

# **NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY**

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT**

### **INSPIRATION**

#### **LESSON 8**

##### **OUTLINE**

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- II. INSPIRATION
- III. HOW WE KNOW THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE ARE INSPIRED
- IV. PROOF OF INSPIRATION FROM WITHIN THE NEW TESTAMENT
  - A. Words of the Lord Jesus.
  - B. The writings of the apostles and those close to the apostles.
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  - D. Peter used Paul's writings as part of the Scripture.
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- V. PROOF OF INSPIRATION FROM OUTSIDE THE NEW TESTAMENT.
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### **INSPIRATION**

#### **I. WRITING OF THE FIRST BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**

The first books of the New Testament were letters or books written to different churches and Christians. They were written on scrolls or parchment. Parchment was made from lamb skins or calf skins. As time went on these scrolls were passed from one church to another. The leaders of the churches would copy the scrolls. This way they were able to keep the Word of God in each church. As the churches received more scrolls, the men copied them also. Soon the churches had a collection of scrolls.

Many religious books were written at the same time the books of the Bible were written. The Church had to know which books were inspired of God.

## II. INSPIRATION

The word inspiration means “to breathe in.” When we talk about the books of the Bible, we say, “God breathed His words into men.”

God chose certain men to write down His words. He knew how these men thought and talked. God told these men what to write. He had them write down what He wanted in the way they would tell it. What these men wrote was inspired of God. God put into them the words they were to write.



Example: A person wants to write a letter. He asks someone to do the writing. He tells the person the words to write. The person writing the letter writes the exact words.

God wanted people to come back into fellowship with Him. He wanted them to know the Gospel of salvation through His Son. God told certain men to write about the life of Christ. They were to tell about His life, work, death and resurrection. These men were to tell how the Holy Spirit would work in the lives of people. They were to tell how Christians were to live. All of this was written in the New Testament. It was written just as God told them to write.

## III. HOW WE KNOW THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE ARE INSPIRED

The books of the New Testament were written after Jesus Christ returned to heaven. Many other religious books were written at the same time. How was the Church to know which books were inspired?

The Church leaders made rules which would help them choose the inspired books. This group of rules is called the canon. Canon means a measuring stick, or something to measure with. A book or letter had to meet the measurement of the canon before it was accepted by the Church leaders.

### **The canon is the following rules:**

1. The Holy Spirit would show the Church which books were inspired.
2. The book had to be written by an apostle or a person close to the apostles.

3. The book had to have the same teaching (doctrine) as the books already accepted as inspired.
4. The book could not teach anything that was opposite from the teaching of the books accepted as inspired.
5. The book had to be accepted by all the churches as being inspired.
6. The book had to be accepted and used by the Church fathers. (Church fathers is the name given to the leaders of the early Church.)
7. What was in the book had to agree with the rules of faith. Rules of faith are rules which guide a person in his belief and life. An example of a rule of faith is: "We believe the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin."
8. The book must teach Christian living.

#### **IV. PROOF OF INSPIRATION FROM WITHIN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

##### **A. Words of the Lord Jesus.**

The words of Jesus Christ are inspired of God.

1. Jesus Himself said He was speaking God's Word. John 12:49 says,  
*"For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father, which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak."*  
  
*". . . The word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's, who sent me."* John 14:24.  
  
*"For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; . . ."*  
 John 17:8.  
*"I have given them thy word;. . ."* John 17:14.
2. John the Baptist said Jesus spoke the Word of God. John said about Jesus,  
*"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God."* John 3:34.
3. The apostles said Jesus spoke the Word of God, 1 Timothy 6:3,4; Hebrews 1:2; 1 John 1:1-4.

The New Testament has many words that Jesus said. These words are inspired of God.

**B. The writings of the apostles and those close to the apostles.**

Jesus told the apostles that the Holy Spirit would make them remember the words He said,

*“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you,”* John 14:26.

Matthew, John and Peter were Jesus' apostles. The Holy Spirit helped them remember what they heard and saw. Luke 24:8 says,

*“They remembered his words.”*

The Holy Spirit told them what to write.

Mark and Luke spent much time with Peter and Paul. The Holy Spirit told them to write down the things they had seen and heard. Paul used words from the Gospel of Luke. He called it Scripture, 1 Timothy 5:18. See Luke 10:7.

**C. Paul said his writings were from Jesus Christ.**

Paul said Jesus Christ had given him the words to write. Paul says,

*“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* Galatians 1:11,12.

Paul clearly told when he wrote his own words, 1 Corinthians 7:6; 1 Corinthians 7:10.

**D. Peter used Paul's writings as part of the Scripture.**

Peter wrote about the letters of Paul. He spoke of them as Scripture, 2 Peter 3:15,16. Peter spoke of his own writings as being the same as the words of the prophets, 2 Peter 3:2.

**E. God told John what to write, Revelation 1:10,11.**

John told what would happen to those who would try to change God's Word,

*“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” Revelation 22:18,19.*

## **V. PROOF OF INSPIRATION FROM OUTSIDE THE NEW TESTAMENT**

- A. The inspired books were used by the Church more often than books which were not inspired.**
- B. Letters written from one church to another used the Scriptures. They did not use words from the other writings.<sup>1</sup>**

**1. A letter called 1 Clement.**

This letter was written by the church at Rome to the church at Corinth. It was written about A.D. 95. The writers used parts of Hebrews, 1 Corinthians, Romans and the Gospel of Matthew.

**2. Letters from Ignatius.**

Ignatius was a church father in Syrian Antioch. He wrote about A.D. 116. Ignatius used from all of Paul's letters and used words from Matthew. He also spoke about John's writings.

**3. Letters from Polycarp.**

Polycarp was a church father from Smyrna. He wrote about A. D. 150. Polycarp used the letters of Paul. He also used words from Acts, 1 Peter and 1 John.

**4. Many other church fathers used words from the New Testament books. They accepted them as being inspired by God.**

**C. The Church Council accepted the 27 books as being inspired.**

The church fathers saw the danger of the wrong books getting into the churches. These leaders gathered together to decide which books were inspired. These leaders came from almost all the churches. In A.D. 363 the Church council made a rule. Only the books that were inspired could be used in the churches. The council met again in A.D. 397. At this time they

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<sup>1</sup>M.C.Tenny, New Testament Survey, pp. 406,407,410.

accepted all the 27 books of the New Testament as being inspired.<sup>2</sup>

## **VI. WORDS TO LEARN**

1. canon - measuring stick - the rules used to measure if a book should be accepted into the Bible.
2. church fathers - early church leaders.
3. inspiration - it means "God breathed." It is what God told men to write. That is why the men who wrote the Bible wrote the Truth.

## **VII. ASSIGNMENT**

1. What did Jesus say His words were? John 6:63
2. Who told Jesus what to say? John 12:49
3. Whose words did Jesus use? John 14:24
4. Whose words did Jesus give to His apostles? John 17:8,14
5. What did John the Baptist say about the words of Jesus? John 3:34,35
6. What does Hebrews 1:2 tell about the words of Jesus?
7. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would (John 14:26).
8. From whom did Paul get his Gospel? Galatians 1:11,12
9. What did Peter say about his own writing? 2 Peter 3:2
10. What will happen to a person who changes the Word of God? Revelation 22:18,19

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<sup>2</sup>M.C.Tenny, New Testament Survey, pp. 406, 407.

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