

Some Scripture is Not Inspired

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All Scripture Is Inspired (2Tim. 3:16).

Some Scripture is Not Inspired (1Cor. 7:6, 12; 2Cor. 11:17).

The third point in the Introduction to 'Apparent Contradictions in Scripture', on the website: www.1truth1law.com, explains that Almighty God allows people to express their feelings and many of these are recorded in His word. After all, mankind was created to participate fully in God's spiritual family. However, due to sin, this has been forestalled and will not reach fulfillment until after the second resurrection of the dead.

If any section of scripture is not God's express will, the writer will say so. The only exceptions are those in which a translator or copyist has taken liberties that they should not have.

But I (Paul) say this as a concession, not as a commandment (from God) (1Cor. 7:6; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

But to the rest I (Paul), not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her (1Cor. 7:12; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Paul clearly understood the intent of God's law regarding marriage and being unequally yoked with unbelievers (cf. 2Cor. 6:14). Paul knew that if an unconverted spouse was not actively undermining a believer's worship of God, then the marriage should not be dissolved. This is in complete accordance with the First Covenant legislation regarding marriage because God did

not want His people marrying those from pagan nations who would undermine His people regarding how they should worship Him. God compared false worship to spiritual adultery (cf. Jer. 3:9; 5:7), and Christ confirmed this in the next scripture. Unfortunately, the spiritual intent of what Christ taught is often overlooked.

But I (Christ) say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except (for) sexual immorality (including spiritual adultery; cf. Jer. 3:9; 5:7) causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery (Mt. 5:32; cf. 19:9; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In 2Corinthians 11:17, Paul was dealing with some teachers who were creeping into God's church and undermining people's faith by introducing false doctrines (cf. 2Cor. 11:12-15). Some of these false teachers were accusing Paul of being unlearned. By doing this they were questioning Paul's authority and credibility. In rebutting these trouble makers, Paul expressed his own feelings about what they were doing and made it clear that his statements were not the inspired word of God. Instead, because Paul loved the brethren, he was expressing his frustration and anger about the tactics these people were using against him and by extension against the spiritual well-being of the brethren.

What I (Paul) speak, I speak not according to the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting. ¹⁸Seeing that many boast according to the flesh (their worldly accomplishments), I also will boast (2Cor. 11:17-18; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In the section of scripture that follows, Paul is seen taking the fight to these false teachers because they must have been building up their accomplishments to convince the brethren they had more credibility than Paul.

Are they (false teachers) Hebrews? So am I (Paul). Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. ²³Are they ministers of Christ? – I speak as a fool – I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fasting often, in cold and nakedness ²⁸besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I am not weak (cf. 2Cor. 12:7-10)? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation (reference to false teachers misleading those who were weaker in the faith) (2Cor. 11:22-29; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The final texts state that all scripture is inspired, but the context is dealing with only the writings of the First Covenant because the Second Covenant had not yet been completed. Therefore, all of Paul's statements would not have been included and, as a consequence, there cannot be any contradiction between the apparent contradictions listed in the heading of this study.

And that from childhood you (Timothy) have known the Holy Scriptures (only the First Covenant writings), which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith (cf. 11th chapter of Hebrews) which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture (referring only to the First Covenant) is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for

instruction (training, discipline) in righteousness, ¹⁷(so) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2Tim. 3:15-17; Ed. notes in parentheses).

This does not mean that the New Testament writings are not inspired by God, even though some translators and copyists have taken liberties in a number of sections. However, it does mean that 2Timothy 3:16 cannot be used as proof that Paul's comments are contradictory. When Timothy was a child, the only Holy Scriptures available were the First Covenant writings and these are all he would have been taught. Of interest, Christ pointed out that the First Covenant writing were enough to understand God's plan of salvation, including the crucial role that Christ played in this plan.

You search the Scriptures (only the First Covenant writings were available when Christ made this statement), for in them you think you have eternal life: and these are they which testify of me (Jn. 5:39; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

By correctly understanding that 2Timothy 3:16 is restricted to the First Covenant writings, it is not possible to use Paul's comments in Corinthians to claim God contradicts His own word. In addition to this fact, God allows many people to express their feelings throughout scripture and this benefits those who read and identify with them.

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