



## CTS Syllabus

### Course Information

#### 1. Course Description

This is a study of the Inspiration, Canonization, Transmission, and Translation of the Holy Scriptures that comprise the supernatural book of ancient literature known as the Bible. The Bible—God’s Word—the very words of God written down in the words of men and delivered to us through the ages of time by virtue of a methodical and supernatural process. The Bible—infused with supreme authority and intensely practical—given as a gift of God’s grace to govern all areas and issues pertaining to life and godliness among men of the past, present, and future generations.

This study will take us through a four step process used to describe the manner in which the Word of God was given, received, written down, and translated into the languages of men. First, we will study the process of inspiration where God imbues His message with His authority. Second, we will study how men came to recognize God’s authority in the writings He inspired. Third, we will study the methods and practices used to record the original manuscripts and preserve copies of those original manuscripts through the ages of time. And finally, we will study the procedure involved in translating God’s ancient and eternal Word from copies of manuscripts in the original languages to the copies we possess in the languages of men from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation on earth today.

#### 2. Objectives

##### Introduction

“We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.”

This is the first Article of Faith of a great many churches. The first statement is, “We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired.” This brings us at once to the subject of the inspiration of the Scriptures. The word inspiration is derived from the Latin word *inspiro*, which means to breathe on or to breathe into. That is the literal meaning of the word.

The theological meaning is to breathe on or to breathe into for the purpose of conveying the Holy Spirit, in order that those inspired may speak or write what God would have spoken or written. That is inspiration.

A Scriptural example of this is found in [John 20:22](#): “**And when He had said this, He breathed on them and \*said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."** That gives us the true conception of inspiration. Following that, [verse 23](#) gives the result: “**If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.**” That is, an inspired man can declare exactly the terms of remission of sins, and the terms upon which sins cannot be remitted, because he is speaking for God.



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The book that a man, so breathed on, writes is called *theopneustos*, a Greek word meaning “God-inspired.”

Example:

“And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness” [2 Timothy 3:15, 16](#).

After God breathed into man the Holy Spirit in order that he should accurately write the things which God wanted written, then the book that he wrote was called *theopneustos*. So that this second passage is a very important one in discussing inspiration, probably the most important in the whole Bible.

If the book is God-inspired, then it is God’s book and not man’s book.

**4. Video(s) & Text(s):** This course requires the following book(s) and to watch the posted lecture video(s).

- 1) Geisler, Norman L.: *A General Introduction to the Bible*: Moody Publishers, Chicago, Illinois 60610 1986 (ISBN: 978-0-8024-2916-2)
- 2) Sproul, R.C.: *Scripture Alone*: P&R Publishing, Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865 (ISBN: 10:1-59638-010-1 ; ISBN: 13:978-1-59638-101-3)

**Recommended Reading:** Throughout the course, Dr. Ildefonso will identify books that you will find helpful for further study. You will want to note the many books related to topics covered in the lectures.

**5. Exams:** There will be (2) Exams which will be emailed to each student completion of [Module #8 & Module #16 assignments](#). Exams will be due 10 days from the date the exams are emailed – the due date will be indicated in the email.

Completed exams are to be emailed to Dr. Eddie Ildefonso:  
[eildefonso@Covingtonseminary.org](mailto:eildefonso@Covingtonseminary.org)

**NOTE:** Students will be responsible for reading the assigned text books in their entirety and viewing all posted lecture videos. The Final Exam may include questions from the text that was not included in course lectures.

## 6. Class Calendar

**Lecture 1:** [The Structure and Divisions of the Bible](#)

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 1; Sproul Introduction

**Lecture 2:** [Definitions of Revelation and Inspiration](#)

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 2; Sproul Chapter 1



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### Lecture 3: Scriptural Claims for Inspiration in General

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 3; Sproul Chapter 2

### Lecture 4: Specific Claims of Inspiration in the Old Testament

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 4; Sproul Chapter 3

### Lecture 5: Supporting Claims for the Inspiration of the Old Testament

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 5; Sproul Chapter 4

### Lecture 6: Specific Claims for the Inspiration of the New Testament

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 6; Sproul Chapter 5

### Lecture 7: The Continuation of the Doctrine of Inspiration to the Reformation

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 7; Sproul Chapter 6

### Lecture 8: Doctrines of Inspiration since the Reformation

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 8; Sproul Chapter 7

## ***MID-TERM EXAM – SENT TO STUDENT ON 8<sup>TH</sup> WEEK OF STUDY***

***Due Date: 10 days from date email sent – will be indicated in email***

### Lecture 9: Divergent Views of Revelation and Inspiration in the Modern World

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 9; Sproul Chapter 8

### Lecture 10: Contemporary Theories of Revelation and Inspiration

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 10; Sproul Chapter 9

### Lecture 11: Evidences for the Inspiration of the Bible

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 11; Sproul Chapter 10

### Lecture 12: Determination of Canonicity

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 12; Sproul Appendix 1

### Lecture 13: The Discovery and Recognition of Canonicity

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 13; Sproul Appendix 2

### Lecture 14: Development and History of the Old Testament Canon

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 14;

### Lecture 15: The Old Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 15;

### Lecture 16: Development & History of the New Testament Canon

**Reading Assignment:** Geisler Chapter 16;

## ***FINAL EXAM – SENT TO STUDENT ON 16<sup>TH</sup> WEEK OF STUDY***



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*Due Date: 10 days from date email sent – will be indicated in email*