



Lecture # 14 Part 3

Specific Claims for the Inspiration of the New Testament

THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITINGS ARE SPIRIT-DIRECTED

The assumption that there is a valid connection between apostolic teaching and the New Testament writings is substantiated abundantly by both general and specific reference in the New Testament.

GENERAL CLAIM THAT THE WHOLE NEW TESTAMENT IS SPIRIT-DIRECTED

Specific claims

There are specific claims of apostolic authority in the New Testament that admit of a wide application. Paul told his sons in the faith to “**prescribe**” his teachings ([1 Timothy 4:11](#)) “**with all authority**” ([Titus 2:15](#)) and hinged his authority and even the veracity of the gospel itself on his apostleship ([Galatians 1:1, 12](#)).

[1 Timothy 4:11 \(NASB\)](#)

¹¹ **Prescribe and teach these things.**

(**Prescribe** “*parangellō*” this is an imperative command)

[Titus 2:15 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁵ **These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.**

[Galatians 1:1 \(NASB\)](#)

¹ **Paul, an apostle (not *sent* from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead),**

[Galatians 1:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹² **For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.**

On another occasion Paul wrote, “**If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that man and do not associate with him**” ([2 Thessalonians 3:14](#)).

[2 Thessalonians 3:14 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁴ **If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.**



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Likewise, Peter reminded the believers of apostolic authority, saying, “Remember ... the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles” ([2 Peter 3:2](#)).

[2 Peter 3:2 \(NASB\)](#)

² that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles.

In effect, the authority of an apostle was the authority of Christ, and the only credential necessary to commend the authority of any particular writing **was its apostolicity**.

Books were to be circulated

One final consideration that manifests the high regard for New Testament writings by the first-century church is the fact that the books **were commanded to be circulated, read in the churches, and collected**.

It is obvious that Peter had a collection of Paul’s books ([2 Peter 3:15–16](#)), and Paul distinctly “**enjoined**” (**imperative command to do something**) the Colossians to read and circulate their epistle ([Colossians 4:16](#)).

[2 Peter 3:15-16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

¹⁶ as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

[Colossians 4:16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁶ When this letter is read among you, **have it also read in the church** of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter *that is coming* from Laodicea.

The Thessalonians, too, were charged to read their epistle ([1 Thessalonians 5:27](#)).

[1 Thessalonians 5:27 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁷ I **adjure** you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.

[1 Thessalonians 5:27 \(KJV\)](#)

²⁷ I **charge** you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

(**Adjure** or **charge** “*horkizō*” to *put on oath*, i.e. *make swear*)

Such regard shows that the books had for them not only a spiritual value but a divine origin (cf. the Jews who read and preserved God’s Word, [Deuteronomy 31:26](#)).



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Deuteronomy 31:26 (NASB)

²⁶ “Take this book of the law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may remain there as a witness against you.”

In general, then, the New Testament writings as a whole claim to be “**Scripture**,” “**prophetic writings**,” **authoritative** and **divine**. This is the same as saying they are inspired of God.

SPECIFIC CLAIMS THAT NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS ARE INSPIRED

Not only did Jesus promise divine guidance, and the New Testament as a whole claim to be the product of that guidance, but each individual New Testament book contains a claim to substantiate that position. A brief survey will suffice to support this point.

Matthew

This gospel begins, “**The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ**,” which, by linking Christ’s lineage to the record of the Old Testament, is a tacit acknowledgment that this book is a continuation of Messianic truth.

In fact, there is implied in the repeated assertion that Christ is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy (cf. [Matthew 5:17–18, 21](#)) that this book is an authoritative account of that fulfillment in Christ.

Matthew 5:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

¹⁸ “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Matthew 5:21 (NASB)

²¹ “You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’

The author closes his book with the command of Christ to teach the truth of Christ to all nations ([Matthew 28:18–20](#)), which by implication is precisely what the book of Matthew is professing to do (cf. [Matthew 10:7](#)).

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”



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Matthew 10:7 (NASB)

⁷ "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Mark

Mark is entitled "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet."

Mark 1:1-2 (NASB)

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY;

Like Matthew, there is no explicit claim to authority; it is merely assumed throughout (cf. [Matthew 13:11](#)).

Matthew 13:11 (NASB)

¹¹ Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

Because Mark was associated with Peter ([1 Peter 5:13](#)), many take Mark to be Peter's gospel.

1 Peter 5:13 (NASB)

¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and *so does* my son, Mark.

Luke

This book has a statement about its own character. In his writing Luke claims that it is an authentic "account of the things accomplished [by God through Christ]" that Theophilus "might know the exact truth about the things you have been taught" ([Luke 1:1, 4](#)). Because Luke was closely associated with Paul, it has an apostolic connection as well.

Luke 1:1 (NASB)

¹ Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us,

Luke 1:4 (NASB)

⁴ so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

John

John is likewise clear about the nature of his gospel, saying that it is written "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" ([John 20:31](#)).

John 20:31 (NASB)

³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the



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Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

He further adds, “**This is the disciple who bears witness of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his witness is true**” ([John 21:24](#); cf. [John 14:26](#), [John 16:13](#)).

John 21:24 (NASB)

²⁴ **This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true.**

John 14:26 (NASB)

²⁶ **“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**

John 16:13 (NASB)

¹³ **“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.**

Acts

As a continuation of Luke and of what Jesus “**began to do and teach**” ([Acts 1:1](#)), Acts claims to be an authentic record of the teaching (and working) of Christ through the apostles.

Acts 1:1 (NASB)

¹ **The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach,**