

## Week 1: The Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings.

[Gallup poll numbers](#): from 1984-2022 the % of people in the US believing that the Bible is the actual Word of God, to be taken literally, went from 40% to 20%. 29% of people now say that Bible is a collection of “fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by man.”

“We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.”

-EPCA Doctrinal Statement Article 2

### 2 Types of Revelation:

#### General Revelation:

“General revelation is revelation of God given to all people at all times. This revelation is found both in the **external creation** and in **internal human experience**.”-The ESV Study Bible

**External Creation** “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”-Psalm 19:1

**Internal Human Experience:** “<sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”-Romans 1:19-20

#### Special Revelation: “Verbally Inspired Word of God”

- “God’s written revelation of who he is and what he has done in redemptive history.”-ESV Study Bible
- <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.-2 Timothy 3:16–17
  1. **All Scripture:** Scope (2 Peter 3:16) internal attestation
  2. **Breathed Out by God:** Nature → Greek: θεόπνευστος. from θεός (theos) = God and πνέω (ne-oe) = to breath out: ex (Exodus 24:4) (Matthew 22:29-31) (Acts 18:9-11)
  3. **Profitable:** Use “**for teaching, reproof** (expression of strong disapproval), **for correction** (improvement) **and training in righteousness**”
  4. **Equipped:** Result “that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work”, “to be well fitted for some function.”

## Process of Inspiration: How did (what mechanism was used) God inspire the Scriptures?

- <sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. -2 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV)
- "The Spirit was continually "working **confluently** in, with and by them, elevating them, directing them, controlling them, energizing them, so that, as His instruments, they rise above themselves and under His inspiration do His work and reach his aim."<sup>1</sup>

## Verbally Inspired: In what manner, or to what extent was the Bible inspired?

- The very words were inspired by God (not just concepts, or emotional motivation) (Matthew 22:29-31)

## "Without error (inerrant) in the original writings" (autographs): What is the quality of the Bible?

- "Inerrancy is the view that when all the facts become known, they will demonstrate that the Bible in its original autographs and correctly interpreted is entirely true and never false in all it affirms, whether that relates to doctrine or ethics or to the social, physical, or life sciences." -Bible, Inerrancy and Infallibility" in the Evangelical Dictionary of Theology

**"the complete revelation of His will for salvation"**: Not complete for everything, but for salvation. There's a question, does the Bible tell us everything we need to know? How about everything we need to know for church?

**"the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged"**: But sufficient to judge every realm of human knowledge.

**"Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises."**

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<sup>1</sup> Quoting B.B. Warfield. Swindoll, Charles R., and Roy B. Zuck. 2003. [\*Understanding Christian Theology\*](#). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.