

DOCTRINE OF THE SCRIPTURES IN 1 & 2 PETER (Based Primarily on the NASB Text)

- I. Designations For The Scriptures
 - A. Scripture(s) (1 Peter 2:6; 2 Peter 1:20; 3:16). Emphasizes the written record of God's Word to man.
 - B. The truth (1 Peter 1:22; 2 Peter 1:12). Indicates the veracity of the Scriptures.
 - C. The "good news" (1 Peter 1:25 [literal translation, NASB margin]), the gospel (1 Peter 4:6), or the gospel of God (1 Peter 4:17).
 - D. The word of God (1 Peter 1:23) or the word of the Lord (1 Peter 1:25). Reveals the divine source of the Scriptures. Note: "Word of God" in 2 Peter 3:5,7 probably refers to the spoken decree of God rather than to the written word of God.
 - E. His promise(s) (2 Peter 1:4; 3:9,13). Stresses the faithfulness of God to fulfill His word.
 - F. Prophetic word (2 Peter 1:19) or prophecy (2 Peter 1:20,21). Both of these terms probably refer to the entire Old Testament as prophetic.
 - G. Imperishable seed (implied) (1 Peter 1:23). Infers that the Scriptures are durable and that they produce spiritual life and growth.
 - H. The pure milk of the word (1 Peter 2:2). Pictures the Scriptures as the basic all-sufficient spiritual food for the believer's growth in grace.
 - I. The word (1 Peter 2:8). Probably refers to the basic gospel message of Christ in both verbal and written form. "Without a word" (1 Peter 3:1) most likely refers to behavior and the witness of conduct not words.
 - J. The utterances of God (1 Peter 4:11). Refers to words from God's mouth, especially as recorded in the Scriptures.
 - K. The holy commandment (2 Peter 2:21). Describes the purity of God's moral declarations.
 - L. The true proverb (2 Peter 2:22). Indicates the veracity of Old Testament Scripture (cf. Proverbs 26:11).
 - M. The words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets (2 Peter 3:2). Probably refers to Old Testament revelation (cf. 2 Peter 1:19-21).
 - N. The command of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles (2 Peter 3:2). Evidently refers to New Testament apostolic teaching.

- II. Inspiration Of The Scriptures
 - A. The source of inspiration
 1. Positive
 - a. From God (1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:21).
 - b. From the Lord (1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 3:2).
 2. Negative
 - a. Not from human origination, "*no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation*" (2 Peter 1:20). This verse deals with the origin of Scripture as pertains to revelation and inspiration and not with the understanding or interpretation of Scripture subsequent to its revelation.
 - b. Not by human volition (2 Peter 1:21).

- B. The instrument of inspiration: Specially selected men of God
 - 1. Through men moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21)
 - 2. Through men who spoke from God (1 Peter 1:21)
 - 3. Through holy prophets (1 Peter 1:10; 2 Peter 3:2)
 - 4. Through apostles (2 Peter 3:2)
 - a. Peter (1 Peter 1:1; 5:12; 2 Peter 1:1; 3:1)
 - b. Paul (2 Peter 3:15)
- C. The method of inspiration: The controlling power of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21; cf. 1 Peter 1:11)

III. Characteristics Of The Scriptures

- A. They are truth (1 Peter 1:22; 2 Peter 1:12,19 (implied) (see point I.B.).
- B. They contain good news (1 Peter 1:25; cf. "gospel" in 1 Peter 4:6,17) (see point I.C.).
- C. They are credible (2 Peter 1:16-21; 2:5-8,15-16; 3:4-8; cf. implication of credibility in 1 Peter 1:22; 2 Peter 1:12, "the truth"). Emphasizes that the Scriptures are to be unreservedly believed in sharp contrast to the incredibility of "*cleverly devised tales*" (2 Peter 1:16).
- D. They were sometimes written in the form of letters (1 Peter 5:12; 2 Peter 3:1; 3:15,16).
- E. They contain prophetic material (1 Peter 1:10; 2 Peter 1:19-21).
- F. They are a divine-human product (1 Peter 1:10,11; 2 Peter 1:21).
- G. They are eternal (1 Peter 1:23,25).
- H. They emphasize the grace revealed during the present age (1 Peter 1:10; cf. v. 12).
- I. They predict "*the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow*" (1 Peter 1:11).
- J. They are authoritative ("*because it is written*" 1 Peter 1:16; cf. v. 15).
- K. They are spiritual seed (1 Peter 1:23). (see point I.G.).
- L. They are alive (1 Peter 1:23).
- M. They are imperishable (1 Peter 1:23).
- N. They are spiritual food (1 Peter 2:2). (see point I.H.)
- O. They are pure (or unadulterated) (1 Peter 2:2). Describes the Scriptures as an honest message, i.e., without any deceit.
- P. They are written to exhort and to testify of the true grace of God (1 Peter 5:12).
- Q. They contain God's precious and magnificent promises (2 Peter 1:4).
- R. They are compared "*to a lamp shining in a dark place*" (2 Peter 1:19). Indicates the spiritual illumination and direction given by the Scriptures.
- S. They are sure (2 Peter 1:19).
- T. They are holy (2 Peter 2:21).
- U. They should be remembered (2 Peter 3:2; cf. 1:13).
- V. They include Paul's letters as well as the Old Testament (2 Peter 3:15,16).
- W. They contain some difficult things to understand (2 Peter 3:16).
- X. They may be distorted by the untaught and unstable (2 Peter 3:16).

IV. Results Of The Scriptures

A. For those who obey the Scriptures

1. Purification of the soul for sincere love of the brethren (1 Peter 1:22).
2. Regeneration of the person (1 Peter 1:23)
3. Production of spiritual growth (1 Peter 2:2).
4. Establishment in the truth (2 Peter 1:12).
5. Fellowship with the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4).
6. Provision of spiritual light in the midst of spiritual darkness (2 Peter 1:19)
7. Protection in a time of apostasy (2 Peter 3:1,2).

B. For those who disobey the Scriptures

1. They experience Christ as a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense (1 Peter 2:8).
2. They bring judgment and destruction upon themselves (1 Peter 4:17).
3. They lead others astray (2 Peter 2:2).
4. They cause the way of truth to be maligned (2 Peter 2:2).

V. Responsibility to the Scriptures

A. Should be obeyed (1 Peter 1:22).

B. Should be preached (1 Peter 1:25).

C. Should determine the content of Christian speaking (1 Peter 4:11).

D. Should be spoken to God's glory (1 Peter 4:11).

E. Should be committed to memory (2 Peter 1:15).

F. Should be heeded (2 Peter 1:19).

G. Should be treated believingly, reverently, and honestly

1. Do not contradict or distort the truth of Scripture (2 Peter 2:1).
2. Do not mock or question the promises of Scripture (2 Peter 3:3-5).
3. Do not twist the real meaning of Scripture (2 Peter 3:16).

VI. Canonicity Of The Scriptures

A. Includes at least the Old Testament writings (2 Peter 1:19-21; 3:2; cf. 1 Peter 1:10,11)

B. Includes Peter's letters (1 Peter 1:1; 5:12; 2 Peter 1:1; 3:1)

C. Includes Paul's letters (2 Peter 3:15,16; cf. 3:2)

D. Includes the writings of other apostles (2 Peter 3:2).