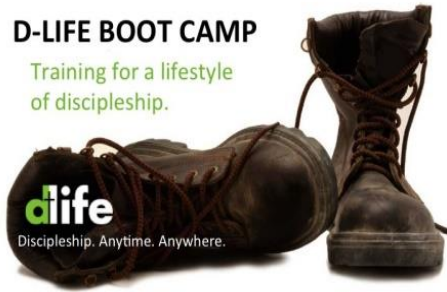


D-LIFE BOOT CAMP

Training for a lifestyle
of discipleship.



Keeping it Real
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Dale L. Crawley Sr.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Rev. Dr. Deborah Crawley, Teacher
Sis. Tammi Crummy, Asst. Teacher

THE DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE (BIBLIOLOGY)

Bibliology might look like a big word, but really it's just the **doctrine of the Bible**. That ending, 'ology' means 'the study of', and the beginning, 'biblio' means 'relating to a book or books.' 'Biblio' is derived from the Greek word used for 'papyrus'. [Papyrus](#) was the type of "paper" God's Word was originally written on – scrolls upon scrolls that were carefully copied by scribes through the centuries.

Why Do We Need Bibliology?

Bibliology gives us answers, proofs, and a historical record of where the Bible came from, how it was written, and how it has been preserved until now. It affirms our belief in the authenticity and validity of Scripture. In other words, we need Bibliology because it gives us confidence that the book we are believing and basing our lives on is legitimate.

The first Bibliology basic fact is that the Bible is God's thoughts and words to us, it's purpose is to communicate His truth to man.

Secondly, the Bible was written by forty different authors over a time period of 1600 years. These writers were from separate backgrounds, with varied upbringings, life circumstances, and personalities, which lends to the different writing styles in different books of the Bible. **The most important thing about these writers and the common tie between them is that they were each inspired by God to write what they did, when they did.** They were the human instruments through which God has spoken to all mankind. Even though they were all different and most never knew any of the others, the unity of what they express is amazing. **The theme of the Bible that each of the writers contributes to is God's glory, which is manifested fully in the life and lordship of Jesus Christ.**

Structurally, the Bible is divided into two major parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament took the longest to write – about a 1000 years, and contains 39 books. In between the two parts was a gap of time where no Scripture was written, and then came the New Testament, taking 60 years to write and made up of 27 books.

I. THREE IMPORTANT WORDS, THEIR DEFINITIONS, AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

Revelation

In Scripture, the term “**revelation**” occurs primarily in the verb form and generally refers to the act of uncovering or unveiling what is hidden. Only secondarily does it mean what is uncovered in the act. Consequently, the revelation of God is the divine act of self-disclosure, which reveals ultimate truth, namely, the triune God himself.

Revelation means that God has chosen to reveal his nature and his will to us through the Bible. The Bible was written so that God could show us what he is like and what he wants us to be like. An understanding of God comes solely through his decision to reveal himself to us.

Inspiration

Inspiration is the process through which God gave us the Bible. God worked in the hearts of human writers to inspire them to write down his words. God’s words written through these people are perfect, infallible, and trustworthy.

The biblical documents suggest that the Spirit used a wide range of means in influencing the writers of Scripture. Certain texts imply that humans were the passive recipients of material given through divine dictation (**Exod. 19:3-6; Lev.1:1; Num. 7:89; 12:8; 1 Sam. 9:15; Isa. 6:8-9; Rev. 14:13**). Other passages indicate that godly people were active agents in the process (**Mark 12:36; Acts 1:16; 28:25; 1 Cor. 14:37**). Hence, we find in the Bible differing writing styles, varying accounts of the same events, and even outbursts of human emotion (**2 Cor. 11:1**). Certain sections of the Bible purport to be based in eyewitness accounts or to report the encounters certain persons had with God (**Exod. 24:1-11; 1 Kings 22:19; Isa. 6:1-5 2 Cor. 12:1-4**).

Because of this variety, we ought not to apply any one theory to the entire Bible. We can offer only a broad statement as an attempt to summarize what the texts themselves suggest: *“By direct command, a sense of urgency, or simply a personal desire or compulsion, God’s Spirit moved spiritual persons within the faith community to write or compile from dictation, experience, tradition, or wisdom those documents which reflect what God desired to have recorded in order that his purposes might be served”*.

Illumination

The Spirit's work within Scripture did not end in the distant past. Throughout history He continues to act, speaking to people through the Bible. Theologians commonly refer to this dimension of His activity as illumination.

Illumination is the Holy Spirit's work of bringing light to the words of the Bible as we read them. *Illumination* is the means by which we understand the Bible.

Illumination, therefore, belongs to the mission of the Spirit. He makes the Bible "come alive." As He causes the people of God to understand the significance of the biblical texts for life in the present.

I. HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE CAME FROM GOD?

A. The external evidence says the Bible is a historical book.

- The number of manuscript copies and the short length of time between the original manuscripts and our first copies of the New Testament.
- The extreme care with which the Scriptures were copied.
- Confirmation of places and dates by archaeology

1. Can you name some more external evidences that the Bible is the Word of God?

B. The internal evidence says the Bible is a unique book.

- The majority of the Bible is from eyewitness accounts.
- The amazing agreement and consistency throughout the Bible

1. Can you name some more internal evidences that the Bible is the Word of God?

C. The personal evidence says the Bible is a powerful book.

- What is your testimony?

PART 2 - ILLUMINATION

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN WE SAY THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED?

The word *plenary* means "complete or full," and *verbal* means "the very words of Scripture." So plenary, verbal inspiration is the view that every single word in the

Bible is the very word of God. It's not just the ideas or thoughts that are inspired, but the words themselves. Second Timothy 3:16–17 uses a unique Greek word, *theopneustos*, which literally means “God-breathed.” Scripture is “breathed out” of the mouth of God. The Bible’s words are God’s words.

II. REMEMBER THE THREE WORDS: REVELATION, INSPIRATION, ILLUMINATION?

- A. Revelation has been completed (Heb. 1:1-2).
- B. Inspiration has been completed (1 Peter 1:10-12).
- C. Illumination is going on right now. (Eph. 1:17-18).

III. FOUR THINGS ARE NECESSARY FOR ILLUMINATION IN A BELIEVER’S LIFE:

Illumination is the supernatural influence or ministry of the Holy Spirit, which enables all who believe in Christ to understand the Scriptures.

Regular study of the Word of God will give direction and understanding in the issues of life. This is the first method of God’s illumination and the starting point for us all. In Psalm 119 we also find another type of God’s illumination. Verse 18 says, “*Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.*” These are not new revelations, but things which have been written and revealed long before, and just now understood by the reader (one of those “aha!” moments). Similarly, verse 73 says, “*Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.*” The plea is for personal understanding and application of God’s laws as they are studied by the individual. Fifteen times in this psalm, God is asked to teach or give understanding regarding His laws.

Going back to Psalm 119, we find purpose statements connected with the illumination verses. “*I will meditate on your wonders*” (v. 27), “*I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart*” (v. 34), “*that I may understand your statutes*” (v. 125), “*that I may live*” (v. 144). The illumination always points to action. Why does God help us understand His Word? So we are able to live in its light.

The Apocrypha

Roman Catholic Bibles have several more books in the Old Testament than Protestant Bibles. These books are referred to as the Apocrypha or Deuterocanonical books. The word *apocrypha* means “hidden,” while the word *deuterocanonical* means “second canon.” The Apocrypha/Deuterocanonals were written primarily in the time between the Old and New Testaments. The books of the Apocrypha include 1

Esdras, 2 Esdras, Tobit, Judith, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, the Letter of Jeremiah, Prayer of Manasseh, 1 Maccabees, and 2 Maccabees, as well as additions to the books of Esther and Daniel. Not all of these books are included in Catholic Bibles.

The nation of Israel treated the Apocrypha / Deuterocanonical books with respect, but never accepted them as true books of the Hebrew Bible. The early Christian church debated the status of the Apocrypha / Deuterocanonicals, but few early Christians believed they belonged in the canon of Scripture. The New Testament quotes from the Old Testament hundreds of times, but nowhere quotes or alludes to any of the Apocryphal / Deuterocanonical books. Further, there are many proven errors and contradictions in the Apocrypha / Deuterocanonicals. Here are a few websites that demonstrate these errors:

<http://www.justforcatholics.org/a109.htm>

<http://www.biblequery.org/Bible/BibleCanon/WhatAboutTheApocrypha.htm>

<https://carm.org/errors-apocrypha>

The Apocrypha / Deuterocanonical books teach many things that are not true and are not historically accurate. While many Catholics accepted the Apocrypha / Deuterocanonicals previously, the Roman Catholic Church officially added the Apocrypha / Deuterocanonicals to their Bible at the Council of Trent in the mid 1500s A.D., primarily in response to the Protestant Reformation. The Apocrypha / Deuterocanonicals support some of the things that the Roman Catholic Church believes and practices which are not in agreement with the Bible. Examples are praying for the dead, petitioning “saints” in Heaven for their prayers, worshiping angels, and “alms giving” atoning for sins. Some of what the Apocrypha / Deuterocanonicals say is true and correct. However, due to the historical and theological errors, the books must be viewed as fallible historical and religious documents, not as the inspired, authoritative Word of God.

(<https://www.gotquestions.org/apocrypha-deuterocanonical.html>)

In conclusion, by adding the errant Apocrypha to the canon, the Catholic Church has effectively undermined the inerrancy and authority of the Bible.