

A Father's Farewell

2nd Timothy

The Power of God's Written Word

Key idea:

The Bible is God's written Word so it is powerful to point us to salvation through faith in Christ and to thoroughly equip us to discern truth from error, share the Gospel with others, and form our character in righteousness.

Key text:

2 Timothy 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Key points:

1. Paul told Timothy to continue in what he had learned from him and his family - the sound teaching of the written Word of God.
2. The focus of the written Word of God is salvation through Jesus Christ.
3. The source of the Bible is God Himself, Who spoke by His Spirit through the human authors of Scripture.
4. Because it is God's Written Word, the Scripture is powerful to positively teach God's people right beliefs and right moral practices, and to refute false teachings and bad moral practices.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. What do we mean when we say the Bible is "inspired"? How does the translation "God-breathed" help me understand the meaning of "inspiration"?

3. Does inspiration mean that the human authors were merely machines that wrote down God's Word like someone taking down dictation? When I consider the writings of different human authors in Scripture, how can I tell that inspiration does not mean mechanical dictation? Why is this important?
4. Some people have said that the Bible "contains" the Word of God, or that it is a record of great human thoughts about God. Why are these views wrong?
5. Can I think of times I have been tempted to deny or distort the truth of God's Word? Why was I tempted to do this? How can I protect myself from this ruse of Satan in the future?
6. Why does Paul include both positive uses (teaching, training) and negative uses (rebuking, correcting) of the Word of God? Do I need both the positive and the negative? What happens if I neglect either the positive or negative use of the Word?
7. Why is it important that I let the written Word equip me both doctrinally (in my beliefs) and morally (in my actions and lifestyle)? What happens if I neglect being equipped doctrinally? What happens if I neglect being equipped morally?
8. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to pray for and call?

For Further Study:

[Inspiration - The Source of the Biblical Writings](#) (Part One of the Seminar "How Did I Get My Bible?")

[BRCC Blog](#) Articles on the Word of God (November 17, 2021-May 11, 2022)

[God's Penetrating Word](#) (June 16, 2019)

[The Question of the Bible](#) (April 8, 2018) - A look at why we can trust the Bible

[Sola Scriptura - The Ultimate Authority of Scripture Alone](#) (October 1, 2017)

[Shema - Hear and Speak God's Word](#) (January 1, 2017)

Preview of Next Week: 2 Timothy 4:1-5