible?

1. How do we go about studying it?
2. How do we determine what parts of it apply to us?
3. How do we know what we are doing is what God want us to do so that we can obtain the blessings promised in the Book?
4. Again, in subsequent lessons we will consider these vital topics.

1. In closing I take you back to Acts 2 where the Holy Spirit gave utterance to Peter and the apostles.

2. The message there is that Jesus died and was raised to save mankind.

3. We can have forgiveness of sins if we do the same thing they were told to do, Acts 2:38.