

**NOTES: Continue in the Sacred Writings
December 31, 2017; II Timothy 3:14-17**

A Watershed

Not far from where we live in Switzerland is a high ridge of rock with a valley on both sides. One time I was there when there was snow on the ground along that ridge. The snow was lying there unbroken, a seeming unity. However, that unity was an illusion, for it lay along a great divide; it lay along a watershed. One portion of the snow when it melted would flow into one valley. The snow which lay close beside would flow into another valley when it melted.

Now it just so happens on that particular ridge that the melting snow which flows down one side of the ridge goes down into a valley, into a small river, and then down into the Rhine River. The Rhine then flows on through Germany and the water ends up in the cold waters of the North Sea. The water from the snow that started out so close along the watershed on the other side of the ridge, when this snow melts, drops off sharply down the ridge into the Rhone Valley. The water flows into Lac Lemman, or as it is known in the English speaking world, Lake Geneva, and then goes down below that into the Rhone River which flows through France and into the warm waters of the Mediterranean.

The snow lies along that watershed, unbroken, as a seeming unity. But when it melts, where it ends in its destinations is literally a thousand miles apart. That is a watershed. That is what a watershed is. A watershed divides. A clear line can be drawn between what seems at first to be the same or at least very close, but in reality ends in very different situations. In a watershed there is a line.

What does this illustration have to do with the evangelical world today? I would suggest that it is a very accurate description of what is happening. Evangelicals today are facing a watershed concerning the nature of biblical inspiration and authority. It is a watershed issue in very much the same sense as described in the illustration. Within evangelicalism there is a growing number who are modifying their views on the inerrancy of the Bible so that the full authority of Scripture is completely undercut. But it is happening in very subtle ways. Like the snow lying side by side on the ridge, the new views on biblical authority often seem at first glance not to be so very far from what evangelicals, until just recently, have always believed. But also, like the snow lying side by side on the ridge, the new views when followed consistently end up a thousand miles apart.

Francis Schafer, *The Great Evangelical Disaster*

II Timothy 3:14-17 *“You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”*

- 1. The Bible’s Unique Work. vs 14-15**
- 2. The Bible’s Unique Source. vs 16**
- 3. The Bible’s Unique Sufficiency vs 16-17**

I. The Bible’s Unique Work

- It is the word that leads us to salvation. II Timothy 3:15
- By it we are born again. I Peter 1:23
- It’s the word that energizes the Gospel. Romans 10:17
- Living and Active Hebrews. 4:12-13
- It does its work in the hearts of men. I Thessalonians 2:13
- It Transforms Romans. 12:2
- Its words are not wasted. Isaiah 55:10-11

II. The Bible's Unique Source

- It is Inspired (God Breathed). II Timothy 3:16
- Text Book Definition. "The Holy Spirit so guided and superintended the writers of the sacred text, making use of their own unique personalities, that they wrote all that He wanted them to write without excess or error."
- Men wrote under God's Superintendence. II Peter 1:20-21
- The writers were aware they were writing Scripture. I Peter 1:10-12; I Chronicles 28:19
- Jesus gave the apostles a unique promise, "total recall". John 14:26
- The writers referred to their writings as Scripture. II Peter 3:14-15; I Timothy 5:18; I Corinthians 14:37
- Jesus referred to their writings as Scripture. Luke 24:25-46
- Jesus repeatedly quoted them as Scripture. Matthew 21:42; 22:29; 26:54
- It has divine qualities like its maker. Eternal: Matthew 24:35; Reliable: Isaiah 40:8; True: Psalm 119:160
- Prophetically accurate:

Christ was to be (1) born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23), • (2) of the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:3; Gal 3:8), • (3) of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10; Hebrews 7:14), • (4) of the line of David (Psalm 110:1; Romans 1:3), • (5) born at Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:6), • (6) anointed of the Spirit (Isaiah 61:1f; Luke 4:18f). • He was to (7) ride into Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:5), • (8) be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9; John 13:18), • (9) be sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12f; Matthew 26:15; 27:9f), • (10) be forsaken by His disciples (Zechariah 13:7; Matthew 26:31,56), • (11) be pierced in His hands and in His feet, but not have a bone broken (Psalm 22:16; 34:20; John 19:36; 20:20, 25). • Men were (12) to give Him gall and vinegar to drink (Psalm 69:21; Matthew 27:34), • (13) to part His garments and to cast lots for His vesture (Psalm 22:18; Matthew 27:35). • He was to be (14) forsaken of God (Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46), • and (15) buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60). • He was to (16) rise from the dead (Psalm 16:8-11), • (17) ascend on high (Psalm 68:18; Ephesians 4:8), • and (18) sit at the Father's right hand (Psalm 110:1; Matthew 22:43-45).

III. The Bible's Unique Sufficiency

- The people of God are fully equipped by it. II Timothy 3:16-17.
- Historically as well as in matters of faith. (Jonah) Matthew 12:39-41; (Adam and Eve) 19:4; (Noah) 24:37
- "Casual accuracy". Exodus 9:31-32; Joshua 2:6; Luke 2:2; Acts 18:12
- It is a sufficient witness of Christ, John 5:39-47
- It is a sufficient message, Luke 16:19-31
- It is stable as a foundation for our lives Matthew 7:24-27