

THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE (1 Corinthians 2:9-13)

I. The revelation of the message (vs. 9-11).

- A. Paul quotes from Isaiah 64:4.
 - 1. He tells us that up until that time, men did not understand the mystery of the gospel.
 - 2. Peter tells us that the prophets and angels wanted to know the plan (1 Peter 1:10-12).
- B. Now, God revealed it to the apostles and inspired men.
 - 1. He did this by the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to the apostles (John 16:12-13).
 - b. He revealed the message to men (Ephesians 3:3-5).
 - 2. The Holy Spirit guided men in what to write, using His words with their style of writing and speaking (2 Peter 1:20-21).
- C. This is called verbal plenary inspiration.
 - 1. Every word of the text is inspired.
 - 2. The Holy Spirit moved the writer to write exactly what God wanted written down for us.
 - 3. It is not some mechanical dictation because we can all see the personality of each writer in his work.
- D. If God had not done this, there is no way that you and I could ever know the will of God.
 - 1. Isaiah 55:9.
 - 2. Only the Holy Spirit could reveal to us the mind and will of God.
 - 3. He did this by revealing the message to the apostles and prophets (Ephesians 3:5).

II. The reception of the message (vs. 12).

- A. Paul states emphatically that He received God's word from the Holy Spirit.
- B. He didn't receive a message using the teaching of the world.
 - 1. This is referring to the Greek philosophy that was plaguing the Corinthians.
 - 2. This type of thinking is alive and well today.
 - 3. It is the thinking of what is called postmodernism.
 - a. This teaches the Bible is a dead letter.
 - b. It is dead because it is from man.
 - c. It teaches that we have to interpret the Bible for ourselves.
 - 4. This thinking is false because the Bible did not come from men (2 Peter 1:21).
 - 5. It is not dead (Hebrews 4:12).
 - 6. God confounds the so-called wise because He did not use a means or method that they would have chosen (1 Corinthians 1:25-29).
- C. Paul received a message given by revelation of God.
 - 1. This is exactly what Peter said.
 - 2. This is exactly what Paul told the Ephesians.

3. This is what Jesus promised the apostles.
- D. When you and I, and anyone else, picks up and opens a Bible, we are reading the very words of God.
 1. God used the Holy Spirit to inspire men to write down His exact message.
 2. Because of the proofs mentioned in the introduction, we don't have to doubt that what we have is the will of God for man today.
- E. The reason for this is found at the end of verse 12.
 1. God has freely given us His message.
 2. He wants us to know, understand and obey it.

III. The recitation of the message (vs. 13).

- A. Paul proclaims that the message he preached and the words he wrote are exactly what God wanted said.
- B. Paul did not come to them with big, flowing words (1 Corinthians 2:1).
 1. He did not come with fancy speech.
 2. He came with the words the Holy Spirit wanted used.
- C. Paul most definitely could have used great flowing words.
 1. He had the training to do so.
 2. He quoted from the pagan poets (Acts 17:28).
- D. He did not because God did not intend for fancy words to save, just the basic message of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and our response to that message.
- E. The Spirit allowed this to take place by comparing spiritual ideas with spiritual words so there would be no doubt as to what was being taught.