

### **Plenary Inspiration**

The term "plenary" means "full" or "complete." In combination with the term inspiration it means that the whole Scripture and every part of it is inspired. There are several objections to this concept, five of which are frequently repeated.

Objection 1: "There is no biblical basis for the concept."

But what then is the meaning of Paul's statement in 2 Timothy 3:16 that "All Scripture is inspired by God"? Is this not all of Scripture and every part of it?

Objection 2: "How can two conflicting ideas in Scripture both be inspired?"

But do they conflict in reality or only on the surface? Are they problems to be worked through and patiently thought about until they yield to a solution? Sometimes younger biblical scholars seem to be impatient and a little too quick to draw conclusions. *Premature closure is not the hallmark of scholarship.* Some Bible students have studied problems for many years before a satisfying solution is found. Some problems must wait until glory. Others need to be worked at, then left for a while, then worked at again. Biblical scholars and theologians could learn something from the methods of research scientists in this regard.

Objection 3: "How can materials of such different value be equally inspired?"

This question betrays a confusion between inspiration and value, and the question of degrees of each. In regard to the Holy Spirit's special act in the original writing of Scripture, there are no degrees of *inspiration*. Either a particular Scripture is God-breathed or it is not. However, in regard to the *value* of Scripture, this would depend on the value of the thing to which the Scripture refers. Spiritual realities, promises, needs, or conditions are more valuable than physical objects, needs, promises, or conditions. Just as the preservation of the soul is more valuable than preservation of the body, so the promise of salvation in John 3:16 is more valuable than the promise of physical prosperity to some Bible character. Likewise, Scriptures dealing with truths essential to salvation are more