



# WHAT WE BELIEVE

## Lesson 1: WHAT WE BELIEVE ... ABOUT THE BIBLE

*“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness”*

*2 Timothy 3:16*

### Introduction

Why must every Christian be a theologian? Because a solid theology anchors our soul, so that we will not be washed away by the tide of error and false beliefs.

C. S. Lewis made an insightful observation, *“In the old days, where there was less education and discussion, perhaps it was possible to get on with a very few simple ideas about God. But it is not so now. Everyone reads, everyone hears things discussed. Consequently, if you do not listen to Theology, that will now mean that you have no ideas about God. It will mean that you have a lot of wrong ones – bad, muddled, out-of-date ideas.”*

- **Course Outline**

What we believe about:

The Bible	God and the Trinity	Providence
Election	Salvation	Sin
Jesus	Holy Spirit	Regeneration
Repentance	Faith	Justification
Sanctification	Perseverance	The Church
Baptism	The Lord's Supper	The Lord's Day
Christian Liberty	The Resurrection	The Judgement

- **Doctrinal Statement**

- In the footnote of the HBC doctrinal statement we say, *“These Doctrinal Statements are drawn from the revised New Hampshire Confession of Faith (1853) and the Abstract of Principles (1858), which are a faithful summary of the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith.”*
- New Hampshire Confession of Faith: Adopted by the NH Baptist Convention in 1833, and revised in 1853.
- Abstract of Principles: Developed by the founders of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1858.
- (1) The Scriptures  
*The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience. They are and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to men; the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried. (Ps. 19:7; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Hebrews 1:1-2)*

## I. The Biblical canon

- “Canon” when applied to Scripture means that they contain the authoritative rule of faith and practice, the standard of doctrine and duty.
- Doctrinal Statement: *“The Scriptures of the **Old and New Testament** were given by inspiration of God.”*
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Apocrypha
  - It is not divinely inspired Scripture for the following reasons:
    - The Apocrypha itself indicates it is not
    - The Jews have never accepted the Apocrypha as Scripture
    - The New Testament doesn’t refer to it as Scripture
    - The Catholic Church only accepted the Apocrypha as Scripture after the Reformation (AD 1609)

## II. The Bible is Inspired

- Doctrinal Statement: *“The Scriptures of the **Old and New Testament** were given by inspiration of God.”*
- Inspiration: God, by the Holy Spirit, superintended the human writers of the 66 books of the Bible so that what they wrote were God’s inerrant (without error) and authoritative words to humanity in the original writings.

- 2 Tim 3:16, All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness
- 2 Pet 1:20-21, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

### III. The Bible is the only means to salvation

- Doctrinal Statement: "... and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience."
- 2 Tim 3:15-17, But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, **which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

### Implications of Inspiration

- The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_
- The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_
- The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_

### Conclusion

- The moment we waver on the inerrancy and authority of Scripture we will begin a slow slide away from God.