

## The Doctrine of the Word: Part 1

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine . . . “ 2 Tim 3:16

All doctrinal issues must be grounded in the Word of God. Tell me what you believe about the Word of God and I can tell you what your doctrine will look like. Jesus held a high view of Scripture and we should do no less. The following is a sketch of Jesus’ view of Scripture. He believed that the Bible was:

1. **Inspired** – Mt 22:43-45 When David wrote the words of Psalm 110:1, Jesus said he was “in the Spirit” under God’s inspiration (2 Pet 1:16-21).
2. **Authoritative** – Jesus believed that the Bible was the ultimate source of truth and authority from God (Mt 4:4, 7; Jn 8:31-32; 17:17-19).
3. **Historical** – Jesus believed the Bible was historically reliable. He refers to Jonah (Mt 12:39-40) and Noah (Mt 24:37-39) as historical figures.
4. **Immutable** – The Bible is an absolute message. God will change no part, or even the smallest part of a word in Scripture (Mt 5:17-20).
5. **Infallible** – The Bible is literally true. Its purpose, message, ideas and words will not lead us astray (Lk 24:25-27, 44-49; Jn 10:34-39; Acts 1:1-3).
6. **Inerrant** – He chided the Sadducees for denying the resurrection because it was clearly taught in Scripture (Mt 22:29-33).
7. **Cohesive** – The Bible is a unity of 66 books written over 1400 years with at least 40 human authors. It has a unity of theme and purpose that centers in Christ (Lk 24:27, 44; Jn 5:39-40).
8. **Sufficient** – Jesus believed that the Word of God was sufficient to meet all our needs (Mt 4:4; Lk 16:27-31).
9. **Understandable** – Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us understand that the Bible teaches us about Him (Mt 13:10-17; Jn 16:13-15; 1 Cor 1:4-25).

Paul, therefore, characterized the Bible as “profitable” for “doctrine, reproof, correction, for instruction in righteousness” to equip us for “every good work” (2 Tim 3:16-17).

Lamar E. Cooper, Sr.