***Nuggets From The Word***

Pastor Billy Burchfield

**Wednesday, July 6, 2022**

***The “Divine Inspiration” of the Bible.***

Todays Nugget will begin a series concerning “***The Word of God***.” We begin with

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

 The ***absolute authority*** of the Bible over our lives is based in our *conviction* that this Book does not merely contain the Word of God, but that ***it is the Word of God*** in its sum and in its parts. This text testifies to this, describing the actual process of this inspiration (*inbreathing of life*): **1)** It is the word of the **Holy Spirit**. Theopneustos (Greek), translated “*inspiration of God*,” literally “***God-breathed***.” This describes the ***source*** of the whole Bible’s derivation (“*all Scripture*”) as transcendent (beyond) of human inspiration. The Bible is not the product of elevated human consciousness or enlightened human intellect, but **is directly** **“*breathed*” from God Himself**. **2)** **2 Pet. 1:20, 21**, “*knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were* ***moved by*** *the Holy Spirit*.” This Scripture elaborates this truth and adds that none of what was given was merely the private opinion of the writer (v. 20) and that each writer involved in the production of the Holy Scriptures was “*moved by*” (literally, “*being borne along*”) the Holy Spirit.

 This does not mean that the writers were merely robots, seized upon by God’s power to write automatically without their *conscious participation*. *God does not override those gifts of intellect and sensitivity that He has given His creatures*. (Beware of all instances where individuals claim to “automatically” write anything at any time, for the Holy Spirit never functions that way.) 3) **1 Cor. 2:10–13** expands on this process by which the revelation of the Holy Scriptures was given. “*But* ***God has revealed*** *them to* ***us through His Spirit****. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so* ***no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God****. 12 Now we* (true Believers) *have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches,* ***comparing spiritual things with spiritual****. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him*.”

 Verse 13 says that *even the words* used in the giving of the Bible (not just the ideas, but the precise terminology) were ***planned by the Holy Spirit***, who deployed the respective authors of the Bible books to write, “*comparing spiritual things with spiritual*” (literally, “***matching spiritual words to spiritual ideas***”). This **biblical view** of the Bible’s derivation is called the *plenary verbal inspiration* of the Scriptures, meaning *every word* is inspired by the Holy Spirit of God.

Upon what **“absolute”** foundation do you or we base or rest our lives? Our **modern** **world view** does not recognize absolutes, especially when it comes to moral issues.

 However, **God does view His Word as *absolute*! When each of us stands before a Holy God, and we will, it is His Word that will be the scales of judgment. It makes no difference whether we agree or not, His Word will stand inviolate!**

May you have a blessed week,

Pastor Burchfield