

3 John Series

Lesson #021

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Dean Bible Ministries

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3 Jn 7 because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles.

**3 Jn 8 We therefore ought to receive
such, that we may become fellow
workers for the truth.**

**3 Jn 9 I wrote something to the church;
but Diotrephes, who loves to be first
among them, does not accept what we
say.**

Inspiration – God the Holy Spirit so supernaturally directed the human writers of Scripture, that without waiving their human intelligence, vocabulary, individuality, literary style, personality, personal feelings, or any other human factor, His complete and coherent message to mankind was recorded in the original autographs with perfect accuracy in the original languages of Scripture, the very words bearing the authority of divine authorship.

"Inspiration" is translated from the Greek, *theopneustos*, literally meaning "God-breathed." "No progress has ever been made in formulating doctrine from the Bible when men have doubted the inspiration of the Scriptures in all its parts" (Chafer, VII, p.201). (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21)

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***Verbal* inspiration means that, in the original manuscripts, the Holy Spirit guided in the choice of words used. Human authorship was respected to the extent that the writer's literary style and vocabulary were employed, but without the intrusion of error.**

***Plenary* inspiration means that the accuracy which verbal inspiration secures is extended to the *entire* Bible, so that it is inerrant and infallible in all of its parts.**

Inerrancy means that the writings in the original autographs were without error. In the process of copying and duplicating the manuscripts errors of transmission such as leaving words out (haplography), duplicating words (dittography), changes of spelling and grammar, and misguided attempts by scribes to clarify a difficult passage, crept in.

Through the science of textual criticism the original reading can be recovered. Most of these copyists errors were of minor importance and no basic doctrine of Scripture is affected by these scribal errors.