

## ***Whose Message Are You Reading?***

Last night Pam and I stopped at *Books-A-Million* in Rivergate for a cup of coffee. As we sat talking, I gazed at the incredible number of books that were available for purchase.

Some of the books were educational, others were motivational, still others were simply recreational. There were biographies, dramas, poetry, fiction, and history. Some were hardbacks; others were paperbacks. There were classics by familiar authors and new works by relatively unknown writers. Some had brightly covered covers, while others were plain. Yet, two things were true: these were books written by men and women and their finished products reflected the limitations of human insight and observation.

For Christians, the Bible is a unique book. It was written over a period of 1000 years by about 40 different writers. It contains a variety of literature styles—history (Judges), poetry (Psalms), narrative (Job), apocalyptic prophecy (Daniel). Yet, it is unique because its content and preservation were overseen by God.

Paul reminds us, *“All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work”* (II Tim. 3:16-17). The phrase “inspired by God” literally means “God breathed.” The importance of the Bible lies in its totally unique authorship. It serves as God’s instruction manual for his creation for all generations.

The psalmist (Ps. 19) wrote, *“The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. ...They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.”*

Why so we spend so much time contemplating the thoughts of men and so little in reflecting on the thoughts of God? The one will help us plan for today, but the other helps us prepare for eternity. Whose message are you listening to?

—Don Loftis