

Theme: 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.

I. Intro - A Famine of the Word In the Church!

- A. Barna American Worldview Inventory 2022
- B. Only 55% of self-identified Christian parents of pre-teens think the Bible is the accurate words of God
- C. Only 33% of these parents said the Bible is their primary source of moral guidance
- D. This led to doctrinal and moral confusion as a large percentage did not know basic Christian beliefs and morals
- E. Today: the power and importance of God's Written Word

II. Timothy - Continue In the Word!

- A. Timothy - continue in the Word
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. 2 Timothy 3:14-15
 - 1. But as for you - a strong contrast with false teachers
 - 2. False teachers are deceived & deceiving - **but you**
 - 3. Continue/remain in what you have learned - the sound teaching
 - 4. You know those from who you learned it
 - a. This certainly includes Paul (vv10-11)

- b. It also includes his mother & grandmother (v15; 1:5)
I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. 2 Timothy 1:5

- c. This is another powerful reminder of the power of a Christian family for teaching children the Scripture and faith

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Deuteronomy 6:6-8

- 1. The Word must first be upon my own heart - I must be reading and applying God's Word
- 2. I must impress the Word of God upon my children - surrounding them with it, talking about it; keeping it always before them so that faith may arise and the Word might shape them

- d. Parents & grandparents - teach your children the Word of God!!!

- B. The focus of the written Word - salvation through faith in Jesus Christ

and how from infancy you have known **the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** 2 Timothy 3:15

- 1. The central focus of Scripture is not us - it is Jesus!
- 2. The central focus of Scripture is not tips for daily living - it is salvation
- 3. The Scriptures - which were only the Old Testament when Timothy was young - consistently point to Jesus Christ and salvation through Him.

4. The false teachers tried to come up with all sorts of new and strange teachings, but Paul said the Word relentlessly points us to salvation through Christ.
5. The message of the Gospel is so simple that Timothy was learning it from early childhood!
6. There are parts of the Word that are harder to understand - which is why God gives teachers to the church - but the central message of Scripture is clear and simple!

C. In the last days of deception and moral decay, Timothy needs to remain relentlessly focused on the written Word of God which will point Him to Jesus Christ.

III. The Power of God's Written Word

A. The source of the written Word is God Himself
All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 2 Timothy 3:16

1. The Scriptures (γραφή) - almost always refers to the written Word of God in the New Testament.
2. Paul has ALL Scripture in mind - not select passages, but rather every single Word God gave
3. Scripture is God-breathed - it comes from God Himself through human authors
 - a. The only occurrence in Scripture - God+breathed
 - b. This is the clear teaching throughout the Scripture
The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue. 2 Samuel 23:2
David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." Mk 12:36

1. David claimed God was speaking through him
2. Jesus said David was right - David was speaking by the Spirit of God!

3. God breathed out His Word through humans

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Pet 1:20–21

4. Prophecy of Scripture - written Word of God
5. Men spoke from God - God breathed His Word through men
6. This is all guided by the Holy Spirit

4. This means that the written Word is not the thoughts of humans about God but rather God's Word through humans.
5. For more on inspiration see further resources in this week's discussion guide and After Hours this week

B. The power of God's Written Word

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. 2 Timothy 3:16–17

1. Because the Scripture is inspired it is also useful - powerful to thoroughly equip us for every good work.
2. Four ways it is powerful for Timothy's ministry
 - a. Teaching - διδασκαλία - positive teaching of sound doctrine from God's Word

1. A key word in Pastoral Epistles - 15 of 21 NT uses in the PE

2. It is the “sound/healthy” deposit of doctrine given by Paul to Timothy that is to be guarded and handed on to others.

If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good **teaching** that you have followed... ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to **teaching**... ¹⁶ Watch your life and **doctrine** closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1 Tim 4:6, 13, 16
 3. The first and most important task for Timothy is to teach the Word of God. The positive teaching of the Word is the best antidote to the infection of false teaching.
- b. Rebuking - ἐλεγμός - correcting false doctrine
1. The original basic meaning was testing, bringing to light, exposing; it thus came to the idea of convicting or convincing of error
 2. Timothy must not only positively teach the truth - he must point out false ideas trying to take root.
- c. Correcting - ἐπανόρθωσις - to correct, restore
1. This word means ‘correcting, restoration’
 2. This clearly has overlap with ‘rebuking’, but I think it may focus a bit more on the correction of moral decay, vice, and sin in this passage.
- d. Training in righteousness - παιδείαν τὴν ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ - provide guidance/training for responsible and godly living
1. Training - παιδεία - act of providing guidance for responsible living, upbringing, training, instruction
 2. παιδεία is used most often in the NT for ‘discipline’ (Hebrews 12:5,7,8,11)
 3. This is the positive training in the moral living, virtue, and godliness
3. Possibly a chiasm of positive and negative use of God’s Word in both doctrinal and moral areas
 - A Teaching - positive doctrinal instruction
 - B Rebuking - negative correction of false doctrine
 - B’ Correcting - negative correction of bad morals
 - A’ Training - positive moral instruction
 4. The inspired Word of God is powerful to positively teach God’s people right beliefs and right moral practices, and to refute false teachings and bad moral practices.
 5. The Word is powerful to enable Timothy to positively teach God’s people the truth and train them to live in godliness, and to protect God’s people from the heretical doctrines and immoral conduct of the false teachers. (More on this next week).
- C. Thoroughly equipped by the powerful Word of God
- 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.** 2 Timothy 3:16–17
1. The purpose/result of the inspired, useful, powerful Word of God - thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 2. ‘The man of God’ - first Timothy and other leaders, but ultimately this applies to all believers
 3. ‘Every good work’ - it equips believers so that they can know truth from error, share the Gospel with others, and have their character formed so they can walk in righteousness and serve others.
 4. Behold the power of God’s Written Word!!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do I know that the Bible is God's written Word?

1. There has been a concerted effort for over 200 years to undermine this truth
2. But Jesus said the Scripture is God's Word, that it can not be broken, and that it will judge us!
3. Every church that has undermined the inspiration and infallibility of God's Word has wrecked its faith and ended by denying other essential doctrines, losing the Gospel, and caving to the moral decay of our age.
4. This begins with the leaders who teach the Word and shepherd the flock
 - a. NEVER accept leaders in BRCC who are soft on the doctrine of God's Word - if you do all will be lost!
 - b. NEVER be part of a church that is soft on God's Word
5. Satan's FIRST temptation of humanity began with "Did God really say?" and this is his tactic to this day.
6. Satan tried to tempt Jesus to sin by distorting the Word of God and this is his tactic to this day.
7. Do you KNOW that the Bible is God's inspired, inerrant, authoritative, written Word?
8. Do I try to sit in judgment of God's written Word, or do I know it sits in judgment over me?

B. Does God's Written Word dwell in my richly?

1. A closed Bible does me no good!

2. If I know how powerful God's written Word is, I should do everything I can to let it fill my heart, mind, and soul so it can have its full effect.
3. Do I come weekly to hear God's Word be read, sung, prayed, and proclaimed?
 - a. The power of the Word in the corporate worship of God's people has the power to form my heart, renew my mind, and shape my soul!
 - b. Podcasts, books, and radio shows are fine - but they can not compare to the power of God's Word in the corporate worship of His people!
4. Do I feed upon God's written Word daily, treasuring it more than my daily bread?
5. Do I speak God's Word to and with my family and friends?

C. The Table of Salvation

1. The worship of the Church is centered on the Gospel - salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
2. Worship is built around Word and Sacrament
3. The Word, the Water, and the Table are all Gospel-centered.

The Power of God's Written Word

2 Timothy 3:14-17
April 24, 2022
Communion
Acts 20:32

Teaching keywords: Word of God; leadership; Gospel; correction; godliness

Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Acts 20:32

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. 2 Timothy 3:14–17