Lesson One

THE BIBLE: ITS INSPIRATION

DEFINITION: By inspiration we mean that the Holy Spirit so influenced and controlled men in the writing of the Bible that it is exactly and entirely the Word of God.

1. THE MEANING OF INSPIRATION.

II Timothy 3:16 “by inspiration of God” means “God-breathed”, that is, God Himself spoke through men. (Hebrews 1:1). The inspired Word is the utterance of God; God-breathed.

II Peter 1:21 “moved by the Holy Ghost”, that is, the prophets were prompted and guided by the Holy Spirit when giving their message. That is inspiration.

1. THE EXENT OF INSPIRATION.
   1. Inspiration extends to the very WORDS used, not merely to the thoughts and ideas expressed. The choice of each word was by inspiration of God. I Corinthians 2:13; Jeremiah 36:4; John 6:63; Matthew 5:18. (Observe Galatians 3:16).
   2. The original work of recording in writing the inspired message was a part of inspiration. Exodus 34:27; Jeremiah 30:1-2’ Habakkuk 2:2; I Corinthians 14:37; Revelations 21:5.
2. THE HUMAN ELEMENT IN THE WRITING OF THE BIBLE.
   1. The Holy Spirit used the memories, intellects, emotions, and abilities of the writers in transmitting the Word of God. Luke 1:1-4, Romans 9:1-3.
   2. Sometimes the writers knew not what they wrote, proving that they were but the instruments of God. I Peter 1:10-12.
3. THE WRITERS OF THE BIBLE CLAIMED TO BE INSPIRED OF GOD.
   1. Old Testament: Exodus 4:10-15; Jeremiah 1:7-9; II Samuel 23:2; Micah 3:8; Ezekiel 3:4.
   2. New Testament: I Corinthians 2:13; 14:37; I Thessalonians 2:13; II Peter 3:1, 2, II Peter 3:15-16; Revelation 1:1-3.
4. THE LORD JESUS DECLARED THE BIBLE TO BE INSPIRED OF GOD.
   1. Old Testament: Mark 12:36; Luke 24:44; John 17:17.
   2. His own words: John 12:49; 14:10; 17:8.
   3. New Testament: He said He would leave the revelation of truth unfinished (John 16:12) but promised that it would afterward be completed (John 16:13), and he gave the then future words equal authority with His own (John 17:20; 13:20; 14:26).