

Dr. Robert A. Peterson, Revelation & Holy Scripture, Session 15, Scripture Key Passage, 2 Tim. 3:16 Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Peterson, Revelation & Holy Scripture, Session 15, Scripture Key Passage, 2 Tim. 3:16, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Peterson's lecture examines key New Testament passages, primarily **1 Corinthians 14:37-38** and **2 Timothy 3:14-17**, to explore the doctrine of **Holy Scripture and special revelation**. The session highlights **Paul's assertion of divine authority** in his writings and **2 Timothy's declaration** that all Scripture is **God-breathed and beneficial**. Peterson emphasizes that **Scripture serves as an antidote to false teaching** and equips believers for spiritual growth and service. The lecture underscores the **inspired nature and practical utility of the Bible**.

2. 9 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Peterson, Revelation & Holy Scripture, Session 15 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Theology → Theology, Peterson → Revelation & Scripture).



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3. Briefing Document: Peterson, Revelation & Holy Scripture, Session 15, Scripture Key Passage, 2 Tim. 3:16

Briefing Document: Dr. Robert Peterson on Special Revelation in the New Testament and Holy Scripture

Overview:

This briefing document summarizes the main themes and important ideas presented by Dr. Robert Peterson in Session 15 of his teaching on "Revelation and Scripture," focusing on "Special Revelation in the New Testament, Holy Scripture," and specifically analyzing 1 Corinthians 14:37-38 and 2 Timothy 3:14-17 as key passages. Peterson argues for a high view of Scripture, emphasizing its divine authority, salvific power, and practical utility for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness. He also highlights the context of these passages within discussions of false teaching and the last days.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

1. The Apostolic Authority of Paul's Writings (1 Corinthians 14:37-38):

- Peterson emphasizes Paul's assertion of divine authority in his letters, particularly in 1 Corinthians 14:37-38. Paul states, "If anyone thinks that he is a prophet or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized."
- Paul rebukes the Corinthians for their disorderly conduct regarding spiritual gifts, using rhetorical questions to challenge their self-importance: "Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached?"
- Peterson argues that Paul places his writings on the same level as God's commandments, claiming inspiration and divine authority for his letters. He notes, "Putting his writings on a level with the commandments of God. Paul writes to correct abuses in the Corinthian congregation."
- Ignoring Paul's words is presented as tantamount to rejection by God, highlighting the authoritative nature with which Paul regarded his own writings. "If anyone ignores Paul's words, then he and other believers will ignore that person. This is tantamount to rejection by God."
- Peterson connects this passage with 2 Peter 3:15-16, where the Apostle Peter equates Paul's letters with Scripture.

2. 2 Timothy 3:14-17 as a Foundational Text on Holy Scripture:

- Peterson identifies 2 Timothy 3:14-17 as "the single most important text historically when constructing a doctrine of scripture."
- He contextualizes this passage within Paul's warning to Timothy about the "last days," characterized by ungodliness, moral decay, and false teaching (2 Timothy 3:1-9). "But understand this, that in the last days, there will come times of difficulty."
- The contrast is drawn between the wickedness of the last days and Timothy's faithful following of Paul's teaching and life (2 Timothy 3:10-11). "You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings..."
- Paul exhorts Timothy to "continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed" (2 Timothy 3:14), emphasizing the importance of holding onto sound doctrine received from trusted sources, including his mother and grandmother, and his lifelong acquaintance with the "sacred writings."
- Peterson highlights that these "sacred writings" (graphae) are a technical term for Scripture in the New Testament.
- He points out that before discussing the utility of Scripture, Paul emphasizes its salvific power: "...the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15). Peterson clarifies that it is faith in Christ Jesus, as revealed in the Scriptures, that leads to salvation, not merely possessing them.

3. The Inspiration (Theopneustos) and Utility of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17):

- The core of the passage lies in the statement: "All scripture is breathed out by God (theopneustos) and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
- Peterson explains "God-breathed" (theopneustos) by drawing a parallel from Psalm 33:6, where God's word and breath are equated. "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host." He concludes that "all scripture is God-breathed, which means all scripture is God-spoken."

- He emphasizes that God is the ultimate author of Scripture, using human authors as his instruments.
- Peterson elaborates on the fourfold profitability of Scripture:
- **Teaching:** Scripture is the legitimate source for doctrine.
- **Reproof:** Scripture shows us where we are wrong.
- **Correction:** Scripture shows us how to get it right.
- **Training in righteousness:** Scripture, like the training of children, disciplines us.
- He interprets "the man of God" in this context primarily as referring to the pastor or elder (drawing from 1 Timothy 6:11), who is to be equipped by Scripture for ministry. However, he acknowledges that the passage applies to all Christians.
- The ultimate purpose of Scripture's utility is "that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:17), highlighting its role in preparing believers for service.

4. Scripture as an Antidote to False Teaching:

- Peterson emphasizes that both 1 Corinthians 14 and 2 Timothy 3, key passages on Scripture, are set against the backdrop of disorder and false teaching in the "last days."
- He concludes that "the scriptures are the antidote to that false teaching. The scriptures and their faithful exposition are the antidote to that stuff."

5. Key Takeaways about Biblical Inspiration:

- Scripture is inspired by God.
- Scripture is equated with the word of God.
- The very words of Scripture are inspired, not just the writers.
- Scripture is authoritative for belief and conduct.
- Scripture is effective, a powerful tool for God to change us.

Quotes:

- **(1 Corinthians 14:37-38):** "If anyone thinks that he is a prophet or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized."
- **(2 Timothy 3:15):** "...the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."
- **(2 Timothy 3:16):** "All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness..."
- **(Peterson on 2 Timothy 3:14-17):** "I suppose this is the single most important text historically when constructing a doctrine of scripture."
- **(Peterson on "God-breathed"):** "All scripture is God-breathed, which means all scripture is God-spoken. It comes from his holy mouth."
- **(Peterson on the context):** "It is no accident, although I don't see it commonly taught that the two great classical texts of the inspiration of the New Testament are in the context of false teaching in the last days. The implication is plain. The scriptures are the antidote to that false teaching."

Conclusion:

Dr. Peterson's analysis of 1 Corinthians 14:37-38 and 2 Timothy 3:14-17 provides a strong foundation for understanding the New Testament's view of Holy Scripture. He argues convincingly for the divine authority of Paul's writings and highlights 2 Timothy 3:14-17 as a pivotal passage that establishes Scripture as God-breathed, salvific, and profoundly useful for equipping believers, especially those in ministry, to combat false teaching and live righteously. The context of these passages within discussions of the last days underscores the enduring relevance and importance of Scripture as the authoritative and effective Word of God.

4. Study Guide: Peterson, Revelation & Holy Scripture, Session 15, Scripture Key Passage, 2 Tim. 3:16

Study Guide: Special Revelation in the New Testament

Key Themes

- **Apostolic Authority:** Understanding the claims of authority made by New Testament apostles, particularly Paul, regarding their writings.
- **Inspiration of Scripture:** Exploring the meaning of "God-breathed" (theopneustos) and its implications for the nature of Scripture.
- **Purpose and Utility of Scripture:** Identifying the various ways Scripture is beneficial, including teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.
- **Scripture and Salvation:** Recognizing the role of Scripture in making one wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- **Context of Inspiration Passages:** Understanding that the key New Testament texts on inspiration (2 Timothy 3 and potentially 1 Corinthians 14) appear in contexts addressing false teaching and the need for sound doctrine.
- **Old Testament as Scripture:** Acknowledging Jesus' and Paul's view of the Old Testament as authoritative and God's Word.
- **Peter's View of Paul's Writings:** Recognizing Peter's acknowledgment of Paul's letters as Scripture (2 Peter 3:15-16).
- **The "Last Days":** Understanding the biblical concept of the "last days" as the period between Christ's two comings.

Key Passages

- **1 Corinthians 14:37-38:** Paul's assertion that his writings are "a command of the Lord" and the consequences of disregarding them.
- **2 Timothy 3:14-17:** The foundational passage on the inspiration ("God-breathed") and utility of Scripture for salvation, teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.
- **Psalms 33:6:** Used to understand the metaphor of "God-breathed" as analogous to God's powerful and creative speech.
- **2 Peter 3:15-16:** Peter's recognition of Paul's letters as Scripture.

Quiz

1. According to 1 Corinthians 14:37-38, what does Paul claim about the things he is writing to the Corinthian church? What is the consequence for those who do not recognize this?
2. In 2 Timothy 3:15, what does Paul say Timothy has known from childhood, and what is the benefit of these writings?
3. Explain the meaning of the Greek word "theopneustos" as it relates to Scripture in 2 Timothy 3:16. How does Psalm 33:6 help in understanding this concept?
4. List the four ways in which Scripture is described as "profitable" in 2 Timothy 3:16. Briefly explain the meaning of two of these.
5. According to 2 Timothy 3:17, what is the ultimate purpose of Scripture's utility, particularly in relation to the "man of God"?
6. What does the context surrounding 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (verses 1-13) reveal about the importance and role of Scripture?
7. How does Dr. Peterson explain the connection between Scripture and salvation in 2 Timothy 3:15? Is it merely possessing Scripture that saves?
8. In 2 Peter 3:15-16, how does the Apostle Peter view Paul's writings? What caution does he include regarding the interpretation of these writings?
9. What does Paul mean by the "last days" in the context of 2 Timothy 3:1? Provide a New Testament reference that supports this understanding.
10. How does Paul's claim in 1 Corinthians 14:37 demonstrate his understanding of his own apostolic authority in relation to divine commands?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Paul claims that the things he is writing to the Corinthian church are "a command of the Lord." If anyone does not recognize this, he will not be recognized, which Dr. Peterson interprets as tantamount to rejection by God.
2. Paul states that Timothy has been acquainted with the sacred writings (Old Testament) from childhood, and these writings are able to make him wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
3. "Theopneustos" means "God-breathed," indicating that Scripture originates from God himself. Psalm 33:6, which parallels God's word with the breath of his mouth

in creation, helps understand "God-breathed" as analogous to God's powerful and authoritative speech.

4. The four ways Scripture is profitable are for teaching (doctrine), for reproof (showing where we are wrong), for correction (showing how to get it right), and for training in righteousness (discipline in godly living). For example, teaching provides foundational truths, while reproof identifies deviations from those truths.
5. The ultimate purpose of Scripture's utility is that the man of God (pastor or elder, but also applicable to all believers) may be complete, equipped for every good work, enabling him to effectively serve God and others.
6. The context of moral decay, false teaching, and apostasy in the "last days" highlights that Scripture and its faithful exposition are the antidote to heresy and bad ethics, providing a foundation of truth to stand against error.
7. Dr. Peterson explains that Scripture makes one wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus; it is not the mere possession of Scripture that saves, but faith in the message it conveys about Christ.
8. Peter views Paul's letters as Scripture, placing them on the same level of authority as the "other Scriptures." He cautions that some things in Paul's letters are hard to understand and are twisted by the ignorant and unstable to their own destruction.
9. Paul uses "last days" to refer to the period between the first and second comings of Christ. 1 John 2:18 supports this by stating, "children, it is the last hour," indicating that this era is characterized by the presence of antichrists.
10. By asserting that his writings are "a command of the Lord," Paul places his apostolic teaching on the same level as divine commandments, indicating a belief that his inspired words carried the authority of God himself.

Essay Format Questions

1. Analyze the significance of Paul's claim in 1 Corinthians 14:37-38 regarding the authority of his writings. How does this passage contribute to our understanding of apostolic authority and the nature of New Testament Scripture?
2. Discuss the meaning and implications of 2 Timothy 3:16-17 for the doctrine of Scripture. How does the concept of "God-breathed" relate to the utility and purpose of Scripture outlined in these verses?
3. Explore the context surrounding 2 Timothy 3:14-17. How does the description of the "last days" and the warning against false teachers underscore the importance and role of inspired Scripture?
4. Compare and contrast the perspectives on the authority of Scripture presented in 1 Corinthians 14:37-38 and 2 Timothy 3:14-17. What common themes emerge, and how do these passages complement each other in developing a doctrine of Holy Scripture?
5. Evaluate the role of Scripture in salvation as presented in 2 Timothy 3:15 and discussed by Dr. Peterson. Is the mere possession of Scripture sufficient for salvation, or is something more required? Support your answer with evidence from the source material.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Apostolic Authority:** The divinely given power and right to speak and act on behalf of Jesus Christ, particularly ascribed to the original apostles and extended to their inspired writings.
- **Inspiration (of Scripture):** The supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit on the human authors of Scripture, resulting in writings that are the very Word of God, authoritative and without error in their original autographs. In the text, this is linked to the concept of "God-breathed."
- **Theopneustos:** A Greek word found in 2 Timothy 3:16, meaning "God-breathed" or "breathed out by God," indicating the divine origin and nature of Scripture.
- **Special Revelation:** God's communication of Himself and His will to humanity through specific and direct means, such as the Bible, miracles, and the person of Jesus Christ (in contrast to general revelation, which is God's self-disclosure through creation).
- **Holy Scripture:** The collection of sacred writings recognized as the authoritative Word of God, comprising the Old and New Testaments.
- **Prophecy (in this context):** Speaking forth God's message or will, often involving revelation and instruction for the church. Paul addresses the proper use and discernment of prophetic gifts.
- **Last Days:** The eschatological period inaugurated by the first coming of Jesus Christ and continuing until his second coming, characterized by both the spread of the gospel and increasing apostasy and moral decline.
- **Salvation:** Deliverance from sin and its consequences, leading to reconciliation with God and eternal life, made possible through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Reproof:** The act of rebuking, confronting, or exposing error and sin based on the authority of Scripture.
- **Correction:** The act of setting something right, providing guidance and direction to align beliefs and behavior with the truth of Scripture.

5. FAQs on Peterson, Revelation & Holy Scripture, Session 15, Scripture Key Passage, 2 Tim. 3:16, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions on the Inspiration and Authority of Scripture

1. What is the significance of 1 Corinthians 14:37-38 in the context of biblical authority? This passage highlights the apostolic authority claimed by Paul for his writings. He states that those who consider themselves prophets or spiritual should recognize that what he is writing to the Corinthian church is a command of the Lord. Disregarding his words is equated with being ignored by God, underscoring the divine authority Paul attributed to his apostolic instructions, particularly in addressing disorder and the use of spiritual gifts within the church.

2. How does 2 Timothy 3:14-17 contribute to our understanding of the nature of Scripture? This is a foundational passage for the doctrine of Scripture. It emphasizes that Timothy was acquainted with the "sacred writings" (likely the Old Testament) from childhood, which are able to make one "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." More significantly, verse 16 declares that "all Scripture is breathed out by God" (theopneustos), indicating divine authorship and origin. This "God-breathed" Scripture is further described as profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness, ultimately equipping believers for every good work.

3. What does it mean that Scripture is "breathed out by God" (theopneustos)? The term "God-breathed" signifies that God is the ultimate author of Scripture, and it originates from His very being, similar to how spoken words originate from breath. This is supported by the parallel drawn to Psalm 33:6, where God's word in creation is linked to the breath of His mouth. Therefore, to say Scripture is God-breathed is to assert that it is God-spoken, coming directly from His holy mouth and possessing His authority.

4. Beyond being divinely inspired, what are the practical uses or benefits of Scripture according to 2 Timothy 3:16-17? Scripture is described as profitable for four key purposes: (1) **Teaching**: providing doctrine and instruction in God's ways. (2) **Reproof**: showing where we are wrong and convicting us of sin. (3) **Correction**: guiding us on how to get back on the right path. (4) **Training in righteousness**: disciplining and educating us in godly living. These uses serve the ultimate purpose of equipping believers, particularly pastors and elders ("the man of God"), to be complete and prepared for every good work.

5. How does the context of "the last days" in 2 Timothy 3 relate to the emphasis on Scripture? Paul's description of the "last days" as a time of difficulty, characterized by ungodliness, moral decay, and false teaching, provides the backdrop for his exhortation to Timothy to continue in the Scriptures. The passage implies that Scripture and its faithful exposition serve as the antidote to heresy and bad ethics prevalent in these times. By adhering to the inspired Word, believers can discern truth from error and live righteously amidst increasing apostasy.

6. What role do the Old Testament "sacred writings" play in the context of 2 Timothy 3:15? Paul reminds Timothy of his lifelong familiarity with the Old Testament scriptures, referring to them as "sacred writings" that are able to make him "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." This highlights the salvific nature of these writings and their crucial role in pointing to and revealing the way of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. It suggests that the Old Testament bears the message of saving faith.

7. How does the source connect the authority of Paul's New Testament writings with the authority of the Old Testament? The source emphasizes that Paul himself placed his writings on a level with God's Old Testament commandments. In 1 Corinthians 14:37, he expects his instructions to be recognized as "the Lord's command." Furthermore, the passage mentions 2 Peter 3:15-16, where the Apostle Peter equates Paul's letters with "the other Scriptures," indicating an early recognition of the divine authority of Paul's New Testament writings alongside the established Old Testament canon.

8. What is the ultimate purpose of Scripture according to the presented material, especially as it relates to the "man of God"? While the benefits of Scripture extend to all believers, the passage in 2 Timothy 3:17 specifically highlights its purpose "that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." In this context, "man of God" is interpreted as referring primarily to the pastor or elder. Therefore, the ultimate purpose of Scripture is to thoroughly equip those in leadership within the church with everything necessary for effective ministry, enabling them to serve God and His people through teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.