


pure 22 karat gold. They come in 1/10, 1/4, 1/2, and 1-ounce sizes, and buyers from around the world trust these coins because they trust the promises of the United States government that the coins are what they claim to be.

When it comes to Scripture, we have something far more reliable than the guarantee of a government—we have the promises of Almighty God that His Word is perfect and pure. God promised to preserve His Word for us. That means that, according to the promise of God, we can have complete faith that every word in the Bible is there on purpose. Psalm 12:7 affirms, *“Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”*

*“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.”* Proverbs 30:5



### TAKE-HOME LESSONS

1. THE BIBLE is an incredible book—do not treat it casually!
2. THE BIBLE is God’s Word to you—read it diligently and carefully!
3. THE BIBLE reveals God’s absolute truth—be very aware of treating it with indifference!
4. THE BIBLE is very special—do not dishonor and ignore it!

### AUDIO PODCASTS

Listen to Bible classes and special series via podcast. Search Apple iTunes for “Dalraida church of Christ” or subscribe at [www.dalraida.org/series](http://www.dalraida.org/series)





One of the most significant truths to the Christian is the inspiration of the Scriptures. How are we to come to a proper knowledge of the all-important truths of spirituality without a proper revelation from God? Nature and conscience reveal a certain aspect of God (Romans 1:20), yet full knowledge IS NOT possible unless we have a “special” revelation from God (the Bible).

### THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION DEFINED

Three concepts should be defined first.

- ◆ *Plenary* -this signifies that the inspiration is entire. The word is complete, so that none can add to it or take away from it.
- ◆ *Verbal* -this signifies that God, through the Spirit, gave the very words to be used.
- ◆ *Inerrant* -this signifies that the Scriptures cannot err; it has no mistakes in the original manuscripts.

As used in the Bible, the following definition of inspiration is quite suitable: It is the determining influence exercised by the Holy Spirit on the writers of the Old and New Testaments in order that they might record in an exact manner the messages received from God. This influence guided them to the extent of their use of words.

These texts explain the process of inspiration: 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1 Corinthians 2:6-13.

With such a definition stated and supported by Scripture, we cannot help but be awed at the marvelous work and wonder of the book we hold in our hands today—The Bible!

### **IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION**

- ◆ *“Profitable”*- even the least read pages and books have their place in the Bible.
- ◆ *“Teaching”*- this only should be taught, not opinions or man’s dogmas.
- ◆ *“Reproof”*- to refute and dispel error.
- ◆ *“Correction”*- to lead one back to the proper path, to warn and censure with the love of God.
- ◆ *“Instruction”*- for building up and establishing the believer.
- ◆ *“Completeness”*- God’s Word is all-sufficient, and is able to give us everything we need today to be righteous.

*THERE IS NO NEED FOR REVELATIONS TODAY; THE BIBLE PROVIDES EVERYTHING THAT IS NECESSARY.*

### **WHAT IS THE VIEW OF REVELATION IN OUR PRESENT DAY**

A professor at the Harvard Divinity School—“Though we may recognize and be grateful for its contribution to our culture, the Bible no longer has unique authority for Western man. It has become a great but archaic monument in our midst. It is a reminder of where we once were-but no longer are. It contains glorious literature, important historical documents, exalted ethical teachings, but it is no longer the word of God (if there is a God) to man.”

The validity of God’s Word has always been attacked (Genesis 3:1). The majority believe the Bible’s commands are suggestions and can be modified or shunned without any consequence (Jeremiah 5:21; Ezekiel 12:2).

The present-day attitude toward the Bible can be summed up by the following comments:

- ◆ Many no longer believe the Bible is God’s Word!
- ◆ The prevailing attitude toward the Bible is not belief, but unbelief!
- ◆ The Bible has been attacked, maligned, and discredited by countless critics.
- ◆ Many argue that the Bible is merely a human production; it is full of errors and self-contradictions.

### **WHAT IS A PROPER RESPONSE TO THIS PREVALENT ATTITUDE IN OUR DAY**

The Christian must understand that it is time to challenge those of the world with the truth entrusted to us by God (1 Peter 3:15; Isaiah 41:21).

The Christian must understand that the gospel of Christ is rational and intelligent.

### **CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

The Bible’s inspiration is a belief based not upon subjective sources, but upon objective studied facts.

3,808 times the authors of the Old Testament claimed to be transmitting the Word of God. This is a fact that is verified by reason, not feeling!

1 Thessalonians 2:13—If you hold the Bible in high esteem as the infallible Word of God, you will take care to read, learn, believe and live by the truths contained in it.

### **Is the Word of God active and working in you?**

#### **You Can Trust The Bible**

In 1985, for the first time in more than fifty years, Congress authorized the issue of official US government gold coins. Beginning in 1986 these new coins came on the market. Each of these American Eagles, as they are known, is guaranteed by the US Mint to contain the stated amount of