

Biblical Foundations

Course I - Bible Basics From History to Daily Use

Week 2 - Bible Canonicity, Inspiration,
Unity, Inerrancy



Objectives:

- To understand how the Bible we now use came to exist.
- To understand why it matters that the canon is closed.
- To equip us to address some typical objections to the Bible's legitimacy.

Verbal Plenary Inspiration

- **Inspiration extends to the words themselves (verbal) not just concepts or ideas**
 - Every word of the Bible is there because God wanted it there. No exceptions.
- **Inspiration extends to ALL parts of Scripture and ALL matters of Scripture (plenary)**
 - The Old Testament and New Testament and everything in them have the full authority of God.
- **Verbal Plenary Inspiration is the accepted and normative view.**
- **Does not extend to translations but applies only to the original autographs**
 - Translation, while reliable, is not inspired. Inspiration occurred only once.



Human Element in Inspiration

The Bible was produced **through human instruments**, giving it great variety in terms of the **types and styles of writing** and fully connecting Scripture to the human experience. Despite the fallibility and **varied perspectives** of its human writers, the Bible was produced **under God's full control** so that Scripture achieves God's purpose in revealing himself to men and women. Human authors were able to convey God's Word because of the **inspiration of the Holy Spirit**, who **superintended** the process by which the Bible was written, just as **God sovereignly created and shaped the human instruments** for this purpose.

The biblical writings are **fully human** in their production, requiring parchment and ink, and a human mind to write the message. Yet, in the mystery of the Spirit's inspiration, the Bible is **at the same time the very Word of God.**

(The Gospel Coalition – Richard Phillips <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/scripture-as-a-divine-and-human-book/>)

Basic Bible Facts

- 66 books
- 40+ human authors
- 1500+ years
- 2 “Testaments”

Old Testament	New Testament
39 books	27 books
Before Christ's birth	From Christ's birth

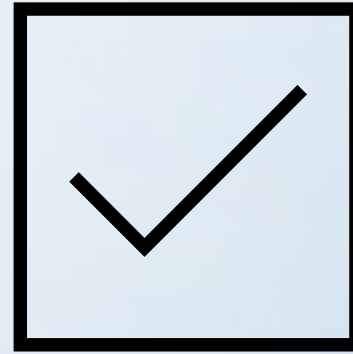
Canon – rule, measuring rod, authority

Canonicity - process by which the books of the Bible were *discovered* to be authoritative



Tests for Canonicity

- Internally Authoritative
- Prophetic
- Authentic
- Dynamic
- Affirmed



Canon Legitimacy

- Jesus says
- Apostles affirm
- Prophecy proves
- History / Archaeology Testifies

Bible Characteristics

- **Unity and Inerrancy**

- one cohesive and consistent message with no contradiction, and without error in the original manuscripts

- **Reliability (Infallibility), and Transcendence**

- complete and unfailing power for life and salvation, surpassing man's fallible ability to understand through scientific reason or logic

Men wrote God's words as the Spirit inspired

Men recognized the inspired word

Men canonized the inspired word

Men organized the inspired word





Assignment:

How does Jesus affirm the scriptures?