

Practical Theology – Lesson 7 – “Scripture”

“Inspiration, Inerrancy, Authority, and Timeliness”

Part One: Inspiration, and therefore, Authority

The phrase, ‘**The Word of God**’ expresses that the Bible is inspired by God – it is His word, not human words, and the authority of God is manifest in the authority of His word.

Isaiah 55:9-11 When Inspiration and Authority are established, with respect to Inerrancy and Natural Interpretation, the believer’s respect to God’s authority is explicitly defined by the believer’s reaction to the written Word of God.

My religious beliefs? “We accept the Bible as the Word of God – our beliefs are defined by Scripture.” Leaves an open door to answer any questions with Scripture, and disallows many opinion-based arguments. Causes discussions about ‘religion’ shift into investigation of Scripture, which (especially with prayer) can lead to ongoing opportunities to witness. **Romans 10:17**

Other examples of the Authority of God’s Word:

- **Deuteronomy 6:1-9** – Read all, and consider the authority God is placing in His Word
- **Joshua 1:1-2 ... 7-8** – Consider the weight God places on the keeping of his Word, when speaking to the successor to Moses (to whom he “spoke face to face”
- **Compare to Psalm 19:7-9** – the Everlasting Lovingkindness of God (Psalm 136)
- **Matthew 5:17-19** (also Mark 13:31) – Consider the authority which Jesus Christ ascribes to Scripture
- **II Timothy 3:15-17** – All Scripture

Inspiration through Human authorship

Not:

- **Not dictation** – Inspiration by humans – life experience and emotions
- **Not conceptual** – not ‘containing the ideas’ of God – no detail, no authority

Acts 4:25 – Context is rulers against Christ, but note the clear expression of Inspiration of Scripture

Acts 28:25 – Similar example of an expression of Inspiration of Scripture

I Corinthians 14:37 – Scripture has authority over ‘new prophecy’

Galatians 3:8 - Scripture directly equated to actual words of God

Hebrews 3:7 - Scripture directly equated to inspired words of God, **compare to 4:7**