



We believe that the bible was written by man but **INSPIRED BY GOD**

The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16 that "all scripture is inspired by God." By saying "inspired," he didn't mean the Bible is inspiring to read, or that the authors were "inspired" in the same way a composer is inspired to write a piece of music. The word in the Greek literally means "out-breathed" and conveys the idea that the writing of the Bible was intimately directed by the Holy Spirit. Peter referred to this when he wrote, "...no prophecy of Scripture came about the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." [2 Peter 1:20-21] This is why Christians often call the Bible the Word of God.

At the same time, real historic figures at specific times in history wrote the various books of the Bible. The Bible did not just fall out of the sky but it is both natural and supernatural - the product of both human and divine activity. Somehow God guided the human authors to write what He wanted us to know concerning our Christian beliefs and practices.

We believe that the bible is **REVELATION**

God made himself known to men and women through revelation such as the wonder and beauty of creation, the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, and the pages of the Bible. What this means is that the truth contained in the Bible was not arrived at merely through human effort, study, research or contemplation. God had to reveal it, show it, or disclose it to the Bible authors. Without revelation, it would be impossible to know God.

We believe that the bible is **TRUSTWORTHY**

Everything Christians are required to believe is based on the Bible. It is, therefore, of tremendous importance to determine whether or not the Bible is reliable. It would be impossible, however, to thoroughly deal with all the issues surrounding this subject in a brief pamphlet. Suffice it to say that there is overwhelming evidence supporting the Bible's reliability and trustworthiness, particularly when it is compared with other ancient documents. We as Christians have confidence that what was originally written down was preserved and accurately passed on over the centuries. Advances in archeology have repeatedly corroborated the Bible's record of history, further pointing to its reliability.

Most criticisms against the Bible's reliability have little to do with actual discrepancies, inaccuracies or blatant errors and more to do with anti-supernatural biases. Some critics dismiss any references in the Biblical accounts to the supernatural as myth, legend or folklore. However we know and believe God and His word to be supernatural in nature, revelation, power and truth.

We believe that the bible is **AUTHORITATIVE**

The Bible is more than just a book of good ideas and helpful hints. It is the Word of God, and since God is both Creator and King, what He says has authority. The Bible has authority over us as Christians in the same way a highway patrolman has authority over us as drivers. We look to the Bible as the final authority for what we should believe - (doctrine) and how we should live - (practice). In contrast to some Christian denominations, We believe there is no person and /or tradition of equal or greater authority than the Bible.

