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THE DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION
WHY THE BIBLE IS THE PERFECT WORD OF GOD

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 24
HEBREWS 4:10-12

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HEBREWS 4:10 "For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his." Here is stated the principle of super-grace. The word "for" is from "gar" and is used to explain what has gone on before in the first nine verses in this chapter. So it should be translated "for you see." Next we have an aorist active, participle of "eiserchomai" for "is entered into." This is a constative aorist and it means it happens this way every time. If a person will take in doctrine, he will enter into super grace every time this happens. The word for "rest" is "katapausis" and it means "the act of resting." It means God gives this every time one pays the price to learn doctrine and incorporate it into his life. Every time we cease from our own works and rely on God to do the work in us, super grace is always the result. The verse closes by referring again to the fact that God rested from his work. We also pick up this same idea when Christ had finished all his work on the cross he said, "It is finished."

HEBREWS 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." "Let us labor" is an aorist, active, subjunctive of "spoudazo" and means let us be eager let us be diligent. This means there must be a strong motivation in the soul. This is a motivation built in your soul by Bible doctrine. So instead of "let us labour" this verse says, "Let us begin to be diligent, let us begin to have the right mental attitude toward the Word of God." Next we have the word "oun" translated "therefore." This suggests a conclusion. In other words, you will never enter into super grace unless you become diligent in learning the Word of God. So this verse says, "Let us begin to be diligent therefore to enter into super grace." Again we have the word "eiserchomai" but this time it is an aorist, active, infinitive and this is a culminative aorist and is referring to the sum total of all the learning of Bible doctrine that goes on in a life. This is the destination. This is the result. You have now pulled it all together and the train is now in the union depot. So the thing this verse says is this--"Your attitude toward doctrine determines the place where you arrive."

Attitude Determines Destination

When one starts with a positive attitude toward doctrine and persists in learning the goal, the goal is always super-grace. "That rest" is the final goal the Lord has set for all of us. The infinitive of this verb "enter into rest" is the infinitive of purpose. The reason he says "that rest" he is referring to a rest that is very well known and is from "ekeinos katapausis." When you get to this stage in your Christian life, then Romans 8:28 applies to you.

Next we have "hina me" and this introduces a negative purpose clause and it means "That no one." The word for "fall" is the aorist, active, subjunctive of "pipto" and this is the verb used for reversionism. It doesn't mean fall from salvation, but it means to fall into reversionism. This is the ingressive aorist of reaction. The mental attitude of jealousy, bitterness, vindictiveness, hatred will always cause a

fall of this kind. The word is "begin to fall" and this triggers an emotional revolt in the soul. We are in a national emotional revolt of the soul in America right now. It is doctrine that props up the believer and keeps him from falling. The reason the subjunctive is used of "pipto" is that this is potential. The word "parapipto" is used of one who has already fallen and is already in reversionism. This kind of a mental attitude leads to disillusionment, boredom, loneliness, frustration. These are the reactions and leads to a frantic search for happiness and this leads to an emotional revolt of the soul. As a result, one has a fully developed reversionistic life. This produces scar tissue in the soul and it moves demon influence and the soul is completely blacked out. This type of a person begins to look at life from the Satanic viewpoint and this brings on divine discipline every time.

This verse ends with the words "after the same example of obstinacy." The word is "apeitheia" and this is the peak of reversionism. So this verse says, "Therefore, let us begin to be diligent to enter into that specific rest, lest anyone begin to fall with reference to the same example of obstinacy."

What is the solution?

For the Christian, more important than anything on the earth is Bible Doctrine. How can one avoid this fall we have been studying about? How can one avoid this obstinacy, this reversionism? This next verse will give an answer to this question. It is called "Ho Logos Tou Theou" and it means "The Word of God."

HEBREWS 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

THE DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF INSPIRATION.

The general principle of inspiration is found in a greek noun "theopneustos" and it means God-breathed.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" This scripture says that all scripture is "God-breathed." This is the mechanics. It all started with God and then it moved to the human writers and then it eventually came to us in what we call The Canon of Scripture. It started with Moses a little before 1,400 B.C. and ended with John on Patmos in 96 A.D. So we have writers scattered over a period of 1,500 years. It was the ministry of God The Holy Spirit and many human authors such as Moses and John and all of those in between. All Scripture originated with the third member of the Trinity, God The Holy Spirit. This Scripture is said to be the Mind of Christ in 1 Cor. 2:16. But remember this point--All Scripture originated with the work of The Holy Spirit.

2. WHAT WAS THIS WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

God The Holy Spirit communicated to human authors a complete coherent message. This was the inhale, and their writing of it down was the exhale. They breathed it in as The Holy Spirit

guided them, and then they wrote it down exactly as the Holy Spirit had given it to them. (Scriptures on this truth are as follows--2 Samuel 23:2-3; Jeremiah 1:9; Isaiah 59:21; Matt. 22:42-43; Mark 12:36; Acts 4:24-26; Acts 25:23.) All the writers in the Old Testament were prophets of the Lord. The writers in the New Testament were apostles or had very close supervision from an apostle. (Such as Mark and Luke) THEY WROTE WITHOUT WAIVING THEIR HUMAN INTELLIGENCE, THEIR VOCABULARY, THEIR PERSONALITY, THEIR INDIVIDUALITY, OR THEIR PERSONAL FEELINGS. GOD'S TOTAL MESSAGE TO MAN WAS COMPLETELY RECORDED WITH PERFECT ACCURACY IN THE ORIGINAL SCRIPTURES.

3. SCRIPTURE IS NOT HUMAN VIEWPOINT.

God used human agencies through which to give his message to man but the message they wrote is not human viewpoint.

2 PETER 1:20-21 "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

4. THE BIBLE IS THE MIND OF CHRIST.

We do not need to wonder what Christ thought about anything, for we think his thoughts after him in Scripture.

1 Cor. 2:16 compared with Psalm 138:2.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:16 "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

5. ALL SCRIPTURE EXISTED IN ETERNITY PAST.

Scripture existed in eternity past long before it was ever written down in the Bible. This is expanded in Proverbs 8.

6. GOD GAVE SOME REVELATION BEFORE WE HAD WRITTEN SCRIPTURE.

Before written Scripture, God revealed himself. (2 Samuel 23:2; Ezekiel 2:2, 8:3, 11:1; Micah 3:4; Hebrews 3:7)

7. THE FOUR CATEGORIES OF OLD TESTAMENT REVELATION.

a. The spoken word--"Thus sayeth The Lord."

b. Dreams. Genesis 15:12, 31:10-13; Numbers 12:6; Dan. 10:9

c. Visions. Isaiah 1:1; 6:1; 1 Kings 22:19

d. Teaching by angels. Deut. 33:2; Psalm 68:17; Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19

8. THE EXTENT OF INSPIRATION.

The inspired Word includes an accurate account of the historical past, like Genesis 1-11. While the Bible is not an historical textbook, when it tells of historical information, the record is always perfectly accurate. THERE ARE NO MISTAKES IN ORIGINAL SCRIPTURE. Their accuracy is guaranteed by the Holy Spirit. These historical citations are the basis of introducing us to facts which help us interpret the Scripture. Then there is objective type law, the laws of divine establishment and these are based on the essence of God and give us a basis for the survival of the human race. Some portions of Scripture are dictations and contain direct quotations from God and were recorded for us perfectly. Then there is some devotional literature in the Bible, like the Psalms. The Bible also records falsehoods,

doesn't sanction these things, just reports them. Like when Satan said to the woman, "You will not die" and that is a lie and that is exactly what he said. The Bible also contains prophecy. The Holy Spirit gave the writers this prophetic information as well as the accuracy of the material on which it is based. We know enough of the future to know what God has prepared for the believer.

This 12th verse goes on to say "is quick" and this is a present, active, participle of "zao" and it means "keeps on being alive." Bible Doctrine is pertinent to every believer in every age. It never gets out of date. It always has been and always will be pertinent to every person of the human race.

Unlimited Power

The next word is "powerful" and is from "energes" the word from which we get "energy." It means effective, active, energetic, effectual.

- a. Effective--It will produce super-grace in one's life.
- b. Energetic--It produces motivation.
- c. Efficient--It is efficient in getting believers into super-grace
- d. Effectual--It is adequate to do exactly what God intends for it to do.

Sharper

Next we have the word "sharper" and this is a comparative adjective of "tomos" and means more cutting. It cuts right through to where people live. It cuts us all up. Next we have the word "than" and it is from "huper" and this is a preposition of comparison.

The Two-Edged Machaira

The word for "two-edged sword" is "machaira" and this was that very famous Roman sword, short, with a sharp point and two sharp edges. It was a light, well-balanced sword and was the greatest weapon used by the Romans. Their enemies laughed when they first saw it, but with it Rome conquered the world. The Romans learned how to use this sword and could defeat others with much longer and heavier swords.

It was not a "dolon" which was a sword concealed in a cane. It was not the "ramphaia" which was a great, heavy sword and the soldier got off balance when he tried to use it. This sword was not the "akinakes" which was a very ornate sword made of ivory or silver or gold. It wasn't good for killing anything. Neither was it the "xziphos" which was a very heavy sword with a sharp point. But God the Holy Spirit picked out the word "machaira" and it is a perfect description of the cutting power of the Word of God.

Piercing

This is from "diikeneomai" and means penetrating, breaking through. The next words are "dividing asunder" and they come from "achri merismos" and it means the Word of God reaches its objective. It never fails.