

MADENEW: STUDY GUIDE

The Book: Authority

1. Inspiration – the Bible is the Word of God

1 Thessalonians 2:13 – “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”

II Tim. 3:16 (KJV) "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:..."

1. There are two main words used by theologians to define inspiration.
 1. "Verbal" means every word in the original languages is inspired by God. Why would we believe this? There are several reasons:
 2. "Plenary" means THE WHOLE BIBLE is inspired. The inspiration extends to concepts, numbers, names, arrangement of books, and everything that makes up the Scriptures in the original writings.
 1. Psalm 119:160 “The sum of the your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.”
2. The Bible does not contain the Word of God -- It is the Word of God!
 1. If the Bible just “contains” the word of God, then we are saying that some parts are inspired by God, while others are not.
 2. What standard would we use to be the judge of scripture, to determine which parts are inspired and which are not?

2. Implication -- because the Bible is the inspired Word of God:

1. It is the final authority on every subject for all eternity.
 1. Psalm 119:89 “Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven.”
 2. Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”
2. The Bible is the final authority guiding what we believe and what we do.
 1. Matt. 5:17-19 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

3. We cannot allow anything that opposes God’s Word to rule our thinking or our actions.

1. Mark 7:5-8 “And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?’” And he said to them, ‘Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘this people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

Questions

- What does the Bible’s authority mean to your life?
- Does the Bible contain the Word of God or is it the Word of God? What is the difference?