



INSIDE

CAPITOL MINISTRIES® UPDATE  
**Capitol Ministries®  
Blessed with  
Extraordinary Growth... 2**

VERSE OF THE WEEK  
**2Timothy 3:16..... 5**

ABOUT  
**Capitol Ministries® ..... 12**

# Does *the* Bible Inform and Determine Your Values?



**H**OW YOU VIEW THE INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE — was it penned by God or is it a fabrication of man — is critically important relative to what is authoritative in your life.

Some time ago I was speaking to a friend on the Hill whom we all know. He said, “Ralph, you have almost convinced Congressman\_\_\_\_\_ that Scripture is inspired by God. But he realizes that if he agrees with you, then the Bible will become the final arbiter for his life and policy decisions.... You’ve got him thinking!” He went on to encourage me to continue to work through this with him.

What follows is the case for the inspiration of the New Testament; and as illustrated above, this study has huge implications: Where you come down on inspiration will ultimately determine whether you are the judge of Scripture or Scripture is the judge of you. Heavy stuff, my friend! Inspiration is a watershed issue.

My God bless and buoy your confidence in His Book as a result of this week’s study.

Read on, my friend.

Ralph Drollinger

BIBLE STUDY SPONSORS

CABINET MEMBERS

- Mike Pence, VP: DC*
- Alexander Acosta, DOL: DC*
- Alex M. Azar II, HHS: DC*
- Jim Bridenstine, NASA: DC*
- Ben Carson, HUD: DC*
- Betsy DeVos, DOE: DC*
- Sonny Perdue, USDA: DC*
- Rick Perry, DOE: DC*
- Mike Pompeo, SOS: DC*
- Scott Pruitt, EPA: DC*
- Jeff Sessions, AG: DC*

SENATORS

- Bill Cassidy: LA*
- Steven Daines: MT*
- Joni Ernst: IA*
- James Lankford: OK*
- David Perdue: GA*
- Mike Rounds: SD*
- Tim Scott: SC*
- John Thune: SD*

REPRESENTATIVES

- Robert Aderholt: AL*
- Rick Allen: GA*
- Don Bacon: NE*
- Marsba Blackburn: TN*
- Ted Budd: NC*
- John Carter: TX*
- Michael Conaway: TX*
- Kevin Cramer: ND*
- Rick Crawford: AR*
- Jeff Denham: CA*
- John Duncan, Jr.: TN*
- Bill Flores: TX*
- Greg Gianforte: MT*
- Louie Gohmert: TX*
- Tom Graves: GA*

*Continued on last page*

## Weekly Bible Studies

CABINET: 7:00 AM Wednesdays, Location Undisclosed. *Light Refreshments Served.*

SENATE: 8:00 AM Tuesdays, Rotating Offices of Senators. *Hot Breakfast Served.*

HOUSE: 9:00 PM Tuesdays, Capitol Hill Club, Main Dining Room. *Dessert Served.*





CAPITOL MINISTRIES® UPDATE

Capitol Ministries®  
Blessed with  
Extraordinary Growth



CAPITOL MINISTRIES® has been blessed by God with extraordinary growth beyond our wildest imaginings in foreign nations across the globe and most notably in former Soviet Bloc countries.

The Word of God is being proclaimed aloud and boldly in capitols of foreign countries where not long ago it was whispered in the shadows.

At this moment the Gospel is being taught to the leaders of nations inside the very halls of government where laws were once enacted to silence Christians.

Only God can do that.

In the first months of 2018, discipleship Bible studies have been established to Parliamentarians in Romania; Ukraine; Fiji; Papua New Guinea; and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. A ministry is about to begin in Guatemala, and before fall, we expect work to be completed for ministries in the Central and South American nations of Peru; Ecuador; Brazil; Mexico; Uruguay; and Paraguay; as well as Riga, Latvia in Europe.

Continued on page 3

I. INTRODUCTION

There are several questions which will help a Public Servant, or for that matter, any individual, to address the question of God’s inspiration of Scripture.

First, what is the testimony of Scripture itself? Did the authors of the Bible know they were penning Holy Writ — did they say they were writing God’s words? Did they make this claim themselves or is this an idea later foisted onto them by others wanting that to be the case?

Second, what is the testimony of the early Church regarding the books that now make up the Bible? Were the Scriptures deemed God’s Word by those closest to the human authors of the Bible? And...

Third, how exactly did our Bible get to be in the form we have today? It’s not as if the Bible suddenly dropped out of the sky.

Again, and akin to my prologue, the answers to these questions are extremely important to our beliefs. *If the Scriptures are from God, that is to say they are inspired by Him to man, then the Bible is the last and final authority in one’s formation of principles, values and policy.* Rightly so, the late Francis Schaeffer deemed inspiration to be the watershed issue of the Christian faith.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly this week’s study is intended to build your understanding of, passion for, and conviction regard-

ing the inspiration and authoritative-ness of the whole of the Bible.

HOLDING TO, OR  
ELSE REJECTING THE  
INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE  
GREATLY IMPACTS VALUE  
FORMATION

When Paul said to the Ephesian Elders whom He had ministered to for over three years, *“I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God”* (Acts 20:27)<sup>2</sup>, he was expressing in effect his conviction that what he was saying and writing was indeed inspired by God — and therefore irresponsible for a teacher of it, or a believer following it, to be slack regarding it; Paul’s statement assumes that God inspired what he was saying. It follows that such a statement is ridiculous if Paul did not believe his speech and writings were inspired by God and infused with His authority.

Members of the White House Cabinet and Congress face multiple demands on every hour of their time. Regular participation in our Members Bible studies requires persistent and determined effort on your part to block and protect your schedule (from your schedulers!) for the regular consumption of God’s Book. Why would you do that if you don’t believe it is God’s Book? Conversely, why would you *not* discipline yourself and prioritize Bible study if indeed it is *His Book*? All that to say: your conclusions relative to inspiration even affect your weekly calendar!<sup>3</sup>



What follows are three reasons why one can trust in the *plenary inspiration*<sup>4</sup> of the Bible — more specific to this lesson, the 27 New Testament books.

## II. THE TESTIMONY OF THE AUTHORS

If today the whole of the NT is to be taken as the plenary inspired authoritative, infallible, inerrant, oracle of God, then it stands to reason that the writers would know this, and would say so. Note the following NT writers in this regard:

### A. THE APOSTLE PAUL 1CORINTHIANS 14:37; 2:13; 2CORINTHIANS 2:17

*If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.*

*Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.*

*For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.*

Likened to Acts 20:27, quoted in the introduction, the Apostle Paul clearly understood he was speaking and writing for God.

### B. THE APOSTLE JOHN REVELATION 1:1-2

*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. (Cf. Revelation 1:10-11; 21:5; 22:6; 22:18, 19).*

This passage serves to indicate that the Apostle John (here referring to himself as *His bond servant John*) realized as he testified herein, that he is penning what *Jesus Christ* told him to reveal.

### C. THE APOSTLE PETER 1PETER 1:12

*...these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things into which angels long to look.*

Here the Apostle Peter testifies that he (and other Apostles) who preached the Gospel did so via the *Holy Spirit*, the message being *sent from heaven*.

### D. JESUS JOHN 12:48

*“He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.”*

*Continued from page 2*

Work is current and ongoing with partners to establish discipleship Bible studies in Berlin and Bonne. We are enthusiastically pursuing an opportunity to plant a ministry in the European Union Parliament, a body of 600 Parliamentarians from 26 Western and Eastern European nations who meet two weeks every month in Brussels, Belgium and one week every month in Strasbourg, France.

We thought the Lord did not want us in the Middle East, but to our great surprise discussions are currently underway to establish a ministry in a Muslim majority nation in the Middle East.

One of the ways this amazing work has come about is through our Global Directors.

These men are charged with finding strong disciple-making, Bible-teacher evangelists and Christian Parliamentarians to host weekly Bible studies in their nations' capitals. In the past year, several new men who are seasoned, well-networked, and passionate about taking the Gospel to their nations' leaders have been named to these positions. We now have eight of the ten Global Director positions filled! These men are the reason our international growth has skyrocketed.

Additionally, we were fortunate to meet many like-minded new friends in Western Europe through a story about Capitol Ministries<sup>®</sup> that was published in a German newspaper and widely distributed throughout Europe.

Our new partners suggest that the best way to fan the Capitol Ministries<sup>®</sup> flame throughout European capitals is to build an exemplary ministry in the EU Parliament because those Members return home every few weeks and often seek office in their respective home countries after serving in the EU.

Imagine the synergies afforded the fulfillment of the Great Commission if there are godly, righteous leaders in countries throughout the world who

*Continued on page 4*



Continued from page 3

embrace the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The desire to see that hope fulfilled has propelled our work. We are called to be obedient to the fulfillment of the Great Commission and I believe such will be a part of the believer's judgment when we stand before our Savior and Lord someday.

For the first time in Capitol Ministries' 21-year history, we are seeing wide open doors across the world – opportunities to establish ministries in federal capitals – like never before! This is all God's doing; we did not see this coming.

We thank you for your work alongside us to make disciples of Jesus Christ in the political arena of the world.

We ask that you join us in prayer and considering partnering with us as we pursue these new ministry opportunities to share the Gospel with the most influential people on the planet.

We reach leaders not because their souls are more precious to God, but because their influence upon the world is so great (see Acts 9:15).

Together, and with God's blessing and guidance, this work can change the world.

In His Ministry,

Ralph Drollinger  
President and Founder  
Capitol Ministries®

Jesus speaks of God the Father's judgment for one who rejects what Jesus says.

The skeptic will often reason that since the written NT did not exist when these men penned the aforementioned testimonies regarding the inspiration of Scripture, that their statements must have been in reference to the OT, which was then existent in canonical form. In rebuttal of this, note that the Apostles cross-pollinate one another. For instance, Peter testifies that Paul was writing Scripture, Paul testifies that Peter was writing Scripture, etc. Such is evident in the following passages.

**E. PETER TESTIFIES OF PAUL**  
2PETER 3:15,16

*And regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.*

Peter directly testifies that what Paul wrote was *Scripture*. How do the skeptics discount the strength of this passage when they debate inspiration? Since this is such a strong and straightforward passage of the Apostle Peter attesting to the Apostle Paul's writing

of *Scriptures* (*graphe*), many liberal theologians of the *twentieth century* have tried to claim it was written much later, and not by Peter. However, 2Peter was widely circulated and accepted by Church leaders in the *second century!* They were obviously much closer to the book's creation and publication and they classified it as being inspired just as they did the other 26 books of the NT; they did not question its authenticity nor its date of authorship like those of more recent days!

**F. PAUL TESTIFIES OF PETER**  
1THESSALONIANS 2:13

*For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.*

Wow! How much more direct can you be? Paul is referring not only to himself but to the other apostolic preachers as recorded in the birth of the Church, the chronological account of which is located in the NT Book of Acts. *Heard from us* refers to the other preachers, such as the Apostle Peter. What was *heard*? The *word of God*.

**G. JUDE TESTIFIES OF THE APOSTLES**  
JUDE 17-18

*But you, beloved, ought to remem-*



*ber the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.”*

An *Apostle* is someone who not only saw, but who spoke on behalf of the second member of the Trinity, Jesus Christ. As such, Jude is saying that the *Apostles* spoke for God!

## H. ALL OF SCRIPTURE

In addition to referring to their own and each other’s writings as inspired by God, both Paul and Peter attest to the whole inspiration of Scripture — *all of Scripture* — elsewhere in their various letters. What follows are several examples:

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (2Timothy 3:16).*

This is another very clear and straightforward passage that again scores a knockout punch for “team inspiration!”

Of course theological liberals attempt to interpret this important passage in another way. Here’s their twist: this passage means *All Scripture inspired by God is...* thereby leaving open the possibility that some Scripture is not *inspired* and therefore it is incumbent upon man to figure out what is and

what isn’t *inspired* (something they enjoy doing, witness the “Jesus Seminar” wherein liberal “scholars” voted on what was “*inspired*” and what was not). Don’t fall for their Scripture twisting antics! Save a lengthy grammar lesson in Greek, it is clear from similarly constructed passages in the Greek NT (Romans 7:12; 2Corinthians 10:10; 1Timothy 1:15; 2:2; 4:4; and Hebrews 4:17) that such a translation is intentionally misleading. **All Scripture is *inspired*** is the proper translation. Peter adds:

*But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God (2Peter 1:20-21).*

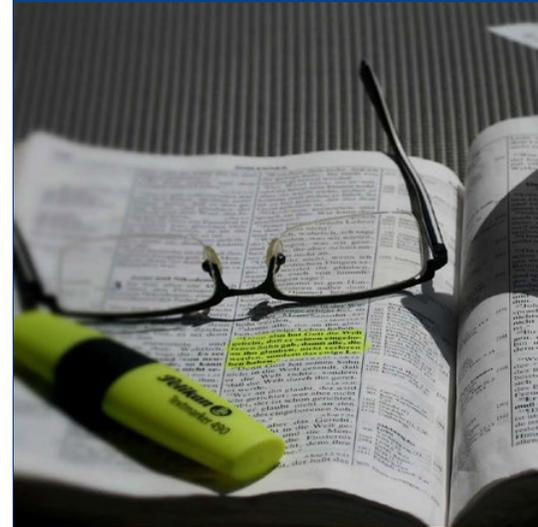
This passage clearly states that the Bible was not and is not the product of *human will*. Rather, the writers were carried or *moved* along by *God*.

In summary of this second Roman numeral point in the outline, the testimony of the inspired authors of Scripture roundly indicates that they knew that what they were writing was from God! In the attempt to convey the idea that inspiration was later foisted onto their ancient writings, one cannot say that these men were unaware that when they wrote, God was inspiring their writings. These passages serve to indicate that they knew it when they wrote! Nor does it make sense to say these men were lying about what they wrote be-

## ♥ VERSE OF THE WEEK

### 2Timothy 3:16

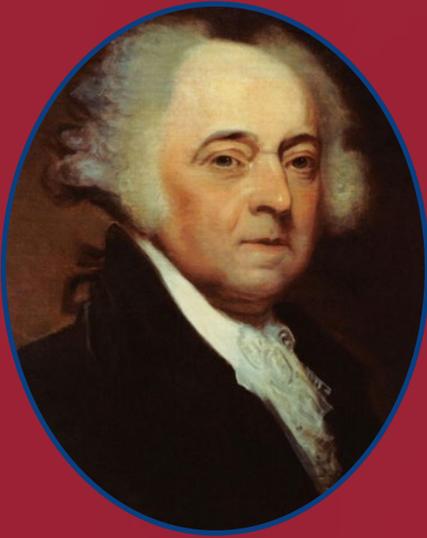
*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.*



*The Scriptures are the word of God!  
Accede today to their authority in your life.*



John Adams



*“The Christian religion is, above all the religions that ever prevailed or existed in ancient or modern times, the religion of wisdom, virtue, equity and humanity.”*

— John Adams, second President of the United States; signer of the Declaration of Independence; judge; diplomat; one of two signers of the Bill of Rights.

John Adams, Works, Vol. III, p. 421, diary entry for July 26, 1796.

## SPECIFICS ON WHAT INSPIRATION ACTUALLY MEANS

### 1. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE WRITERS WERE INSPIRED EVERY MINUTE OF THEIR LIVES

It is *All Scripture (graphe)* that is *inspired (theopnuestos)* (or better, God-breathed; *inspirated*). Specifically it's not the writers; it's the *Scriptures* that are given by the breathing forth of God in and through them. When speaking and writing apart from the penning of Scripture the writers of the NT were human and subject to fallibility and inaccuracy.<sup>5</sup>

### 2. IT MEANS THAT GOD WORKED IN UNISON WITH THE WRITER'S MIND

Sometimes God dictated through the writer (Jeremiah 1:9, *“Behold, I have put my words in your mouth”*) but most often God utilized the personality, education, and setting of His Prophets and Apostles.<sup>6</sup> Note the following in this regard:

“But, as clearly seen in Scripture itself, God's divine truth more often flowed through the minds, souls, hearts, and emotions of His chosen human instruments. Yet, by whatever means, God divinely superintended the accurate recording of His divinely breathed truth by His divinely chosen men. In a supernatural way, He has provided His divine Word in human words that any person, even a child, can be led by His Holy Spirit to understand sufficiently to be saved.”<sup>7</sup>

### 3. IT MEANS THAT ONLY THE ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHA<sup>8</sup> WERE INSPIRED

Being pro-*inspiration* implies one believes only in the error-free original autographa. Critics point out that none of the original manuscripts is in existence today. This is a challenge: copying scribes could and did err. But it does not decide the *inspiration* debate. Note the following in this regard:

“The NT Scholar is not significantly hampered by the unavailability of the autographa, however, because of the science and art of textual criticism. The abundance of manuscripts of the NT or portions thereof and the earliness of their dates in relation to the original compositions places him in a better position to know precisely what was originally written than for any other ancient writing.”<sup>9</sup>



cause of everything else that surrounds and comes forth from their writings: It is obvious that these were men of great integrity!

### III. THE TESTIMONY OF THE SECOND-CENTURY CHURCH

The last book of the NT to be written was the apocalypse, which we call today the book of Revelation. The Apostle John around A.D. 94-96 wrote this. Thus the era of the first-century church came to a close and the writing of the NT was completed (cf. Revelation 22:18-19). Many of the NT books were known as encyclicals, meaning they were intended for more than one audience to read. Soon all 27 books would become encyclicals as the various papyrus<sup>10</sup> manuscripts that contained the NT books were passed around and often recopied as they circulated from church to church during this period. Importantly, they were immediately viewed as authoritative because in addition to Christ's words, the Apostles had always been seen as Christ's representatives, having been appointed by Him (cf. Acts 1:8). There was never any reason for the second-century church to doubt that the Apostles were Christ's spokesmen. As a matter of fact, after the ascension and the day of Pentecost they were even given miraculous sign gifts by Him to further legitimize their appointment and authority. Given their own written affirmations (as previously mentioned) they were viewed and accepted by the

early church leaders as authoritative. There was never any doubt.

Moreover, the Apostles' writings contained commands that they be read in the church services. In that the early church patterned their services after those of the Jewish synagogues (where the inspired OT Scriptures were given preeminence and authority by their regular reading in the worship service) the internal demand by the Apostles to have their Apostolic writings read along side of the OT readings communicated a huge message both to the audience then and to the reader of the Bible today: their apostolic writings are equally Scripture! Note such apostolic commands to the early church in the following passages:

#### A. COLOSSIANS 4:16

*When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea [Ephesus].*

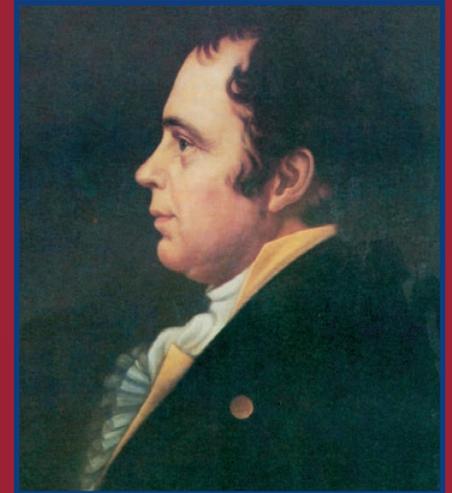
#### B. 1THESSALONIANS 5:27

*I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.*

#### C. REVELATION 1:3

*Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.*

James McHenry



*"Bibles are strong protections. Where they abound, men cannot pursue wicked courses and at the same time enjoy quiet conscience."*

— James McHenry, Revolutionary Officer; signer of the Constitution; ratifier of the US Constitution; Secretary of War under Presidents George Washington and John Adams.

Bernard C. Steiner, *One Hundred and Ten Years of Bible Society Work in Maryland, 1810-1920* (Maryland Bible Society, 1921), p. 14.



Joseph Story



“One of the beautiful boasts of our municipal jurisprudence is that Christianity is a part of the Common Law. There never has been a period in which the Common Law did not recognize Christianity as lying at its foundations.”

— Joseph Story, U.S. Congressman; “Father of American Jurisprudence” U.S. Supreme Court Justice appointed by President James Madison.

Joseph Story, *Life and Letters of Joseph Story*, William W. Story, editor (Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1851), Vol. II, p. 8.

The second selection, 1 Thessalonians 5:27, especially underscores the idea of apostolic commanding. The Greek word for **adjure** (*enorkizo*) means “to put under an oath.” This is very forceful language: Paul put the Church at Thessalonica under oath by God to read his letter to them and in the main service! Again: *The fact that all of these verses explicitly say to read the Apostolic writings in the church services is akin to placing these writings on par with OT Scripture.*

By the *middle* of the second century, “the authority of the apostles was accepted as equal to that of the OT. Apostolic writings were read in church services along with those of the OT. By the end of the period the principle of a fixed and written NT canon was established.”<sup>11</sup>

By the *end* of the second century the classification of the NT writings as scriptural is evident in the apologetic writings of Irenaeus. Irenaeus was a disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of the Apostle John. Irenaeus wrote to defend the faith from heretical teachings in his compendium of books titled, *Against All Heresies*. In his treatment he quotes 21 of the 27 NT books as his authority in refuting doctrinal errors. And his NT quotes far outweigh his use of the OT. As of yet, the 27 NT books had still not been formally “sewn together” in what is referred to as the canonization of Scripture.

What is especially important about

the aforementioned is the acceptance and adherence of the second-century church leaders and believers to the scriptural authority of the apostolic writers.

**THE SECOND-CENTURY CHURCH HAD A MUCH CLOSER VANTAGE POINT THAN WE DO: LOOKING BACK THEY COULD SEE THE BAKERY THROUGH THEIR BINOCULARS**

...so to speak. How can liberal theologians criticize the apostolic writings from their vantage point 2000 years later? How can they think they have a better perspective than the second and third-century church leaders who personally witnessed and supervised the germination of the encyclicals into the formal canonization of the Scriptures? Comparatively speaking, today’s attempts to superimpose personal ideas on the clear pronouncements of apostolic authority, as well as first and second century church leader attestations, are not only arrogant but laughable!

#### **IV. THE TESTIMONY OF THE CANONIZING PROCESS**

The canonization of Scripture did not occur until the early fourth century. From A.D. 200 to 300 the church knew of the basic contents of the NT and continued to view them as inspired and authoritative (although precise limits had not yet been defined). Prior to discussing the actual formalizing of



the canon, it is essential to point out what the word means.

The English word **canon** is *trans-literated* from the same word in Greek. Its etymology stems from its most literal understanding: “a cane or a reed” segueing into meaning a “rod” (since a cane or reed, like a yard stick could be used as an ancient measuring device). Over time it took on the meaning of a “bar.” And since a reed became related to the idea of measuring, the word took on the metaphorical meaning of a “standard.” Used in literature, it meant, “A list of works correctly attributed to an author.”<sup>12</sup> Used in English today it means the authoritative books accepted as Holy Scripture.

In a proper sense, the *canon* actually came into existence when the original penning of the *autographa* occurred — even though it took the church many years to *recognize* that. In other words, the authority is in the books themselves — not the body that later “canonized” them.<sup>13</sup>

**IMPORTANTLY, THE  
CANON CONSISTS OF  
THOSE GOD-INSPIRED  
BOOKS WHEN PENNED  
BY GOD’S AGENTS**

Much more could be said about the historical authenticating events that led up to the official recognition of NT canonization. It is a fascinating story — for another time. Today for the sake of brevity I will cut to the chase.

Diocletian was the Roman Emperor at the dawn of the fourth century. He was a vicious man who ordered all religious books be burned in his attempt to have everyone worship *him* as god. Christians risked death by hiding a copy of Scripture. One person who lived through this ordeal was Eusebius of Caesarea (A.D. 270-340). He was a respected church leader and historian who spent a great amount of time and attention on the **canon**. The future of the Scriptures was at stake. In his book, *Church History*, he speaks much about the subject of the **canon**.

In 313 Constantine conquered the Roman Empire and declared Christianity as a legal religion. Soon thereafter he commissioned Eusebius to make him 50 copies of the NT. Eusebius followed through and this led to the actual “sewing together” of the books of the NT. Until this time the NT existed in various codices<sup>14</sup> and the criteria for determining which books would actually be in the **canon** had not been solidified. Eusebius may be credited with achieving that amongst the church leaders.

Athanasius then completed Eusebius’ work. Therein the extent of the NT is codified and ratified by the Church Council of Laodicea in A.D. 365. The pronouncement of this gathering read, “Psalms composed by private men must not be read in the church, nor books not admitted into the canon, but only the canonical [books] of the New and Old Testaments.”

Elias Boudinot



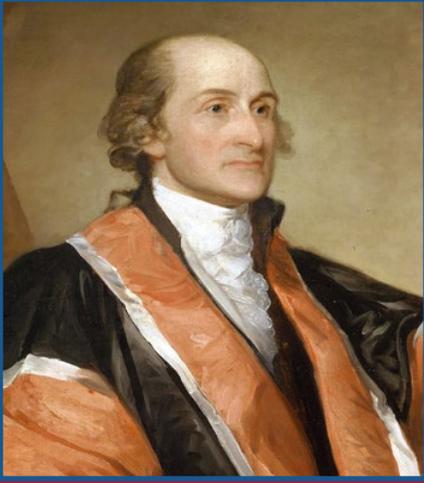
*“For nearly half a century have I anxiously and critically studied that invaluable treasure [the Bible]; and I still scarcely ever take it up that I do not find something new — that I do not receive some valuable addition to my stock of knowledge or perceive some instructive fact never observed before. In short, were you to ask me to recommend the most valuable book in the world, I should fix on the Bible as the most instructive both to the wise and ignorant. Were you to ask me for one affording the most rational and pleasing entertainment to the inquiring mind, I should repeat, it is the Bible; and should you renew the inquiry for the best philosophy or the most interesting history, I should still urge you to look into your Bible. I would make it, in short, the Alpha and Omega of knowledge.”*

— Elias Boudinot, President of Congress; signed the Peace Treaty to end the American Revolution; first attorney admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar; framer of the Bill of Rights; director of the U.S. Mint.

Elias Boudinot, *The Age of Revelation, or the Age of Reason Shewn to be An Age of Infidelity* (Philadelphia: Asbury Dickins, 1801), p. xv, from his “Dedication: Letter to his daughter Susan Bradford.”



John Jay



*“The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts.”*

— John Jay, President of Congress; Diplomat; Author of the Federalist Papers; Original Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court; Governor of New York.

John Jay, John Jay: *The Winning of the Peace. Unpublished Papers 1780-1784*, Richard B. Morris, editor (New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1980), Vol. II, p. 709, to Peter Augustus Jay on April 8, 1784.

Following the Laodicea gathering, in two subsequent church leader councils, the **canon** was further ratified throughout the world. These councils were: The Council of Hippo in A.D. 393 and The Council of Carthage in A.D. 397. It is in this latter counsel that Augustine said, “[It is decreed] that nothing except the canonical Scriptures be read in the church under the name of divine Scripture...Of the New Testament the four gospels, Acts, thirteen epistles of St. Paul, the epistle of the same to the Hebrews, Peter (2), John (3), James, Jude, Apocalypse...” States Westcott:

**“GENERAL ACCORD WITH THIS DECISION WAS EVIDENCED IN THE PRACTICE OF ALL THE CHURCHES FROM THAT POINT ON.”<sup>15</sup>**

The NT was now canonized. The latently authoritative writings had now been formally recognized for what they always had been since their origination, collected and bound. The church had assented unanimously, — inspired by God!

**V. SUMMARY**

There are still many who espouse Theological Liberalism. But I must add it is a dying breed because what results from their theology is little motivation to save or evangelize the lost: too few converts, their churches are aging and merging.

Whether or not the Bible is inspired by God is a watershed issue. Where one stands on inspiration will either solidify or discount the Bible as authoritative in terms of one’s personal formation of principles and values, and for a Public Servant, one’s policy decisions. If you accede to inspiration, then it follows that the Word becomes authoritative in your life. If you reject inspiration, you conclude that you, or some liberal pastor, is the final authority.

When you think about it:

**REJECTING INSPIRATION MEANS YOU OR SOME OTHER HUMAN STANDS IN AUTHORITY OVER GOD**

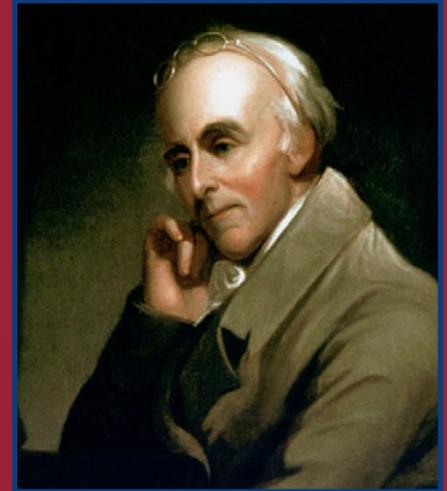
Intellectual arguments against inspiration could be a smokescreen for a heart in rebellion to God. If you argue against the authors and those who knew the authors, you are arguing against history and the internal attestation of Scripture itself! Submit to Scripture, submit to the revealed Christ of Scripture and follow the precepts of Him and His Book! Allow Jesus and His Word to inform and determine your thinking, your values, your decisions and actions. He loves you and His ways are always best for you and the nation! It is not as if God created mankind and left him without a manual to guide him personally — and in the governing decisions Public Servants must make for the betterment of a nation. All the right solutions to our



personal and national problems are right there in His *inspired* Book!

*The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple*, states Psalm 19:7. God's Word will give you the skill to live life (wisdom). And He promises He will reward you if you obey Him. Verse 11 of the same Psalm states, *In keeping them there is great reward*. *Inspiration* is a pivotal, watershed issue! The Scriptures are the word of God! Accede today to their authority in your life!

Benjamin Rush



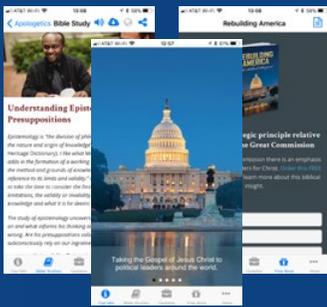
*“The Bible contains more knowledge necessary to man in his present state than any other book in the world.”*

— Benjamin Rush, signer of the Declaration of Independence; Surgeon General of the Continental Army; ratifier of the U.S. Constitution; ‘Father of American Medicine’; Treasurer of the U.S. Mint; ‘Father of Public Schools Under the Constitution.’

Benjamin Rush, *Essays, Literary, Moral & Philosophical* (Philadelphia: Thomas & Samuel F. Bradford, 1798), p. 93, “A Defence of the Use of the Bible as a School Book;” see also Rush, *Letters*, Vol. I, p. 578, to Jeremy Belknap on March 2, 1791.



Get the Capmin App  
FREE at the App Store



All of Capitol Ministries®  
Bible Studies and updates  
– at your fingertips!



*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ  
in the Political Arena  
Throughout the World*

**CAPITOL MINISTRIES®** provides Bible studies, evangelism and discipleship to political leaders. Founded in 1996, we have started ongoing ministries in over 40 U.S. State Capitols and dozens of foreign federal Capitols. [cm](http://cm)



/capitolministries



**CAPITOL MINISTRIES®**

Mail Processing Center  
Post Office 30994, Phoenix AZ 85046  
661.288.2622 [www.capmin.org](http://www.capmin.org)

- Schaeffer, Francis *He is There and He is not Silent* (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 1972)
- Note too that Paul and other NT authors strongly condemned those who in any way adulterated or diminished the Scriptures (cf. Galatians 1:6-9; 2Corinthians 2:17; 2Timothy 4:3,4; Revelation 22:18,19)
- Harold Lindsell's classic book, *The Battle For The Bible*, was penned after *Fuller Theological Seminary* had abandoned inerrancy. He went on to help found *Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary* with a high view of inerrancy. In his book he builds the case for how the abandonment of inerrancy leads to missiological atrophy. All that to say, inspiration or not determines a myriad of things in the Christian life: missions, national policy and even the discipline of Bible study attendance.
- Plenary Inspiration is an historic reformation term that codifies the belief that God is the ultimate author of the Bible in its entirety. That is, God's superintending work in inspiration extends to the whole Bible and to each part of the Bible...and that it is authoritative. (Cf. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*).
- Nowhere in Scripture, including Matthew 16:18-19, can one support the idea of ex-cathedra (Latin, "from the chair"). I.e. that there is supposedly a lineage of leadership stemming from the Apostle Peter to a present-day church leader, who when he speaks ex-cathedra is speaking for God.
- Sometimes this included the use of an amanuensis, which is a secretary to whom they dictated.
- John MacArthur *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: 2 Timothy* (Chicago: Moody Bible Institute, 1995) p 143
- Autographs, or manuscripts written by the author.
- Dr. Robert Thomas *The Canon of the New Testament*, excerpted article. p. 2
- This was (and still is) a sedge plant that was made into a primitive form of paper. Later, vellum or parchment, a processed animal skin that was much more expensive than papyrus, was used in the copying of NT books.
- Dr. Robert Thomas *The Canon of the New Testament*, excerpt notes, page 13
- Merrill Tenney, *The New Testament, A Survey*, p. 417
- In theology this is termed "a collection of authoritative writings" versus, "an authoritative collection of writings." Whereas the former stresses the latent authority of the documents, the later stresses the authority of the collection agency — i.e. the church rather than the books.
- A *codex* (plural *codices*) was an early, primitive form of a modern day book, contrasted with a scroll, which was a rolled up papyrus mss.
- Westcott, *The Bible* p. 189

## BIBLE STUDY SPONSORS *Continued from page 1*

Glenn Grothman: *WI*

Gregg Harper: *MS*

George Holding: *NC*

Bill Huizenga: *MI*

Randy Hultgren: *IL*

Bill Johnson: *OH*

Jim Jordan: *OH*

Steve King: *IA*

Doug Lamborn: *CO*

Mark Meadows: *NC*

Gary Palmer: *AL*

Steve Pearce: *NM*

Robert Pittenger: *NC*

Bill Posey: *FL*

Cathy McMorris Rodgers: *WA*

David Rouzer: *NC*

Steve Russell: *OK*

John Rutherford: *FL*

Lamar Smith: *TX*

Glenn Thompson: *PA*

Scott Tipton: *CO*

Tim Walberg: *MI*

Jackie Walorski: *IN*

Randy Weber: *TX*

Daniel Webster: *FL*

Roger Williams: *TX*

Joe Wilson: *SC*

Rob Wittman: *VA*

Steve Womack: *AR*

Rob Woodall: *GA*

Ted Yoho: *FL*

## GOVERNORS

Mary Fallin, Gov: *OK*

Tim Griffin, Lt Gov: *AR*

Dan Patrick, Lt Gov: *TX*

*The views expressed in each Bible study are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the position of any individual Bible Study Sponsor.*