

Biblical Inspiration
2 Timothy 3:16-17
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what lessons we can learn from the topic of inspiration.

Introduction

I. Terms

A. The term inspiration

1. The word “inspiration” is derived from the latin word “inspirare”, which means “to breath upon or into something.”

B. The term Enthusiasm

1. The term Enthusiasm is derived from Greek and carries the notion “being possessed by a god.”
2. This idea gained popularity from religious subjectivism
 - i. Subjectivism – a theory that limits knowledge to subjective experience.

C. The term “theopneustia”

1. This term means “God-breathed”, which is translated “inspired by God” the only time its used in the N.T. (**2 Tim 3:16**).

II. Doctrinal definition of inspiration

A. Divine causality

1. The prime mover in inspiration is God (**2 Pt 1:21**).
2. Thus, God moved, and the prophet mouthed the truths; God revealed, and man recorded His word.
3. The Bible is God’s word in that it originates with Him and is authorized by Him, even though it is articulated by men. God speaks in their written records.

B. Prophetic agency

1. The prophets played an important role in the overall process of inspiration; they were the means by which God spoke.
2. The word of God was written by men of God. God used persons to convey His propositions.
3. God is the primary cause, and the prophets are the secondary causes.
 - a. Thus the divine influence did not restrict human activity but rather enabled the human authors to speak the divine message accurately.

C. Scriptural authority

1. God spoke to the prophets and is speaking in their writings.
 - a. The cause of inspiration is God, the means is the men of God, and the end result is the word of God in the language of men.
 - b. Inspiration then is that process by which the divine causality worked through the human prophets without destroying their personalities and styles to produce divinely authoritative and inerrant writings.

III. The Scriptures have divine characteristics

- i. These characteristics are beyond the abilities of humans to produce.

A. Perfect Unity

1. 40 different men (types of men list)
2. Over 1600 years
2. Writing in Hebrew, Aramaic, & Greek

B. The content (what's included & what's not)

1. Man writes a book on one topic and its longer than the Bible, and multiple volumes are often required.
2. God's Word covers a wide variety of topics and yet is a manageable size

C. Scientific Foreknowledge

1. Circumcision on the 8th day (**Lev 12:3**)
2. Why the 8th day?

IV. Lessons for us today.

A. Man is incapable of creating a similar book

1. Man's "self-help" books are flawed as they are based on a lower standard and lack the wisdom that the Bible contains.
2. Man's books are written to sell.

B. God's Word is righteous and Holy.

1. Unlike the books of men, God's Word is righteous (**Ps 19:9b**)
2. Man's books are based on what makes you happy, not necessarily what will actually help you become a better person.

Application & Conclusion:

1. The Bible is inspired of God, because it is inspired of God it originates with Him.
2. Since the word originates with God it can be trusted and should be obeyed.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9