



Bible Doctrines 1

Class 2

Making, Sending, Multiplying

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

EQUIP



Bible Doctrines 1

Quiz 1



Bibliology

The Study of the Bible

The Invisible God has chosen to reveal Himself in the Person of Christ and through the revealed and inspired written Word of God

The Divine Origin of the Bible

3,800 times, “God said” or “Thus says the Lord” (Ex 14:1; 20:1; Isa 1:10)

Paul recognized what he was writing was the commandment of God (1 Co 14:37)

- Acknowledged by believers (1 Th 2:13)
- Peter warned not to alter it (2 Pe 1:16-21)
- John said to reject his writings was to reject God! (1 Jn 4:6)

Many suffered for making such claims (Jer 11:21; 12:6; 23:21)

Testimonies of Jesus, Moses, Joshua, David, Daniel, Nehemiah, John, and Paul affirm the authority and verbal inspiration of Scriptures

Continuity of the Bible despite diversity of authors

40+ authors

Diverse backgrounds

Different locations, diversity of conditions

Most did not know of other writers and unfamiliar of what they wrote

Written over a period of 1500 years

All without contradiction or inconsistencies.

Inspiration of the Bible

“The Spirit’s superintending over the writers so that while writing according to their own styles and personalities, the result was God’s Word written—authoritative, trustworthy, free from error in the original autographs”



“Inspiration”

- Comes from Latin Vulgate Bible, verb *inspire*
- In 2 Tim 3:16 and 2 Pet 1:21, the word “inspiration” is used to translate *theopneustos* (*theos*- “God”; + *pneustos*, “breath”)
- Emphasis is on the exhaling of God or “spiration” more accurate: product of the breath of God
- Other things breathed out by God:
 - Gen 2:7—the living souls of all men
 - Ps 33:6 – all the planets in space





False views of Inspiration

- **Natural inspiration** —Not supernatural, but writings of unusual men, as Shakespeare
- **Spiritual illumination** —Special spiritual insight of Spirit, a potential of any believer: say the writer was “inspired”, not writings.
- **Partial or degree inspiration** —what relates to faith and practice is inspired, but history, science, chronology, etc. may have errors. Reject “verbal” and “plenary” inspiration. Say what is inspired is sufficient for salvation.
 - Who determines which parts are inspired?
 - How can doctrine be separated from History?
 - How can Bible be trustworthy in one area with errors in others?

More False Views



- **Conceptual Inspiration** —only the concepts or ideas of authors were inspired. Errors are possible due to author's choice of words. Jesus (Mt 5:18) and Paul (1 Th 2:13) held verbal inspiration
- **Divine Dictation** —God dictated words and men merely wrote them down passively (as amanuenses or secretaries). Though authors did record God's statements to them, individual styles disprove this theory
- **Neo-orthodox opinion** —the Bible is not equal to the Word of God, because God doesn't speak in mere propositions. He doesn't reveal *facts* about Himself, but reveals *Himself*. The Bible *becomes* the Word of God, when the reader subjectively encounters Christ.

Christ's view of the Bible

- **Inspiration of the whole—**
 - ♦ Mat 5:17-18, not even the smallest letter would pass without being fulfilled
 - ♦ Luke 24:44, All things written of Him in Moses and prophets must be fulfilled
 - ♦ John 10:35, “Scriptures cannot be broken”
- **Inspiration of the parts—** Frequent quotes from OT (Mt 4:4,7,10) as inspired
- **Inspiration of the words—** Mt 22:44, Messiah not a political redeemer, but divine by an emphasis on “My”
- **Inspiration of the New Testament—** Jn 14:26 promise of recall for later writing
- **Inspiration of the letters—** Mt 5:18, Not a “jot or tittle” will pass away



Paul's view of Bible

Inspiration of OT and NT—1 Tim 5:18, “*The Scripture says...*”
quoting Deut 25:4 and Luke 10:7

Inspiration of words—2 Tim 3:15, “*All scriptures...*” as the origin or product of..

Entire Scriptures are God-breathed—not “every”, but “*all*”
Scripture

“*Scripture*” included parts of NT which had been written at that time (1 Ti 5:18)

Peter's view of Bible

No Scripture produced by human will (2 Pet 1:21), that is, human intelligence or initiative

Scriptures are “prophetic word” (v.19), “prophecy of Scripture” (v. 20); and “prophecy” (v. 21) = something completely reliable

Writers were “*moved by*” or “carried along” ensuring their accuracy

2 Peter 3:16, False teachers distorted Paul's writings as they “*do the rest of the Scriptures*”, Paul's writings = Scripture

Definition of Inerrancy

“The Scripture possess the quality of freedom from error. They are exempt from the liability to mistake, incapable of error. In all their teachings they are in perfect accord with the truth.”

E. J. Young, *Thy Word Is Truth*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 1957, p. 113.

Canonicity of the Bible

- **Canon, “measuring rod” in Gk/Heb.**
 - ◆ Standard by which texts were measured to see if inspired or not
 - ◆ Religious councils could not cause a book to be inspired or not
 - ◆ Councils merely recognized what God inspired when written
- **Jews and conservative Christians recognize 39 books of OT as inspired**
- **Evangelical Christians recognize 27 books of NT**
- **Roman Catholics recognize 80 books which include the Apocrypha as “semi-canonical”**

Canonicity of the OT

- NT recognized 3-fold division (Luke 24:44) *“the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms,”*
- Other designations: “Scripture” (Jn 10:35), “Sacred Writings” (2 Tim 3:15)
- Three-fold division recognized by Josephus (37-95) and Council of Jamnia (90)





NT Tests of Canonicity

- **Apostolicity** (writer or overseer)
- **Acceptance by church** overall (some legitimate books delayed (Heb, Jas))
- **Content consistent** with doctrine already revealed
- **Inspiration as evidenced** by high moral and spiritual values (Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha)

Need for Official NT Canon

- Spurious writings
- Contents testified of authenticity
- Apostolic writings used in worship
- Edict of Emperor Diocletian (AD 303) demanded sacred books to be burnt (needed to be recognized to be destroyed!)

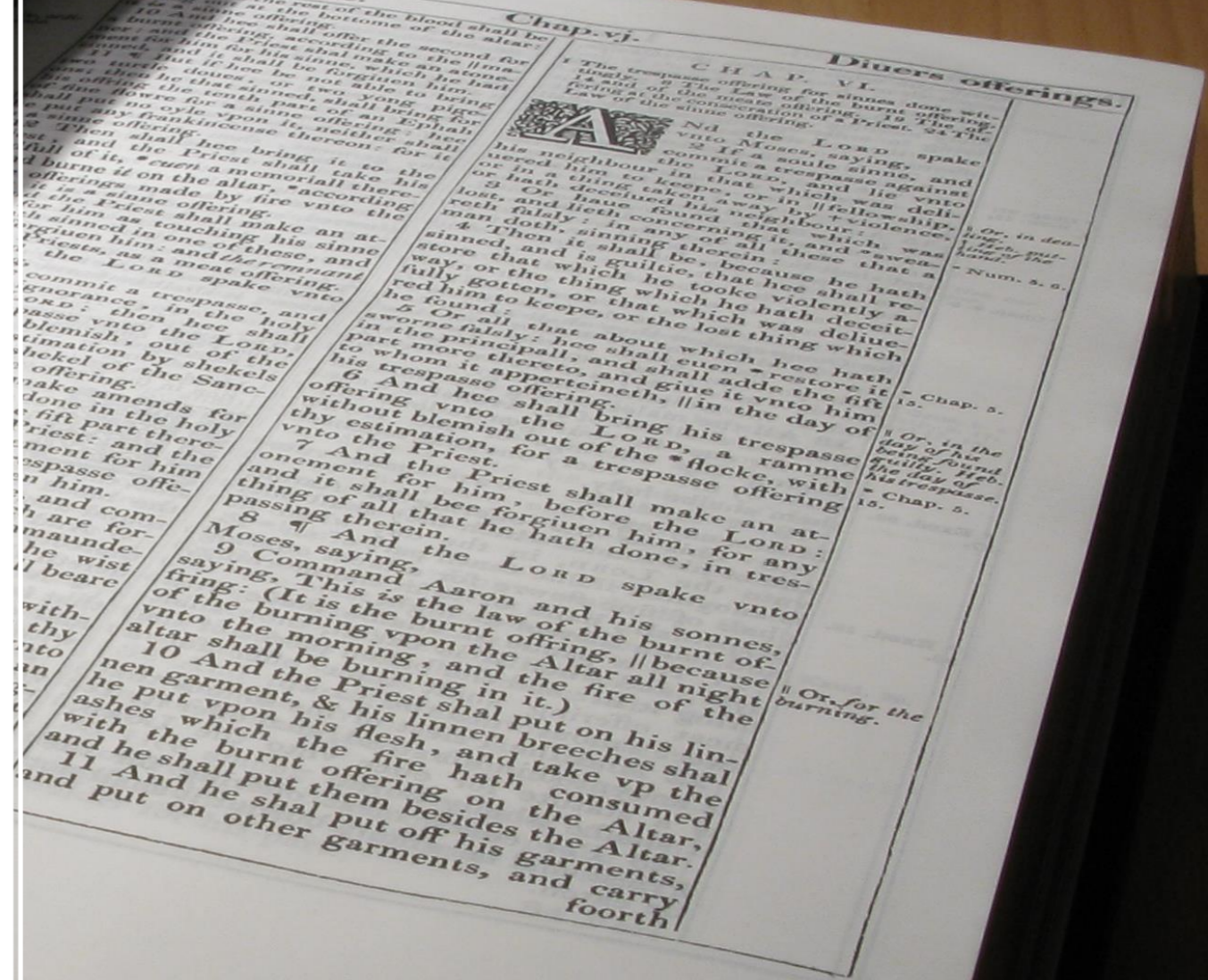


Illumination of the Bible

- Since God-breathed it, God's help is necessary to understand it (1 Cor 2:11)
- Man's darkened mind requires illumination (Luke 24:44-45)
- "Ministry of the Spirit whereby He enlightens those who are in a right relationship or have a desire to know it (Jn 7:17) to comprehend the written Word"

Interpretation of the Bible

- **Literal Interpretation** — *normal* meaning of author
- **Grammatical relationships** — verbal and plenary inspiration mean the words and structure are inspired, thus important (verb tenses, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions and rules of structure)



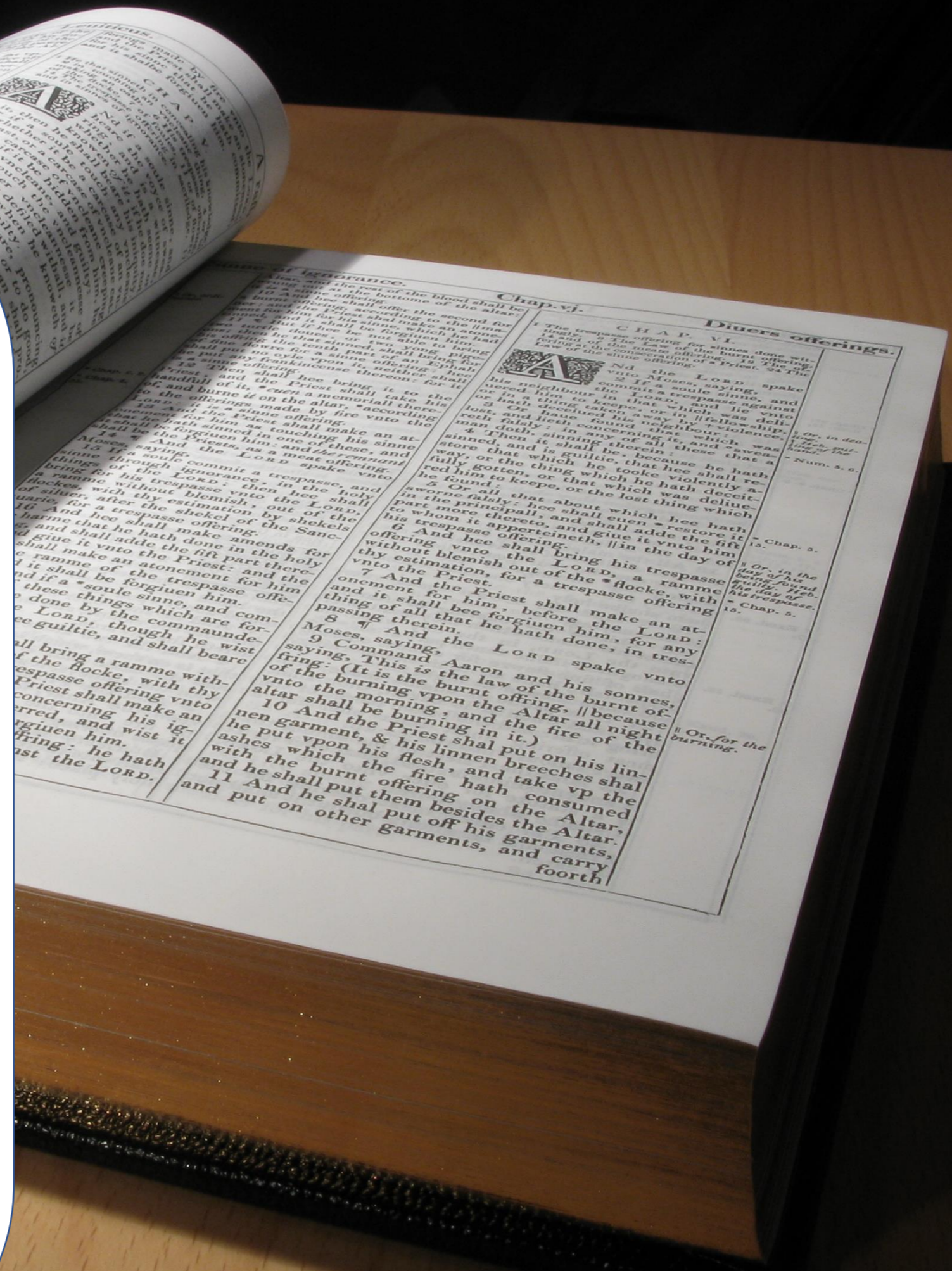
Interpretation of the Bible

Historical context — what the text meant to the original hearers was God's first intent

Literary Context— three main steps

1. Study *immediate context* (paragraphs before and after)
2. Study more *remote context* (2-3 chapters either side)
3. Study the context of the *entire book or writings of author*

Fanning, Don, "Bibliology" (2009). *Bible Doctrines*. 1. https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgm_bib_doc/1



Is the Bible inerrant or infallible?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UT5zYw1qaaM&list=WL&index=3>