

## TERMS USED IN THE STUDY OF YOUR BIBLE:

**THE BIBLE:** The English word "Bible" comes from the Greek words "Biblos" and "Biblion" which mean "the Book." It is named "The Book" in Ps. 40:7, and Heb. 10:7.

**THE WORD OF GOD:** Of all the names given to the Bible this title is perhaps the most significant and impressive. It signifies Divine authority and it is used frequently in the O.T. and about 40 times in the N.T. (Heb. 4:12)

**THE SCRIPTURE OR SCRIPTURES:** This term is used some 53 times in the Bible, but only one time in the O.T. (Dan. 10:21). It is NEVER used of the "original manuscripts" or the "autographs" – to the dismay of those who practically worship "the originals." The word means "the writings." 2 Tim. 3:15,16

**THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS:** The word "testament" means covenant, and God uses this term to stress the relationship between Him and His people.

**THE ORACLES:** Oracles originally meant the place where the Word of God was kept and also has the thought of proclaiming the Bible. This term is used 17 times in the O.T. and 4 times in the N.T. where it refers to the Scriptures.

**THE PRECEPTS\*:** Literally = prescribed truths. It means "placed in trust" and had to do with the conduct and conscience of man. Fulfilling the precepts (of God's Word) brings enjoyment of its promises.

**THE STATUTES\*:** The root meaning is "to engrave." These statutes are fixed and engraved by the hand of God.

**THE COMMANDMENTS\*:** God's Word is given with authority and not to obey the Word of God is seen in the Bible as an act of rebellion.

**THE JUDGMENTS\*:** God's judgments are made in infinite wisdom. By them we must judge, and by them we must be judged.

**THE LAW\*:** God's Word is absolute and is that which is designed to govern man's life and actions.

**THE TESTIMONIES\*:** God's Word testifies of His Being and His attributes.

**NOTE:** The asterisks (\*) above are placed alongside the designations of God's Word found in the 176 verses of Psalm 119. Out of 176 verses in that Psalm there are 175 references to the Scriptures! No mere human could have put together such a lengthy passage and end up with anything intelligible with such repetition. But God deliberately repeated Himself again and again to emphasize the importance of His Word and words and it all makes perfect sense to the believer.

**CANONICITY:** *"By the canonicity of the Scriptures is meant that, according to certain and fixed standards, the books included in them are regarded as part of a complete and divine revelation, which is therefore authoritative and binding in relation to both faith and practice."* - Bancroft

There are 39 O.T. books (recognized and preserved by the priesthood of the Jewish Masorete scribes – see Romans 3:1,2) in the O.T. canon, and 27 books in the N.T. recognized as Scripture and preserved by the priesthood of believers in the early church.

**CREDIBILITY:** *"By the credibility of the Scriptures is meant that their records are true and are thus to be relied upon as the statements of the facts."* - Bancroft

A book may be genuine as to its authorship, and yet not credible as to its contents. For example we may have positive evidence as to the authorship of the works of Shakespeare, but the contents of his works may not be factual.

**REVELATION:** *(From God to man)* The revelation of Scripture begins in God's mind and is transferred to man's mind. God speaks to the heart/mind of man and gives him the exact revelation of His message to him. He uses the man's personality and vocabulary, but the completed revelation is 100% without error and exactly what God wanted to communicate. 2 Pet. 1:21

**INSPIRATION:** *(From man to paper)* "By the inspiration of the Scriptures is meant that the writers were so empowered and controlled by the Holy Spirit in the production of the Scriptures as to give them divine and infallible authority." - Bancroft

The revelation is now committed to writing. The word "scripture" (Greek: "graphe") means "writings." We believe in the verbal (words), plenary (complete) inspiration of Scripture.

**ILLUMINATION:** *(From paper to the heart)* As the Word of God is studied, read, preached or taught the Holy Spirit illuminates its truths to the heart of man. He gives the saved man the ability to comprehend the inspired revelation. One of the reasons there are so many interpretations of God's Word and words is due to the fact that the people handling the Scriptures are unsaved.

**PRESERVATION:** *(From generation to generation)* Revelation and inspiration have no value without the doctrine of preservation. What sense would it make for God to reveal His mind and will to man and then lose that revelation? He obviously knew that not everyone would speak the original languages of Scripture, so He allowed the Bible to be copied and translated so all would have access to His Word, not just those living at the time of the original revelation. Actually no one has ever seen all of the "original manuscripts" of Scripture in any one place at any one time. The "originals" have disappeared, but faithful and accurate copies and translations have been preserved by God through the priesthood of believers in both the O.T. and N.T. eras, just as He promised. Ps. 12:6,7, 2 Tim. 3:15,16 It is our duty as a priesthood of believers to pass on a pure text of God's Word to the next generation.

**NOTE:** Warning!!! Many hold up a "Bible" and declare "This is the Word of God!" But they don't believe it to be true. They believe only the "originals" or "autographs" were inspired and that no translation is inerrant today.

**INERRANCY:** We believe the Scriptures to be without error. Since God has promised to preserve His Word and words ("...every word" Mt. 4:4), we believe He has kept that promise in an English Bible today. We believe that Bible to be the King James Bible. It alone has been translated from the *Traditional Texts* of the O.T. & N.T. passed down to us from the Jews (O.T.) and the early Church (N.T.), and accurately translated into the English language. We believe the King James Bible to be inerrant and infallible – critics notwithstanding.

