

What Does the Bible Say  
About Itself?

## Breaking Down a Classic Text

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work”

(2 Timothy 3:16)

# What is meant by “all Scripture”?

More directly, Paul would have been referring to the Old Testament since the New Testament was, at that time, still being written.

“Above all, you know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from the prophet's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20-21)

# What is meant by “all Scripture”?

## Jesus on Scripture

- “Moses and the Prophets” (Luke 24:27; cf. 24:44)
- “And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar” (Matthew 23:35)
- “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law and the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them” (Matthew 5:17)

# What is meant by “all Scripture”?

This is not to say that the New Testaments denied the inspiration of their writings. Consider the following verse:

“Also regard the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our dear brother Paul has written to you according to the wisdom given to him. He speaks about these things in all his letters. There are some matters that are hard to understand. The untaught and unstable will twist them to their own destruction, as they also do with the rest of Scriptures” (2 Peter 3:15-16)

Any Questions At This Time?

# What is meant by “inspired”?

The word “inspired” literally means “God breathed”. Simply put, while man wrote the Bible; the authors were under the guidance and influence of the Holy Spirit. All of the Bible is the word of God. Norman Geisler writes about the extent of divine authority in Scripture:

- All that is written—2 Tim. 3:16
- Even the very words—Matt. 22:43; 1 Cor. 2:13
- And tenses of verbs—Matt. 22:32; Gal. 3:16
- Even the smallest parts of words—Matt. 5:17-18

What is not meant by “inspired”?

The authors were not the victims of some type of mechanic dictation:

- God used their profession (methodical Luke)
- God used their personality (complicated Paul)
- God used their education (simple Peter)



# What is the purpose of the Bible?

The Bible is profitable for...

- Teaching
- Rebuking
- Correcting
- Training

The end result of proper Biblical training is “that man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

The purpose of the Bible is to tell the grand story of God's salvation that is provided through His Son, Jesus Christ.

It's all about Him.