

# OUR GOD SPEAKS

## Part 2 - The COMPILATION of the Bible

Is your Bible an authoritative list of books or a list of authoritative books?

- 1) God divinely PRODUCED the Bible 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21
  - The process of INSPIRATION
  - The impact of VERBAL PLENARY inspiration
- 2) God divinely ASSEMBLED the Bible
  - The process of CANONIZATION of Scripture
  - Six MEASUREMENTS all literature had to pass
    - Was the author a RECOGNIZED Prophet/Apostle/Leader for God?
    - Was the manuscript written during a TIME PERIOD when God was moving in history?
    - Did God's PEOPLE/LEADERS accept it as Scripture?
    - Was the manuscript widely DISPERSED and read?
    - Does the CONTENT compliment previous Scripture?
    - Did the manuscript lead to PERSONAL transformation?
- 3) God divinely PROTECTED the Bible
  - COPYING of the manuscripts
    - The test of SPACE - 26,000 pieces from multiple countries
    - The test of TIME – *Dead Sea Scrolls*
    - Side note: TRANSLATIONS – each word, phrase or idea
  - Manuscript evidences – history, geography, ARCHAEOLOGY

Your Bible is a list of authoritative books!

- 4) Conclusion: We hold up the Bible as AUTHORITATIVE
  - We want to HEAR it!
  - We BELIEVE and TRUST it!
  - We intentionally LIVE it out
  - Challenge: Increase your reading of and MEDITATION upon the Bible

**Auburn Grace Community Church – July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

## Life Group Discussion Questions – July 7, 2019

**1 Timothy 3:16-17** *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

### QUICK REVIEW

1. What does the word “revelation” mean? Compare and contrast general and special revelation. What are the limitations of general revelation?
2. When any/all people examine creation and listen to their innate conscience they can conclude three things about God. What are they? What is an “innate conscience?”

### MY STORY

1. How would you differentiate between the term “inspiration” that the world understands and “inspiration” that is of Divine origin? (see Genesis 2:7 and Psalm 150:6)
2. We have evidence that God divinely protected the Bible through space (geography) and time. There are many that say the wording of the Bible can't be trusted; that the books of the Bible were chosen by a council of men? How would you respond to them?
3. Do you think that Christians should agree on all canon of the Scriptures or just the “essential tenets” of the faith (e.g. the Ten Commandments, Christ's resurrection, etc.)? Why or why not?
4. Does the copying of the biblical manuscripts challenge your view of how the Bible came to us?

### GOING DEEP

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17. What does this passage show us about God's revelation?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-11 and 1 Peter 1:16-18. It seems clear that the early Christians recognized the authority of the apostles and received the words of Paul and others as authoritative. Has the authority of the Bible eroded over time? Why do you think that is?
3. How can being familiar with the manuscript evidence help us understand the arguments of skeptics who doubt that the wording of the Bible can be trusted?
4. How did the early church treat the New Testament writings? Why is this helpful to understand its authority?
5. Why is it important for us to make sure that no earthly authority contradict, undermine, or usurp the authority God has given to His Word? (see Colossians 3:16)

### PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for you to remember?