

“What is Progressive Christianity.” (3)

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2Timothy 3:10-17

Everything stands or falls depending on your view of Scripture. As in:

- What is the Bible?
- Where did it come from?
- Is it Just another book?
- Is it just one of many sacred writings?
- Is it just something that contains some good advice?
- Do we need the whole Bible, or just the words of Jesus?

One of the tenants of the faith expressed by the Progressive Christian movement is:

They “affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience “God,” the Sacredness, Oneness and Unity of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom, including Earth, in our spiritual journey.”

“There are many books that claim to be the “Word of God:”

- The Koran—the Islam holy book—claims to be the “Word of God.”
- The Book of Mormon claims to be the “Word of God.”

- The Hindus believe the Bhagavad Gita is the source of eternal truth.
- Karl Marx, with an atheistic world view, claimed his writing, The Communist Manifesto, was the ultimate truth.

As Christians, we need to know why we believe the Bible is inspired. Where the Bible come from. How we can trust the Bible.

Inspiration comes from the Greek word “theopneustos” In 2 Timothy 3:16 that tells us:

- **All Scripture** is inspired by God.
- All Scripture is **God breathed**.

The question that arises is what was inspired? Is it the ideas that were inspired or the actual written words?

- Did God give the writers of the Bible just an idea and then allow them to fill it out, to work on it for themselves, using their own words, ideas, and background – to transmit God’s idea?
- Was the original idea of God heavily influenced by culture, or lack of education – depending on who the writer was, or by their limited vocabulary, or a misunderstanding of what God intended to say?
- The “Bible” we have today, do you first have to go find what God’s idea was and then – sort of – take into account all the mistakes the writers made and their lack of education and their culture?

Progressive Christians say “yes” to the above.

Orthodox/bible believing Christians say “no” to the above because:

- The actual words, the written product, were inspired by God.

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things.²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20–21.

The Scripture is:

- The written revelation of God.
- Scripture is the biblical record of God’s self-disclosure in redemptive history.

- Scripture is not merely human testimony to that revelation.
- Scripture is the revelation of God.

This is why we can trust the Word of God, because it is God given.

- God has given to us His very Words.

✓ “What will I believe?”

✓ “Do I believe that the Bible comes from God.

If the Word of God is inspired by God – it has the authority of God over me.

It speaks to me. Not just to the human race in general – even though it does that. But it speaks to me because it is God’s message to me.

I can base my life on it with ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE.

I can stand on the solid rock that:

- What the Bible teaches me is true.
- That the Bible is on solid ground.
- That the Bible comes from the One who is able to know the future.
- That He is able to do all things.
- That every promise that I read comes from God – not something man made up –
- The Bible is not just good advice – it is the very Words of God.

If God is God – He is able to produce the Word of God.

God is able to keep it for us – in a state that is readable, understandable, and true.

“Lord, just as you gave the Word – enable me today, enlighten my mind, help me to understand the difficult parts, and then help me to apply it to my life. Help your Word to become practical and real. Help me to listen to Your Word when it does not agree with my life, when it speaks truth into my own sinful lifestyle. When your Word asks of me, things I am unwilling to give up – come and change me, rather than me trying to change Your Word.”