

WHAT NORTHSIDE TEACHES STUDENTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

REVELATION (God's truth to man)

God has chosen to reveal Himself generally (in nature and in conscience) and specially (in His Word and in His Son). Both the Scriptures and the Son are as fully human as if there were no divine element, and they are as fully divine as if there were no human element. Theologians call this miracle in the person of Jesus Christ the hypostatic union. "There is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ (*His divinity*) Jesus (*his humanity*)" (1 Tim. 2.5).

We teach students the **inerrancy** of Scripture: there is no error of any kind in God's Revelation.

We also teach the **infallibility** of Scripture: God's Word never fails. God protects His Word from attack and destruction, and God preserves His Word in its translation into thousands of languages and dialects. Jesus validated this truth when He quoted the Septuagint (the Old Testament translated into Greek, the common language of His day) instead of the original Hebrew, which He read in the synagogue in Capernaum.

The translation used in Northside Christian School is the King James Version.

INSPIRATION (God's truth to tablets and scrolls and papyrus)

The Bible is a God-breathed-out book (2 Timothy 3.16,17). Because of this, it is without error of any kind (factual, historical, scientific, etc.) in the original writing (autographs).

Verbal inspiration means that the very words are inspired – every one of them (John 10.34-36). This truth rejects the heresy that the ideas are inspired and then the writers articulated them the best they could. It also rejects the notion that the Bible contains the Word of God, which scholars have to filter out for us. Finally, it refutes the fallacy that the Bible becomes the Word of God as the reader finds personal meaning in it.

Plenary inspiration means that all the words are inspired. The black-letter texts are just as genuinely inspired as the red-letter passages. The genealogies are as fully God's words as the Sermon on the Mount. We reject the teaching that only the Epistles are for the church (Romans 15.4).

Purposeful inspiration means that every statement in the Bible is true, but not that every true statement is in the Bible. The Bible is the revelation of God that men need to know in order to become His children and to live as their Heavenly Father wishes. Therefore, the Holy Spirit was very precise when He breathed out God's words through the Bible writers. The most intelligent person cannot begin to understand even one of God's infinite attributes, but the simplest man can understand enough to be born again and to live a holy life.

ILLUMINATION (God's truth to the heart)

God enables the spirit of man so that he can understand God's truth. The unregenerate man cannot accept the things of God, neither can he understand them (1 Corinthians 2.14). The indispensable requirement for understanding God's Word is not intelligence: rather, it is a heart willing to obey His will (John 7.17).

INTERPRETATION (God's truth to the mind)

We teach the grammatical-historical method of interpreting the Bible. Scripture must be understood in its historical context. Proper interpretation of the Bible demands following the rules of grammar and literature. Literal language must be interpreted literally. Figurative language must be interpreted as figurative.

SOLA SCRIPTURA

This battle cry of the Reformation simply means "the Scripture alone". This connotes a two-edged idea: everything in the Bible is God's Word, and nothing outside of the Bible is God's Word. Though this was directed in the 16th Century against ritualistic tradition, today it also dismisses subsequent "scriptures" such as the Koran and those written by Joseph Smith, Judge Russell, Mary Baker, et al., or revelatory personal experiences. "Sola Scriptura" distinguishes and excludes the Apocryphal books from the accepted 66 books of the Bible.

Northside Christian School, with much prayer and deliberate care, employs faculty and selects curricular materials with the specific purpose of teaching the Bible according to these principles.