

southcitychurch

We accept the Bible, including the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament (**2 Pet 3:15,16**), as the written Word of God (**Matt 1:22**; 4:4; 19:4,5; **Heb 1:1-2**). The Bible is the only essential and infallible record of God's self-disclosure to mankind (**Jn 17:17**; **1 Tim 3:15-17**; **1 Peter 1:23**; **Ps 119:44, 45, 165**). It leads us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ (**Lk 16:29-31**; **Gal 1:8, 9**; **2 Tim 3:15**). Being given by God, the Scriptures are both fully and verbally inspired by God (**2 Tim 3:16**; **2 Pet 1:20,21**). Therefore, as originally given, the Bible is free of error in all it teaches (**Num 2:19**; **2 Sam 7:28**; **Prov 30:5**; **Ps 119:96,160**; **Matt 5:18**; **Jn 10:35**; 17:17; **Tit 1:1,2**). Each book is to be interpreted according to its context and purpose (**Lk 1:1-4**) and in reverent obedience to the Lord (**Matt 28:20**; **2 Thess 3:14**; **1 John 2:5**) who speaks through it in living power (**2 Tim 3:16**). All believers are exhorted to study the Scriptures (**2 Tim 2:15**) and diligently apply them to their lives (**1 Tim 4:16**, **Matt 22:29**). The Scriptures are the authoritative and normative rule and guide of all Christian life, practice, and doctrine (**2 Tim 3:16**). They are totally sufficient and must not be added to, superseded, or changed by later tradition, extra-biblical revelation, or worldly wisdom (**Rev 22:18,19**). Every doctrinal formulation, whether of creed, confession, or theology must be put to the test of the full counsel of God in Holy Scripture (**Acts 17:11**, **2 Thess 2:15**). We continue to grow in our knowledge of God and his ways (**Rom 15:4**; **Rom 1:2**; 4:21; **Heb 10:23**; **2 Pet 1:4**; 3:13) through the Scriptures (**Matt 4:4**).

IMPLICATIONS:

We turn to the Bible to hear God speaking to us in an infallible way. We place a high premium on preaching that expounds the text of the Bible, on studying the Bible together in our Home Groups, and on personal Bible reading, because it is through these encounters with the voice of God, that we find ourselves encountering God, and being changed.