

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About... Inspiration from God

The apostle Paul wrote the majority of the New Testament in letters [epistles] to the early churches, giving them, as well as us, instructions from the Holy Spirit the revelation from God. Paul called himself "the least of the apostles" because he persecuted the church of God (1 Cor. 15:9). When Paul was on the road to Damascus with the intention of persecuting more Christians, a "very bright light from heaven" surrounded him. When Paul asked, "who are you, Lord?" Jesus said, "I am Jesus the Nazarene whom you are persecuting" (Acts 22:6, 8). Jesus told Paul to "go into Damascus and you will be told what is appointed for you to do" (Acts 22:10). Paul arrived in Damascus and "A certain man named Ananias" told Paul "The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth. For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard" (Acts 22:12-15).

In his letter to the Galatians Paul defined this eye-witness account as a revelation from God. Paul said, "I neither received it [the gospel] from man nor was I taught it [from men] (Gal. 1:11-12). Paul said "I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood" [other men, including his fellow apostles]. This revelation was directly from God and did not come from the wisdom of man.

The apostle Peter wrote, "But know this first of all, that no prophesy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophesy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (2 Pet. 1:20-21).

The New Testament was written by eye-witnesses of Jesus Christ and when they died there was no further revelation given. Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, wrote, "I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints" (Jude 3). This verse indicates that there will be no further revelations given by God. However, over the course of the centuries false prophets, such as Mohammed and Joseph Smith, as well as many others, claim to have received a revelation from God and have led many astray, being neither eye-witnesses of Jesus nor inspired by the true God.

Peter wrote, "For we [apostles] did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye-witnesses of His majesty. So we [apostles] have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as a lamp shining in a dark place..." (2 Pet. 1:16, 19).

The Bible is God's inspired word, the Creator's only written revelation. Jesus told His twelve disciples, "When He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth...and He will disclose to you what is to come" (John 16:13).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:
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