

## THE INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ... “All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

You may not be familiar with the word “inerrancy.” It means something that has no errors or mistakes. When we apply that word to the Bible, we are saying that it contains no mistakes; that everything in it is true and reliable. That what it says, is what it means. Why can we claim that the Bible is reliable? Because, as we read in today’s verse, God inspired it – all of it. Only if you believe that God is not perfect, or that God makes mistakes, might you be suspicious of His Word. So, this – the inerrancy of Scripture – then becomes one of the foundations of our faith; that God’s Word is inspired by God himself and can be trusted.

One of the most common reasons that people turn away from God, is that they lose their confidence in His Word. This can happen due to a number of reasons: 1) They put their trust in other men instead of God, 2) they do not read the Bible themselves to learn what it has to tell them, 3) when they suffer hardship it convinces them God cannot be trusted because he did not help them exactly as they demanded, or 4) they were never taught the basic truths of the Bible. The quickest way to make God your enemy, is to accuse him of dishonesty, which you do when you claim His Word is not true or accurate.

There is a movement within Christianity that considers itself to be Liberal. One of the hallmarks of their beliefs, is that they consider the Bible to contain mistakes. They also believe that you cannot read the Bible and accept everything printed in it. In other words, portions of the Bible do not mean what they say. When you start to mistrust what someone says, or what you read, then you begin a movement away from that person or their words, and create your own belief system. 2 Timothy 4:2-3 addresses this: “Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season [at all times]. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering [perseverance] and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

In this passage, “sound doctrine” is Biblical accuracy. The phrase “according to their own desires,” represents their dissatisfaction with the Bible. If you want to know where you stand in your relationship with Christ, who demands obedience according to his teaching and His Word, then ask yourself: “Do I believe this book? Can I trust it?” If you do believe it, then you will have no trouble following Christ’s instructions that you find in it. If you do not trust it, you are already disobeying Christ, you are already following an unrighteous path, and you cannot be complete or equipped to serve him.

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