

DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

**A Programmed Course for
Theological Education for Extension**

**by
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DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Course description:

Bibliology, the doctrine of the Scriptures, is presented in simple programmed form to enable lay pastors and other Christian workers to understand what the Bible is, how we know it is the inspired Word of God, how it came into being and how to use it properly.

Target Population:

Lay pastors or other Christian workers.

Prerequisites:

General knowledge of the Bible, some experience in pastoral work or other Christian service; as a minimum, a sixth grade education.

Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. State what the Bible is.
2. Show why the Bible is necessary.
3. Explain the nature, manner and extent of divine inspiration.
4. Explain the difference between inspiration and revelation.
5. Answer five false theories of inspiration.
6. Prove that the Bible is the inspired Word of God by means of the internal and external evidences.
7. Demonstrate the solution to problem passages.
8. Show how we know our Bible is faithful to the original manuscripts.
9. Describe the way in which the canon was formed.
10. Explain the need for and the mode of Biblical illumination.
11. Complete statements of seven rules for correct Bible interpretation.

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to the study of Bibliology! This course will aid you greatly in your service for the Lord, as it will help you to understand the origin and nature of your most important tool, the Bible.

This is a programmed course; the lessons are divided into small steps or “frames” of learning. In each frame, you are to actively participate in the learning process by answering a question, filling in a blank, choosing between various possible answers or whatever other activity is required in the frame.

After writing your answer, you will find the correct answer given in the space following the frame. This correct answer, called the “feedback,” is provided so that you can check your response. You are to compare your response with that given in the feedback. If you wrote no answer, **write** in the correct response as given in the feedback. This is very important.

You are not to look at the feedback until after you have written your own response. For this reason, use a small sheet of thick paper as a mask or shield to cover the feedback. You will note that there is a dotted line at the end of each frame; position the mask at the level of the dotted line while you read the frame and write your response. To check your answer, drop the mask to the next dotted line. You’ll note that there is a small square in the left margin at the level of the feedback; this will help you know how far down to drop your mask.

Example:

5-3 What do you understand the phrase “verbal inspiration” to mean? (ow) _____

Inspiration extends to the very words used by the writers.

.....

That the very words used by the writers are inspired.

5-4 Explain the phrase “plenary inspiration.” (ow) _____

.....

M A S K

The following suggestions are given to help you derive the maximum profit from this course:

1. Try to study at least one lesson daily; the lapse of several days between lessons interrupts the logical process and hinders learning.
2. Before beginning your study each day, review the previous lesson.
3. Read each item **carefully** before making your response.
4. **Always** read the feedback, even though you are sure your response is correct.
5. After checking your response, drop the mask immediately to the next dotted line, thus exposing completely the following frame.
6. As to the Bible passages that you are asked to read:
 - a. read the passage, even though you believe you know it by heart;
 - b. keep your Bible open to the passage indicated; sometimes various frames are based on one passage.
7. If you find a word you don't understand, look it up in a dictionary.
8. Don't interrupt the study of each lesson until finishing it.

You'll notice that some of the response blanks include the following sign: (ow). This stands for "own words," and means that your response can be formulated in your own words, but that it should be equivalent to the correct response given in the feedback.

It's a good idea to begin each lesson with a time of prayer, asking for the help of the Holy Spirit in understanding and utilizing the truths contained in the course. God ahead now with the study of the first lesson, and may the Lord guide you in the learning process.

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