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(Continuation from 10/16/13)

THE RADICAL EXPERIMENT ONE YEAR TO A LIFE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

(2 Timothy 3:10-17)

The second challenge in the Radical Experiment is to read through the entire Word. And I mean just that. Systematically read through the entire Bible— Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 and all **31,101** verses in between— over the course of a year.

Our brothers and sisters around the world often gather at the risk of their lives to hear and know God's Word. If you and I are going to join them in radical obedience to Christ, we need to start with our Bibles open and our minds engaged. We have settled far too long for "Bible lite," both as individual Christians and in the community of faith. We have adopted a Christianity consumed with little devotional thoughts from God for the day, supplemented by teaching in the church filled with entertaining stories and trite opinions on how to be a better person and live a better life in the twenty-first century.

Meanwhile, we hold the matchless Word of God in our hands, and it demands a superior position in our lives, our families, our small groups, and our churches. Do we realize the battle that is waging around us? There is a true God over this world who wants all people to bow at the feet of a loving Savior, and there is a false god in this world who wants all people to burn in hell. The battle is intense, and it cannot be fought with little thoughts in daily devotional or petty ideas from a preacher on Sunday. It certainly can't be fought with minds numbed by the constant drivel of entertainment on television, DVDs, video games, and the Internet. If you and I are going to penetrate our culture and the cultures of the world with the gospel, we desperately need minds saturated with God's Word.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ "**All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.**"

(2 Timothy 3:16) Scripture: Scripture is inspired by God. This is an extremely important verse in understanding the nature of Scripture, that is, in understanding just what the Scripture is, its nature and authority.

Note several facts.

1. Paul was, of course, referring to the Old Testament Scriptures; the New Testament Scriptures had not yet been completed. However, this passage is certainly applicable to the New Testament.

William Barclay says: “If what Paul claims for Scripture is true of the Old Testament, how much truer it is of the still more precious words of the New Testament” (*The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*, p.229).

A.T. Robertson, the great Greek scholar, says: “There is no doubt that the apostles claimed to speak by the help of the Holy Spirit ([1 Thessalonians 5:27](#); [Colossians 4:16](#)) just as the prophets of old did ([1 Peter 1:20](#))....Peter thus puts Paul’s epistles on the same plane with the O.T.” (*Word Pictures in the New Testament*, [Vol.6, p.179](#)).

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

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

[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.**”

[1 Peter 1:20 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁰ “**For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.**”

The point is this: all Scripture—both the Old and New Testament—is inspired by God.

2. Scripture is inspired by God; the phrase “**inspired of God**” (*theopneustos*) means *God-breathed*. What does this mean? What does it mean to say that *God breathed* the Holy Scriptures? No one can say for sure, but this much can be said.

⇒ The idea is that *God breathed out* the Scripture or *God produced* the Scripture somewhat like He did creation.

[Psalm 33:6 \(NASB\)](#)

⁶ “**By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.**”

Note: it is the Scripture that is inspired, **not the man**. The Bible does not claim to be written by inspired men. It does claim that the writing is supernaturally given or breathed by God. The Scripture is *breathed out by God, not breathed into by God*. **The meaning is this:** the writing is supernaturally given or breathed by God. The Bible claims to be the Word given by the creative breath of God.

The great Greek scholar **A.T. Robertson** again says: “God-breathed...[this] is in contrast to the commandments of men” (*Word Pictures in the New Testament*, [Vol.4, p.627](#)).

The great Bible expositor **Matthew Henry** says: “It [Scripture] is a divine revelation, which we may depend upon as infallibly true. The same Spirit that breathed reason into

us breathes revelation among us: For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men spoke as they were moved or carried forth by the Holy Ghost, [2 Peter 1:21](#). The prophets and apostles did not speak from themselves, but what they received of the Lord that they delivered unto us” (*Matthew Henry’s Commentary*, Vol.5, p.846f).

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NASB)

²⁰ “**But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation,**

²¹ **for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”**

The excellent preacher **Oliver Greene** says: “God Almighty is sovereign; and if we are saved through the power of the Gospel; if the Gospel makes us wise unto salvation; if it is not God’s will that any man perish but that all come to repentance, we can rest assured that He has preserved and protected His holy Scriptures down through the centuries!...Anything we need to know about our relationship to God and His relationship to us is found in the Bible. We need no added books, and we cannot afford to take any away. If we add to or take from His Word, God will take away our part out of the book of life. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. 'Given by inspiration of God,' according to the Greek dictionary, is one Greek word, meaning 'God-breathed'” (*The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to Timothy and Titus*, p.355).

3. The accuracy and dependability of Scripture is clearly seen when one studies what Scripture has to say about itself. (See below [Deeper Study #6—1 Thessalonians 2:13; Deeper Study #7—2 Peter 1:19-21](#)).

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NASB)

¹³ “**For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.”**

a. The Holy Spirit is the author of the Scriptures ([2 Peter 1:19-21](#), esp. [2 Peter 1:21](#)). The *word of prophecy* is more accurately translated *prophetic word*. The origin of Scripture is not found in the will of man, that is, in his attempt to find truth and to interpret truth. But it is found in the Word of the Holy Spirit who reveals truth to man (cp. [John 16:12-15](#); [1 Corinthians 2:9-10](#)).

2 Peter 1:19-21 (NASB)

¹⁹ “**So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.**

²⁰ **But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation,**

²¹ **for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”**

2 Peter 1:21 (NASB)

²¹“For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

John 16:12-15 (NASB)

¹²“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.

¹³But 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.

¹⁴He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

¹⁵All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.”

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (NASB)

⁹“But just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

¹⁰For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.”

b. The writers of the **Old Testament** claim that the Bible is the Word of God (**2 Samuel 23:1-3; Isaiah 8:1, 11; Jeremiah 1:9; Jeremiah 5:14; Jeremiah 7:27; Jeremiah 13:12; Jeremiah 23:29; Ezekiel 3:4-11; Micah 3:8; Habakkuk 2:2; Zechariah 4:8**). They refer to Scripture as “the Word,” “the Statutes,” “the Law,” and “the Testimonies” (cp. **Psalm 19:1; Psalm 119:1**). “Thus saith the Lord” or an equivalent phrase is used over two thousand times in the Old Testament alone.

2 Samuel 23:1-3 (NASB)

¹“Now these are the last words of David. David the son of Jesse declares, The man who was raised on high declares, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel,

²The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.

³The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me, 'He who rules over men righteously, Who rules in the fear of God.’”

Isaiah 8:1 (NASB)

¹“Then the LORD said to me, ‘Take for yourself a large tablet and write on it in ordinary letters: Swift is the booty, speedy is the prey.’”

Isaiah 8:11 (NASB)

¹¹“For thus the LORD spoke to me with mighty power and instructed me not to walk in the way of this people, saying.”

Jeremiah 1:9 (NASB)

⁹“Then the LORD stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, ‘Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.’”

Jeremiah 5:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, ‘Because you have spoken this word, Behold, I am making My words in your mouth fire And this people wood, and it will consume them.’”

Jeremiah 7:27 (NASB)

²⁷“You shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you; and you shall call to them, but they will not answer you.”

Jeremiah 13:12 (NASB)

¹²“Therefore you are to speak this word to them, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Every jug is to be filled with wine. And when they say to you, Do we not very well know that every jug is to be filled with wine?’”

Jeremiah 23:29 (NASB)

²⁹“Is not My word like fire?” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?”

Ezekiel 3:4-11 (NASB)

⁴“Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.

⁵ For you are not being sent to a people of unintelligible speech or difficult language, *but* to the house of Israel,

⁶ nor to many peoples of unintelligible speech or difficult language, whose words you cannot understand. But I have sent you to them who should listen to you;’

⁷ yet the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, since they are not willing to listen to Me. Surely the whole house of Israel is stubborn and obstinate.

⁸ Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces and your forehead as hard as their foreheads.

⁹ Like emery harder than flint I have made your forehead. Do not be afraid of them or be dismayed before them, though they are a rebellious house.

¹⁰ Moreover, He said to me, ‘Son of man, take into your heart all My words which I will speak to you and listen closely.’

¹¹ Go to the exiles, to the sons of your people, and speak to them and tell them, whether they listen or not, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’”

Micah 3:8 (NASB)

⁸“On the other hand I am filled with power— With the Spirit of the LORD— And with justice and courage To make known to Jacob his rebellious act, Even to Israel his sin.”

Habakkuk 2:2 (NASB)

²“Then the LORD answered me and said, ‘Record the vision And inscribe it on tablets, That the one who reads it may run.’”

Zechariah 4:8 (NASB)

⁸“Also the word of the LORD came to me, saying.”