

because everything included in Scripture has been selected under the guidance of divine inspiration, and because even the sins of men are interpreted within a context of divine redemption and divine judgment, therefore Scripture in its entirety is an objective, historical Special Revelation from and of God. Every bit of God's Revelation in Scripture tells us something about God's nature, God's will, or God's works!

Inspiration

Although Louis Gausses and B. B. Warfield (together with a number of other writers) give good definitions of inspiration, the definition proposed by Francis L. Patton (in a slightly modified form) seems to be most helpful. This definition states:

Inspiration is a special act of the Holy Spirit by which He guided the writers of the books of sacred Scripture, so that their words should convey the thoughts He wished conveyed, should bear a proper relationship to the thoughts of the other books of Scripture, and should be kept free from error in thought, fact, doctrine and judgment.

Upon analysis, we notice five emphases in this definition:

- (1) Inspiration is more than an expression of man's natural gifts: it is more than providential guidance or illumination: it is a special extraordinary act of the Holy Spirit.
- (2) Inspiration is essentially guidance of the human faculties of the human writers: it is not dictation of divine words to them.
- (3) Inspiration extends to both thoughts and words.
- (4) Inspiration is organic: it not only employs the human authors as instruments or organs to write God's Word, it also relates each individual thought to the entire organism or body of thought in Scripture.
- (5) Inspiration guarantees that the Scriptures, as they came from the pens of their human authors, were free from error.