

## Making Sense of the Bible

### Chapter 14-15 Questions [NOTE: Question 1 should be answered before reading.]

1. Answer one of the following questions:
  - How has a particular scripture inspired you to act differently or to do something new?
  - How has a particular scripture helped you better understand a situation in your life?
  - How has God “spoken to you” through scripture?
  
2. What did the Apostle Paul think of as “scripture”?
  
3. Hamilton suggests that writers of the Second (New) Testament received the same kind of inspiration that Christians experience today. What does Hamilton say differentiates their writing from ours? That is, why did their writing end up in the Bible, while ours won’t be considered scripture (even though we are influenced by the same Spirit)?
  
4. Why does Hamilton reject the idea that “God-breathed” means that God influenced every word and idea, so that the words written were literally the words of God?
  
5. What is “verbal, plenary inspiration” of scripture? Why was this idea originally promoted?
  
6. What did Hamilton suggest might be the most important dimension of inspiration? Do you agree? Why or why not?

7. What is the thing that Hamilton says is *the* Word of God, that we should use to determine whether scripture reflects the character and will of God? Do you agree? [BONUS: What gospel refers to *the* Word of God?]
  
8. Hamilton states that some things taught in scripture may not represent God's character or will for us today, and perhaps never accurately captured God's will.
  - Give an example of a scripture that portrays God in a way that seems to contradict the God of Jesus.
  
  
  - Give an example of a scripture that is consistent with the God of Jesus.
  
9. Name one of the ways scripture refers to the word of God in the Second (New) Testament.
  
  
10. Hamilton states that Jesus, as the Word of God, "did not come mediated by others." What do you think he meant by this?