

God's Word and the Word of Men

! The Bible is God-breathed, the result of the work of the Spirit. It *is* the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Peter 1:20-21

Hebrews 1:5; 3:7

Dictation could describe at least portions of the Bible (Exodus

20:1-17; Exodus 31:18 [but see also Exodus 34:27-28];

Jeremiah 21:11-14)

see also *Westminster Confession of Faith* 1:4

The Bible is inerrant and infallible



! The Bible is also the word of the men God used to write it.

Hebrews 4:7 (quoting the same Psalm introduced in Hebrews 3:7)

Luke 1:1-4 shows that Luke studied other accounts

Paul is conscious of a difference between his (inspired) writing and the words of the Lord, 1 Corinthians 7:10,12

Jeremiah 20:7-18 and many Psalms are clear expressions of the thoughts of the author

Being human does *not* equate with fallible *in this case*.

! Do justice to both the human and divine aspects of the Bible

- Parallel to the incarnation of Christ
- 2 Peter 3:14-16

! for discussion: What problems result from failing to appreciate the divine character of Scripture? Are there problems that result from failing to appreciate its humanity?

“Mark is generally supposed to have been the private friend and disciple of Peter. It is even believed that he wrote the Gospel, as it was dictated to him by Peter, and thus merely performed the office of an amanuensis or clerk. But on this subject we need not give ourselves much trouble, for it is of little importance to us, provided only we believe that he is a properly qualified and divinely appointed witness, who committed nothing to writing, but as the Holy Spirit directed him and guided his pen.” John Calvin, *Commentary on the Harmony of the Gospels*

“Luke adopted a conscientious and prudent course [in addressing his Gospel to Theophilus].” John Calvin, commenting on Luke 1:1-4

Note: Several people who were part of the discussion on the nature of Scripture last Lord's Day had to be absent today (for unrelated reasons). Thus the lesson this morning is being recorded. If you would like a copy, please speak to Pastor Mahaffy.