

Sunday, January 31, 2016—Grace Life School of Theology—*From This Generation For Ever*
Lesson 18 God's Design in Inspiration

Introduction

- Thus far we have considered the following points regarding the doctrine of inspiration.
 - Considered the various views of inspiration: *Natural*, *Dynamic*, *Partial (Spiritual-Rule-Only)*, *Existential*, and *Plenary Verbal* (Lesson 11)
 - Identified the *Plenary Verbal View* as the correct position. (Lessons 11 and 12)
 - Recognized Potential Pitfalls of the Plenary Position (Lesson 12)
 - *Words Not the Men*—the main issue with inspiration is the words on the page not what happened to the human authors.
 - *Preservation Secures the Plenary Position*—*Plenary Verbal* inspiration is meaningless without Preservation.
 - *Plenary Verbal on Inspiration but Dynamic on Translation*— it is inconsistent to hold to the inspiration of every word (*Plenary Verbal*) only to turn around and advocate for a Dynamic Philosophy of translation.
 - Studied Passages Proving the Plenary Position (Lesson 13)
 - *Self-authenticating Nature of Inspiration*—the Bible self-authenticates its own claim of inspiration.
 - *Words Not the Men: Practical Examples*— demonstrated practically that the issue in inspiration is the words that are written down and not the men (I Kings 13, John 11, and Numbers 22-24)
 - Considered whether or not Dictation is a scripturally approached descriptor to describe how Plenary Verbal Inspiration was accomplished (Lessons 14-17)
 - *Divine Dictation and Modern Theologians*— the notion of dictation is almost universally rejected as false by modern Evangelical scholarship.
 - *Historic Articulations of Inspiration*— the words “dictate”, “dictation”, or “*dictare*” in Latin have a long history of being associated with the inspiration of God's word.
 - The Pre-Reformation Fathers
 - The Reformers
 - Post-Reformation Theologians

- *Dictation: What Saith the Scripture?*—God dictated the words of the scripture through human authors.
 - Testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - Testimony of the Law and the Prophets
 - Testimony of the Apostle Paul
- In this Lesson we want to begin considering God’s design in inspiration. In other words, what was God seeking to accomplish by inspiring every word of scripture? Simply stated, **God’s design in inspiration was to make the written word equal with the living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- The scriptures see no difference between the written word of God and the living Word, Jesus Christ. The same attributes that are applied to the scriptures are applied to the Lord Jesus Christ in your Bible. The Bible sees no difference between the two.
- God attributes his own attributes to his word, so that when you deal with God’s word you are dealing with God Himself.

God’s Attributes and the Written Word

- There is no difference between what God says and what the scriptures say.
 - Roman 9:17—**For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh**, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.
- Romans 9:17 is a quotation of Exodus 9:16. If you go back and look at the context of Exodus 9 it says, “Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews” in verse 13. Exodus 9 says that Jehovah God said that unto Pharaoh, but Romans 9 says that “scripture saith unto Pharaoh.” That is an illustration of the power and the authority of the written word of God. It can be used interchangeably with Jehovah God. God the Holy Spirit wrote both verses.
- God attributes His own attributes to His word.
 - Galatians 3:8—**And the scripture (*graphē*), foreseeing** that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed.
- Does God possess the ability to foresee the future? Yes. Paul gives an attribute of God to the scripture – “**The scripture, foreseeing** that God would justify the heathen . . .” The written word of God has the ability to foresee the future. It foresees that God is going to justify the heathen, and therefore it says it “preached before the gospel unto Abraham.”
- Tell me something – did Abraham have a bible? No, Abraham did not have a bible. Five hundred years passed before Moses ever wrote any of that stuff down. He did not have a bible. Therefore, the scripture is doing something that cannot be done. Abraham did not have a bible to preach to

him. So, how could the scripture preach to him? God preached to him! And Paul says that the scripture did it!

- Do you know what Paul is saying? He is saying that the scripture and God are one. They are equal. Now that is how close that connection is between them. You just cannot get around the connection; it is that close. If that book is not that close to God and it is not God's word, then the whole thing is just a bunch of baloney; it's a lie.

The Equality of the Living and Written Word

- In *How to Enjoy the Bible*, Dr. E.W. Bullinger sees no difference between the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ and the written word, i.e., the word of God.
 - “When we speak of the "Word" we can never separate the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; and the written word, the Scriptures of Truth.

Each of these is called the "Word," because the Greek word *Logos* is used of both.

Logos means the spoken or written word, because it makes manifest, and reveals to us the invisible thoughts.

It is used of Christ, the Living Word, because He reveals the invisible God. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, He being in the bosom of the Father, This one [hath] declared [Him]" (John 1:18).

This is why Christ is called "The Word of God," because He makes known, reveals, and explains the Father. . .

This is why the Scriptures are called "the Word of God," because they make known the Father and the Son, by the Holy Spirit, the author of the Word.

Christ is "the Way" to the Father (John 14). He makes God known to us in all His attributes, will, and words. "I have given them Thy Word." It is always "THY Word" (John 17:8, 14, 17)." (Bullinger, 7-8)

- John 1:1—in your Bible there is a connection between the written and the living Word that you do not want to miss. *They are both called the "word of God"*
 - Revelation 19:13—And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: **and his name is called The Word of God.**
 - Hebrews 4:12—For **the word of God** *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- The living Word, (the Lord Jesus Christ), and the written word are both called by the same name. They have the same title given to them. The reason for that is that the connection between the living Word and the written word of God is absolutely astounding – the two are completely and totally inseparable.

- Bullinger goes on to identify the following three manifestations of the Word: 1) The Incarnate Word, 2) The Written Word, and 3) The Preached Word.
 - “Christ reveals the Father. The Scripture reveals Christ. The Spirit reveals both in the written and in the preached Word (1 Cor. 12:7, 8).

How wonderfully does this magnify the preached Word; and show the solemnity of the charge in 2 Timothy 4:2, "Preach the Word."

It shows how small and worthless are all the schemes, tricks and contrivances of present-day evangelists and mission preachers with their ever-new fashions and modern methods, when we see what a high and dignified place God has given to the Preached Word.

How careful should we be that nothing in our manner or matter should lower that dignity, or imply in the slightest degree that the Written Word has lost any of its power; or needs any handmaids or helpmeets.

"I HAVE GIVEN THEM THY WORD" (John 17:14) is the all-sufficient assurance of the Lord Jesus Christ, speaking to the Father. He did not say I have given them Aids to devotion. He did not say I have given them a Hymn-book, or I have given them thy Word AND something else.

He did not give anything instead of, or in addition to, that Word. And that being so, we are assured that the Word which He gave is all-sufficient, in itself, to accomplish all the purposes of God.

The Word that is preached makes known the Written Word; the Word that is written makes known Christ the Living Word; and Christ makes known God our Father.” (Bullinger, 8-9)

- “Hence it is, that the same things are stated of both the Living and the Written Word, as it is well put by Joseph Hart:

The Scriptures and the Word
Bear one tremendous name,
The Living and the Written Word
In all things are the same.” (Bullinger, 9)

- In Grace School of the Bible, Pastor Jordan illustrates this point thusly:
 - “Now listen people that book (your bible), is not God. I just had to put my bible aside because it is coming all apart. You understand that the book is not God. You can scribble on your bible; you can tear it up and it will fall apart; it will wax and decay. God Almighty will never do any of those things. You can throw your bible in a mud hole, but you cannot throw God in a mud hole.

But, having said all of that, I will tell you that the closest thing you will ever come to God himself on this earth is that book. That is why that book is important to you. That is why

you study it and become friends with it, and that is why it is different from any other book. It is the word of God, and it is so closely connected with the living God. The only contact that you have with the Lord Jesus Christ outside of the pages of that book is on an inner-subjective level (it is inside of you), on a spirit level. Therefore, God has given you that written word in order to be able to evaluate, by an objective standard in black and white, those subjective experiences that you have. Your bible is an objective standard by which to measure everything." (Jordan, MMS 101)

Similar Declarations regarding the Living Word and the Written Word

"His name is called THE WORD OF GOD," Revelation 19:13.
They "pressed upon Him to hear THE WORD OF GOD," Luke 5:1.

The Prince of PEACE, Isaiah 9:6.
The Gospel of PEACE, Romans 10:15.

Jesus said,..."No man cometh unto the Father, but BY ME," John 14:6.
"Make me to go in the PATH of Thy Commandments," Psalms 119:35.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am THE WAY," John 14:6.
"Teach me, O Lord, THE WAY of Thy statutes," Psalms 119:33.

"I am...THE TRUTH," John 14:6.
"Thy Word is TRUTH," John 17:17.

Christ—"Full of grace and TRUTH," John 1:14.
"All Thy Commandments are TRUTH," Psalms 119:151.

"These things saith He...that is TRUE," Revelation 3:7.
"The Judgments of the Lord are TRUE," Psalms 19:9.

"Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal LIFE," 1 John 5:20.
"Holding forth the Word of LIFE," Philippians 2:16.

"A bone of Him shall not be broken," John 19:36.
"The scripture cannot be broken," John 10:35.

"I am the Living Bread...if any man eat of this Bread he shall LIVE for ever," John 6:51.
"Man shall not LIVE by bread alone, but by every Word of God," Luke 4:4.

"With Thee is the FOUNTAIN OF LIFE," Psalms 36:9.
"Thy Law...is a FOUNTAIN OF LIFE," Proverbs 13:14.

Jesus said, "I am the LIGHT of the World," John 8:12.
David said, "Thy Word is a LIGHT unto my path," Psalms 119:105.

"The Life was the LIGHT," John 1:4.
"The Law is LIGHT," Proverbs 6:23.

"Thou art my LAMP, O Lord," 2 Sam 22:29.
"Thy Word is a LAMP unto my feet," Psalms 119:105.

"I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of FIRE," Zechariah 2:5.
 "Is not My Word like as a FIRE? saith the Lord," Jeremiah 23:29.

"The Light of Israel shall be for a FIRE," Isaiah 10:17.
 "I will make My Words in thy mouth FIRE," Jeremiah 5:14.

"To you which believe, He is PRECIOUS," 1 Peter 2:7.
 "Exceeding great and PRECIOUS Promises," 2 Peter 1:4.

"My beloved is...chiefest among ten THOUSAND," Song of Solomon 5:10.
 "The Law of Thy mouth is better unto me than THOUSANDS of gold and silver," Psalms 119:72.

"His Mouth is most SWEET," Song of Solomon 5:16.
 "How SWEET are Thy Words unto my taste," Psalms 119:103.

"His Name shall be called WONDERFUL," Isaiah 9:6.
 "Thy Testimonies are WONDERFUL," Psalms 119:129.

"Christ, the POWER OF GOD," 1 Corinthians 1:24.
 "The Gospel is the POWER OF GOD," Romans 1:16.

Lord, "Thou art GOOD, and doest Good," Psalms 119:68.
 "GOOD is the Word of the Lord," Isaiah 39:8.

"Ye have known Him that is FROM THE BEGINNING," 1 John 2:13.
 "Thy Word is true FROM THE BEGINNING," Psalms 119:160.

"From Everlasting to EVERLASTING Thou art God," Psalms 90:2.
 "The righteousness of Thy Testimonies is EVERLASTING," Psalms 119:144.

"Thy throne, O God, is FOR EVER AND EVER," Hebrews 1:8.
 "Thy testimonies,...Thou hast founded them FOR EVER," Psalms 119:152.

"The Lord shall ENDURE for ever," Psalms 9:7.
 "The Word of the Lord ENDURETH for ever," 1 Peter 1:25.

"Christ ABIDETH for ever," John 12:34.
 "The Word of God...ABIDETH for ever," 1 Peter 1:23.

"Worship Him that LIVETH for ever," Revelation 4:10.
 "The Word of God LIVETH for ever," 1 Peter 1:23.

Christ's Kingdom "shall STAND FOR EVER," Daniel 2:44.
 "The Word of our God shall STAND FOR EVER," Isaiah 40:8.

The STONE... "on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder," Luke 20:18.
 "Is not my Word...saith the Lord, like a HAMMER that breaketh the rock in pieces?" Jeremiah 23:29.

Christ, "A STUMBLING Stone," Romans 9:33.
 They "STUMBLE at the Word," 1 Peter 2:8.

"Lo, I am with you ALWAYS, even unto the end of the world," Matthew 28:20.
 "Thy commandments...are EVER WITH ME," Psalms 119:98.

"Christ may DWELL in your hearts by faith," Ephesians 3:17.
 "Let the Word of Christ DWELL in you richly," Col 3:16.

Christ said, "ABIDE in me, and I IN YOU," John 15:4.
 "If... my Words ABIDE in you," John 15:7.

"Hereby we know that He ABIDETH in us," 1 John 3:24.
 "The Word of God ABIDETH in you," 1 John 2:14.

Christ called, "FAITHFUL and true," Revelation 19:11.
 "Thy Testimonies...are very FAITHFUL," Psalms 119:138.

"Out of His mouth goeth a sharp SWORD," Revelation 19:15.
 "The Word of God...is sharper than any two-edged SWORD," Hebrews 4:12.
 Probably refers to both the Living Word and the written Word.

"The Lord TRIETH the Righteous," Psalms 11:5.
 "The Word of the Lord TRIED him," Psalms 105:19.

Christ a "TRIED Stone," Isaiah 28:16.
 "The Word of the Lord is TRIED," Psalms 18:30.
 (Bullinger, 9-11)

Similar Affects Attributed to the Living Word and the Written Word

We are "BORN OF God," 1 John 5:18.
 "BORN...by the Word of God," 1 Peter 1:23.

"BEGOTTEN...by...Jesus Christ," 1 Peter 1:3.
 BEGOTTEN...through The Gospel," 1 Corinthians 4:15.

"The Son QUICKENETH whom He will," John 5:21.
 "Thy Word hath QUICKENED me," Psalms 119:50.

"You hath he QUICKENED who were dead," &c., Ephesians 2:1.
 "Thy Precepts...with them thou hast QUICKENED me," Psalms 119:93.

"He that eateth me, even he shall LIVE by me," John 6:57.
 "Desire the sincere milk of The Word, that ye may GROW thereby," 1 Peter 2:2.

"Christ hath made us FREE," Galatians 5:1.
 "The Truth shall make you FREE," John 8:32.

"The Blood of Jesus Christ...CLEANSETH us from all sin," 1 John 1:7.
 "YE are CLEAN through the Word which I have spoken," John 15:3.

Christ "is able also to SAVE them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him," Hebrews 7:25.
 "Receive...the engrafted Word, which is able to SAVE your souls," James 1:21.

"SANCTIFIED in Christ Jesus," 1 Corinthians 1:2.
 "SANCTIFIED by the Word of God and prayer," 1 Timothy 4:5.

"SANCTIFIED through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all," Hebrews 10:10.
 "SANCTIFY them through THY TRUTH. Thy Word is truth," John 17:17.

"Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us WISDOM," 1 Corinthians 1:30.
 "The Holy Scriptures...able to make thee WISE unto salvation," 2 Timothy 3:15.

Christ "HEALED them," Matthew 4:24.
 "He sent His Word and HEALED them," Psalms 107:20.

"Striving according to His Working which WORKETH in me mightily," Colossians 1:29.
 "The Word of God which effectually WORKETH also in you that believe," 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

"The Lord Jesus Christ...shall JUDGE the quick and the dead," 2 Timothy 4:1.
 "The Word that I have spoken...shall JUDGE him," John 12:48.

"I will go unto God, my exceeding Joy," Psalms 43:4.
 "Thy Word was unto me the JOY and rejoicing of my heart," Jeremiah 15:16.
 (Bullinger 11-12)

- Bullinger follows up the preceding lists of similarities between the Living and written Word with the following comments.

- "Thus we see that the Living Word and the Written Word cannot be separated. And we can understand also why they cannot be separated in the preaching of the Word.

To preach the Written Word without preaching Christ is not preaching at all. Neither is it done in the power of the Spirit.

When Paul went to Thessalonica, he ("as his manner was") "reasoned with them out of the SCRIPTURES" (not as is done to-day, out of the newspapers, or out of the preacher's own head or experience); but he did not end there. We are immediately told that this preaching consisted in "opening and setting forth that CHRIST (the Living Word) must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead, and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ (the Messiah)" (Acts 17:1-3).

If the Living Word and the Written Word cannot be separated, we learn that in sitting down to the study of the Word and Words of God it is to hear His voice, to choose that "better part"; to sit at Jesus' feet, and hear HIS word (Luke 10:39)." (Bullinger, 13)

- Brother Jordan offered the following summation regarding God's design in inspiration:

- “The living Word, (the Lord Jesus Christ), and the written word are that close. God attributes his own attributes to his word, and the reason for that is that he is demonstrating that word to be the final authority. It is what he says. *When you are dealing with God’s word, you are dealing with God himself.* And if you are going to deal with God, you will have to deal with his word. That is God’s design and inspiration.” (Jordan. *MSS 101*, Lesson 1)
- Once again we see that the Bible is not like any other book. God attributes his own attributes to his word. That is why we need to take Satan’s policy of evil against God’s word, outlined in Lessons 2 and 3 seriously.

Works Cited

Bullinger, E.W. *How to Enjoy the Bible: A Guide to Better Understanding and Enjoyment of God’s Word.* Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications: 1990.

Jordan, Richard. *Manuscript Evidence 101.* Grace School of the Bible.