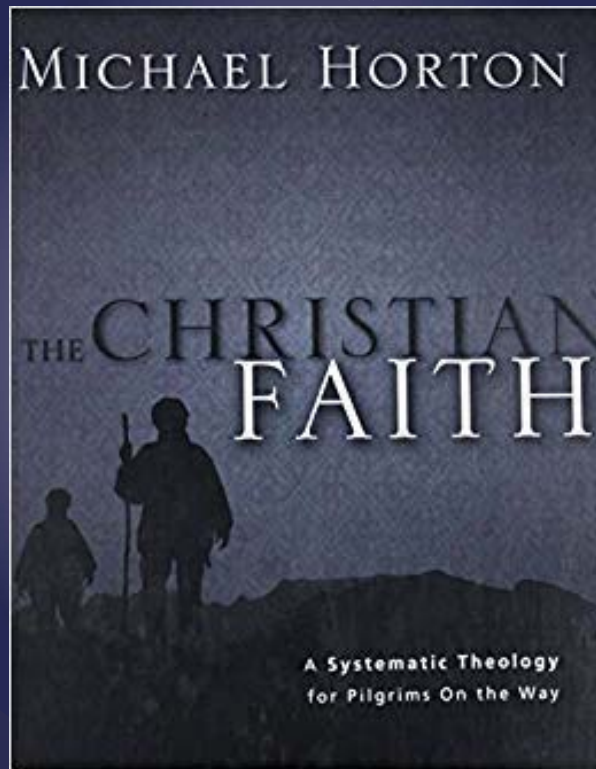


# Week Three: Inspiration



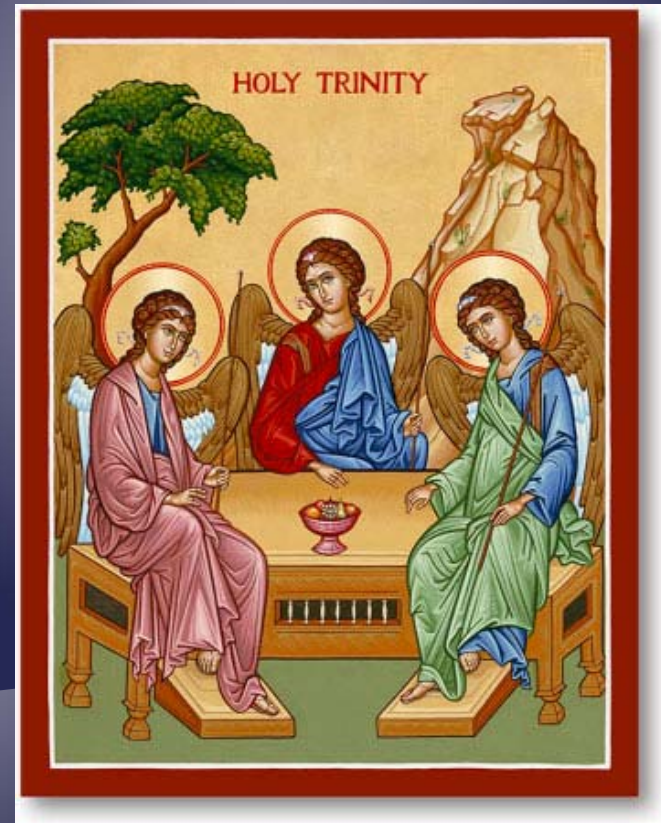
# Scripture as Triune Speech



- ⌘ “ The locutionary act (meaningful utterance) of speaking is the Father’s; the Son is the content that is preformed by the speaking; the Spirit is works within creation to bring about the intended effect.” Michael Horton
- ⌘ “For example, the Father gives the gospel, the Son is the gospel, and the Spirit creates faith in our hearts to receive it.” Michael Horton

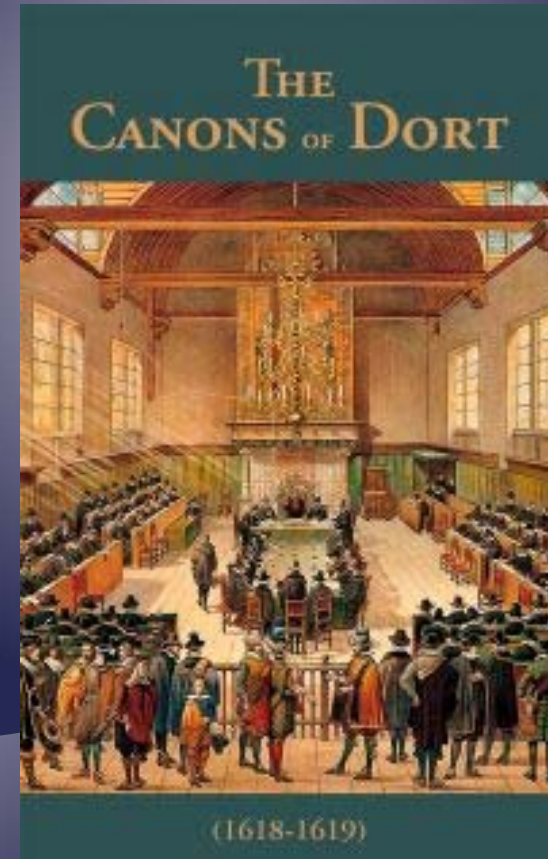
# Scripture as Triune speech

- ⌘ When we read Scripture, God is speaking to us personally. We could use the phrase “spiritually present”.
- ⌘ This isn't just “life lessons” to live in accordance with. God is revealing Himself to the reader.
- ⌘ Let's try and sort out how this works itself out doctrinally.



# Reformed Confessions

- ⌘ Scot's Confession Chapter 19: "As we believe and confess the Scriptures of God sufficient to instruct and make perfect the man of God, so do we affirm and avow their authority to be from God, and not to depend on men or angels".
- ⌘ Canons of Dort Article III: "We confess that this Word of God was not sent, nor delivered by the will of man, but that holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.....Therefore we call such writings holy and divine Scriptures.



# Confessions Continued...



- & In the Westminster Confession of Faith the sixty six books of the bible are stated as Scripture (Protestant canon). And the only rule of faith and life.
- & Confessions are important. In fact we have them in our New Testament. John 1:1-18; Philippians 2:5-11; and 1 Corinthians 15:4.
- & We have confessions in the Hebrew bible. For example, the Shema (Deut 6:4-5)
- & We are a people who confess. For example, we recite the Apostles Creed weekly.

# Scripture is written by God and man?

- ⌘ Yes! The bible did not fall from heaven (crass fundamentalism or some forms of Islamic inspiration). Rather it was written by man.
- ⌘ The “intermixed” nature of Scripture is a mystery.
- ⌘ Many of the best theologians (Augustine for example) used the word mystery. Mystery should produce worship not endless speculation.
- ⌘ So lets try our best to conceive of the inspiration of Scripture!



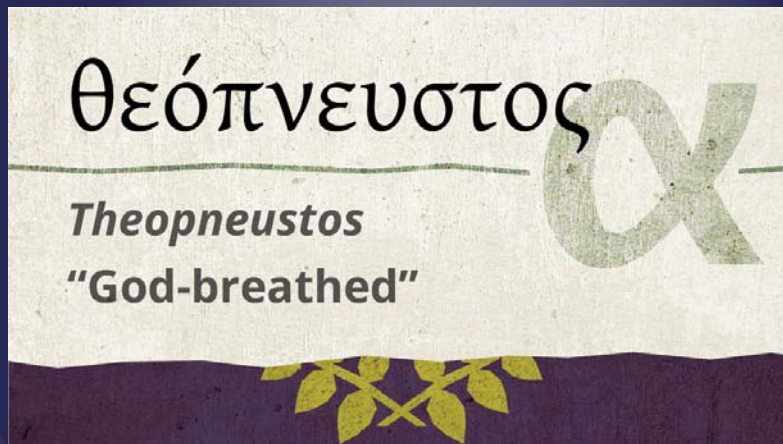
B.B. Warfield

## 2 Timothy 3:15-16

- ⌘ <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is *breathed out by God* and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
- ⌘ The key idea is “God-breathed”. What does that mean in relation to inspiration?



## 2 Timothy 3:15-16 (continued...)



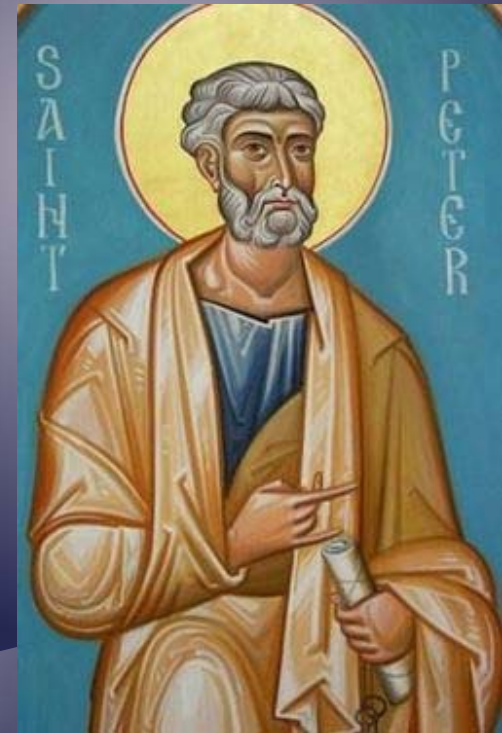
- ⌘ God breathed means that Scripture is for teaching, for reproof/correction, and training in righteousness.
- ⌘ The major focus on the verse is the plan of salvation and redemption.
- ⌘ Paul's opponents read Scripture in an esoteric way.
- ⌘ Major actor in inspiration? The Holy Spirit.



## 2 Peter 3:16

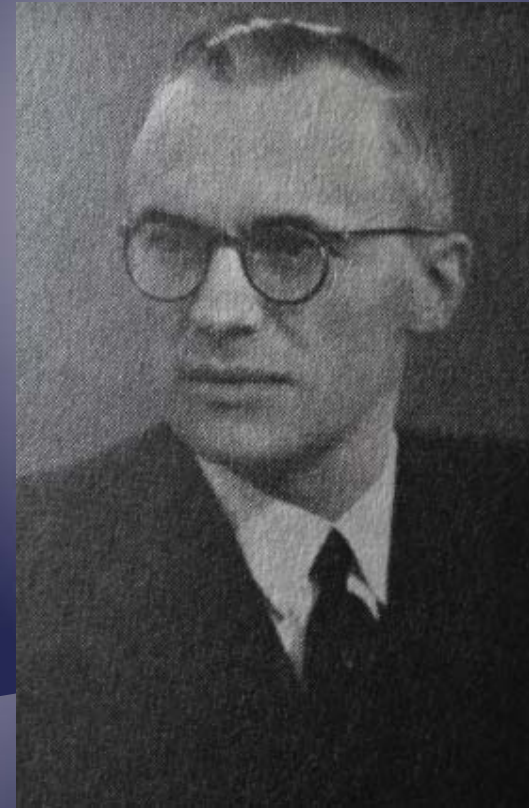
& <sup>16</sup> as he (Paul) does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

& Did Paul know he was writing Scripture?



# G. C. Berkouwer

- ⌘ The term “God-breathed” does more justice to the unique work of the Holy Spirit in Scripture than does the word “inspiration”.
- ⌘ Referring to Scripture as the Word of God, the church was convinced in agreement with the text from II Peter, that the gospel is the opposite of cleverly devised myths of men (II Peter 3:16).
- ⌘ Every word about the God-breathed character of Scripture is meaningless if Holy Scripture is not understood as the witness concerning Christ.

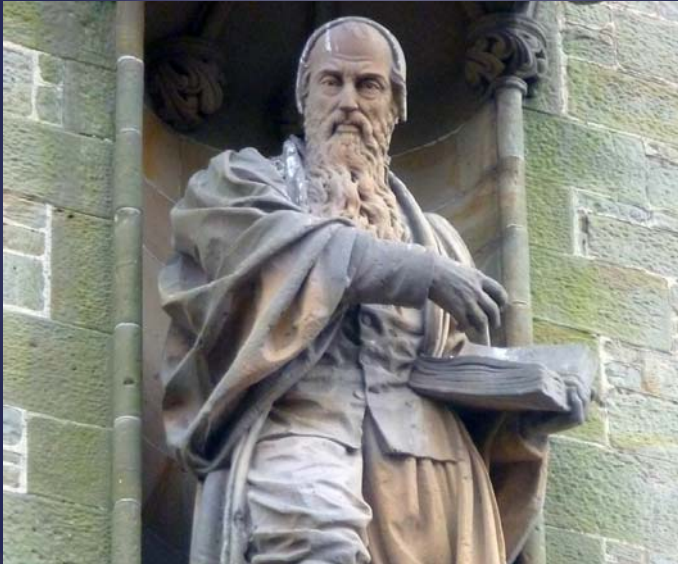


# John Webster

- ⌘ "The human words of the prophets and apostles are sanctified by the Holy Spirit to serve as God's ambassadors, and so when they reach textual form they may fittingly be designated Holy Scripture".
- ⌘ "For there is only one fall, that of Adam; all alike share his contempt for the Word of God, all our history – including all our theological history – suffers from what he unleashed into the world. In the matter of the theology of Scripture and its interpretation, the imperative of reconciliation with God needs to be kept in view".



# What Scripture is not...

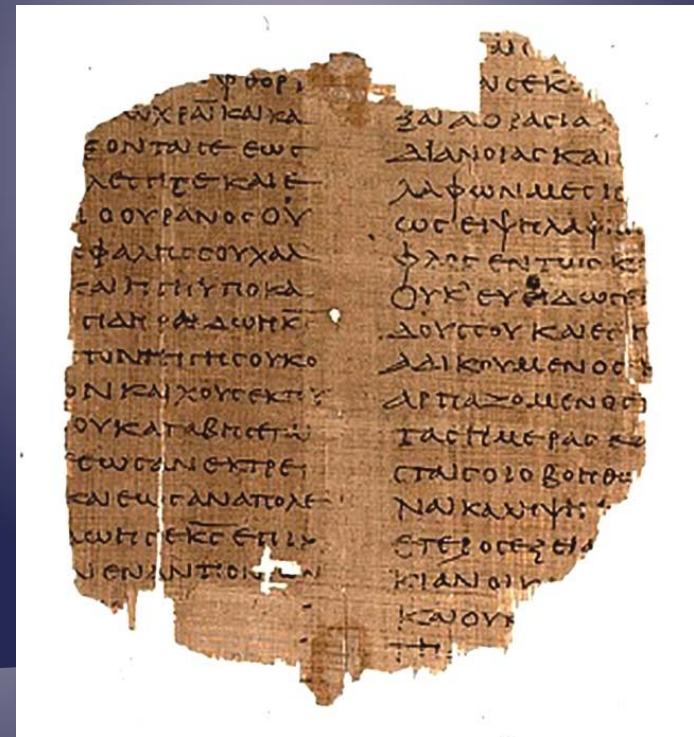


John Knox would not be happy!

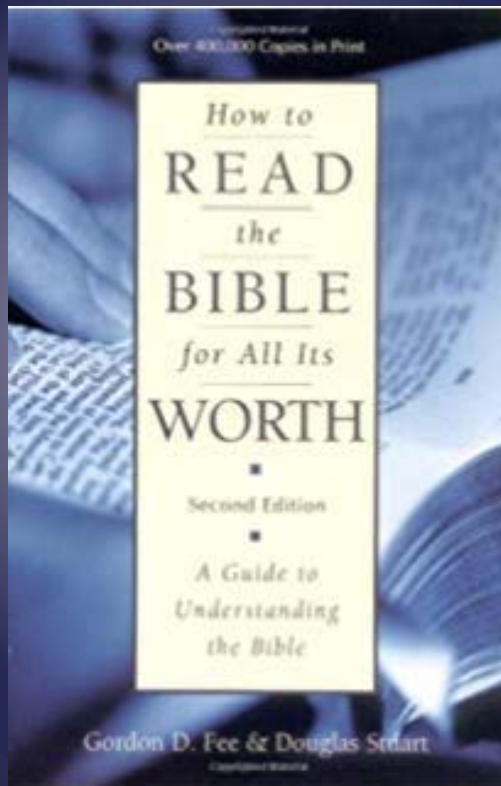
- ⌘ **It is not Moralism:** Scriptures primary objective is not to make us morally virtuous. In fact, it does the opposite. It condemns us in many passages!
- ⌘ **It is not always Application driven:** not every single verse has an application. Sometimes we respond in worship. Not concrete action.
- ⌘ **It is not “Locked away in history”.** It still speaks today.

# What scripture “does” ...

- & Scripture, primarily, reveals who the triune God is.
- & Reveals our sinfulness and need for reorientation to God’s will. God’s will is found primarily in Scripture.
- & Scripture reveals the plan of salvation, the gospel.



# Tips for reading



- ⌘ Read huge chunks of Scripture. Sometimes “drilling” down into a verse isn’t the most productive way to read the bible.
- ⌘ Play by the rules of genre. Hebrew narrative is different than law. Gospels are different than epistles.
- ⌘ Realize that the Triune God is speaking to you personally. It is not an opinion. It is “God-breathed”.