

## **Faith Formation – Week Three**

### **The Doctrine of the Bible**

**Revelation:** God has unveiled himself to humanity, otherwise we could not know him.

#### **General Revelation**

God's universal disclosure to all of mankind of His existence.

Nature: Psalm 19:1-6

Divine providence: Acts 14:17

Conscience: Romans 2:14-16

Humans are held accountable for this knowledge: Romans 1:18-20

#### **Special Revelation**

God's specific disclosure of Himself to specific people. Only two forms:

Jesus Christ: Hebrews 1:1-3; Colossians 1:19; John 1:18

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16

Although God has specifically revealed Himself through the prophets and apostles (Gal. 1:11-12), miracles (John 9:3), dreams (Dan. 4), and visions (Ezk. 1); only Scripture authenticates and accurately represents this revelation today.

**Inspiration:** Inspiration is the process by which God breathed out the Scriptures through human authors, making use of their own personalities.

The authors were “carried along” by the Holy Spirit: 2 Peter 1:20-21

Inspiration is *verbal*; it extends to the very letters and words of Scripture:

Luke 16:17; Matt. 5:18

Inspiration is *plenary*; it extends to the entirety of Scriptures.

2 Tim 3:16: “all”

2 Peter 3:15-16: Paul's writings are Scripture

1 Tim 5:18 quotes Old and New Testament as Scripture: Deut. 25:4; Luke 10:7

**Inerrancy:** The authors wrote all God intended without error in the words of the autographs.  
Since God is truth, Scripture will be found to be wholly true in all that it states:  
John 14:6,16-17; 2 Timothy 3:16

“Without error” does not mean precise: Isaiah 11:12; 2 Sam. 24:9

Jesus quotes Genesis as fact: Matt. 19:4-5; 23:35

**Canonicity:** The process that determined which books were included in the canon of Scripture.  
The chief requirement for canonicity is inspiration. Therefore, God *determines*  
canonicity, man merely *recognizes* which books God has inspired.

Criteria for determining inspiration are: Prophetic or apostolic authorship, Harmony with  
the whole of Scripture, Universal acceptance, “ring” of inspiration.

Only the 66 books of the Bible are universally recognized as inspired and therefore  
canonical.

The sciences of textual criticism and archaeology have demonstrated that these 66 books  
have been faithfully transmitted, giving us reliable copies of what the original authors  
wrote.

**Illumination:** The Holy Spirit’s work to enable believers to understand and apply God’s word.  
John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:14-16

**Application:**

The fact that God revealed Himself demonstrates His love!

We get to know Scripture to get to know God.

Scripture is authoritative in our life, being our one and only basis for truth.

Scripture is sufficient for salvation: John 20:30-31

Scripture is sufficient for godly living: 2 Timothy 3:17; Psalm 119:97-104