

The Last Word (1)
The Inspiration of the Word
I Peter 1:21

Introduction: *In some respects, I am grateful the world is getting better.* I thank God for the advances in medicine, transportation, and communication. I Thank God because of our online services we can speak to more people all over the country and world, more than the Apostles preached to in their entire lifetimes. I can write books that can be spread abroad and encourage and grow believers from all over. In areas of scientific achievement, the world has made great progress. But the human heart is still wicked, and all our improvements have not improved our lives in that aspect.

The Apostles Peter, author of this letter to the church, did not expect the world to get better and better either morally or spiritually. He warned the church that false teachers would invade the local churches, introduce false doctrines, and lead many people astray. The world would get darker and darker; *but as it did, the Word of God would shine brighter and brighter!* (v. 19) But in this passage, Apostle Peter is shifting from God's world to God's Word. We can look up at the skies and see the power of God; but when we look into the Scriptures, we see the person of God. This is the ...

I. The purpose of God's book:

John MacArthur writes: "... *the Bible is the only book written by God to reveal Himself.*" Here Peter tells us this.

God alone is the source of knowledge about Himself, and He has chosen to reveal in the Bible and no other book! (*how has He done this?*)

A. By revelation – which is God revealing Himself and His truth to man.

1. Revelation was given progressively and in various forms little (Heb. 1:1-2)
2. That defines the Bible for us; it is God's discloser of Himself.

B. There are only three ways in which we can know God or which God reveals Himself.

1. **Natural revelation** - - Rom 1:20.
2. **Another part of natural revelation is the intelligence of man.**
 - a. Subjective Revelation - Man intuitively knows there is a God and has the capacity for worship of a higher power. (Romans 2:14-15)
 - b. The religious nature of man himself shows that God has revealed himself to man.
3. **Biblical revelation** -
 - a. The supreme way we know God is through Biblical revelation.
 - b. God has revealed Himself and His plan for our lives through the Bible.
 - c. *The only way we could know God is and what God is like is in God's self-revelation, the Bible.*

C. The Forms of revelation:

1. **Sometimes God spoke it** – (Num 1:1; Josh 1:1; Rev 1:19-20)

2. **Sometimes the Lord wrote His revelation Himself** – (Deut 5:22; Gal. 1:11-12)

3. **Regardless of the method** – the act of revelation was always the same: *supernatural work of God in which He communicated divine truth to human beings who otherwise would not or could not know.*

4. **This is how we got the Bible** – We call the Old and New Testaments “The canons of scripture.

- a. In the days of Christ – there was literature called the scriptures, now called the Old Testament, which the people commonly regarded as having come from God. It was read publicly and taught in the synagogue.
- b. Jesus Himself recognized it (Mt. 21: 42; 22:29; Lk. 24:27, 32,45; Jn. 5:39)
- c. Christian churches from start accepted them as God's word and gave them the same place in their assemblies as they had in the synagogue.
- d. Then, as the writings of the Apostles appeared – they were added to the scriptures and were held in the same sacred regard.
- e. Is God still giving new revelation today? No. (Jude 3; Rev. 22:18-19)
- f. Today we have in the Bible, the complete revelation of God.

So, God has disclosed Himself by revelation, and that is the purpose for God's book. However, that revelation came about not by man but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit...

II. The purity of God's book:

What makes God' Word so great? It's pure truth!

This is why the Bible is the foundation upon which we build all our beliefs. (Psalm 119:160; Jn 17:17)

A. The Reason for Its purity -It is the inspired Word of God. *It was the Holy Spirit of Jesus speaking to the prophets and through the prophets as they recorded their revelation from God.* (by inspiration we mean...)

1. **We mean verbal inspiration.** *That the very words are inspired by God.* (II Tim. 3:16) *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God."*

- a. Peter tells us that the writers were *"moved or carried along by the Holy Spirit."* to record God's words in God's book!
- b. Jesus said in Matthew 24:35

2. **We also mean plenary inspiration.** That is every part of the Bible is inspired.

B. The Result of Its purity -*The result of its purity is its inerrancy.* (Ps. 19:7; Prov. 30:5-6; Rom. 3:4 *Let God be true...*)

III. The Permanence of God's book: (1 Pe. 1:24-25)

God's word shall stand forever. (Ps. 119:89; Isa. 40:8; Mt. 5:18; Lk. 16:17; 1Pe. 1:23)

Conclusion: *The Bible is God's book!* It is a book you can live by, and it is a book you can die by. We ought to believe it, study it, honor it, love it, and contend for it.

The Bible does not contain God's Word – *It is His inspired word!*