

J.J.

GOD SPEAKS (Part 4)
2 Timothy 3:16-17

ANNOUNCEMENT :

- March 8 Children's Outing
- April is 5th Year Anniversary of the church, we will be celebrating it differently
- Afternoon is William Osler

INTRODUCTION :

Good morning!

"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say,

"*Good morning, Lord,*"

and there are those who wake up in the morning and say,

"*Good Lord, it's morning.*"

Today, we will be wrapping up on 2 Timothy 3:16-17

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly,

"*I know what the bible means!*" His father smiled and replied,

"*What do you mean, you 'know' what the bible means?*" The son replied, "*I do know!*"

"*Okay,*" said his father, "*what does the bible mean?*" "*That's easy, Daddy,*" the young boy replied excitedly,

"*It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'*"

2 Timothy 3: ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Pray

Last time, we talked about :

I. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

All Scripture is God-breathed

II. THE BIBLE SHOWS GOD'S WAY

1. The Bible shows what to believe

- **The Bible shows us the way to salvation.**

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.

Note : The Bible doesn't save you. IT'S JESUS CHRIST WHO SAVED YOU. What it does is it shows the way for you to be saved through faith in Jesus Christ.

That's why Paul says in the Book of Romans

Romans 10 : 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Continue...

- **The Bible shows us the truth.**

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching

Etymology : *useful; profitable* “ophelimos” from ophello (advantage; to accumulate; heap up; to increase)

It is to our advantage if we increase in knowledge of God’s Word.

Illustration : What do you feel when you see your savings account increase? From \$1,000 and then you keep on adding money and now you see it’s \$15,000. Or what do you feel when your investment of \$5,000 because of right strategies has earned dividends 10x which is now \$50,000. Definitely, you will feel secure. You will feel that whatever happens you have a cushion. That’s what God’s Word does to you not only for this life but from an eternal perspective.

Etymology : *teaching; doctrine* “didaskalia” it is used as the act of teaching and the content of teaching

You always hear the word doctrine.

Doctrine means a body or system of teaching or belief

Examples :

Religious doctrines : Mormons have their own doctrine (body of belief); Catholicism have their own doctrine; Moslems have their own beliefs; Buddhism have their own beliefs; Even atheists have their own set of beliefs

Political doctrines : e.g. Communism have their own body of beliefs; Capitalism have their own body of beliefs

Philosophical doctrines : Humanism “self at the centre of everything.” E.g. I’ll do what I feel like doing
Materialism : the accumulation of material wealth is the source of happiness.

Personal doctrines : e.g. Parenting styles or money management styles or even your own approach to life - you have your own belief on how you should raise your kids;

Some of us, even if you don’t know it, have their own set of doctrine or beliefs.

Proof : Have you heard yourself say, “Basta ako, sa palagay ko...” that’s already stating your belief which is part of your doctrine.

Anyway, the real question is not “What do you believe in?” BECAUSE EVERYONE HAVE THEIR OWN SET OF BELIEFS (DOCTRINE) whether they are aware of it or not.

THE REAL QUESTION IS, “WHATEVER YOU BELIEVE IN RIGHT NOW, IS IT CORRECT? IS IT THE RIGHT BELIEF? IS IT THE TRUTH?

Not every belief or doctrine can be right.

Story : When I was younger, when I meet a person of other belief, I would usually say, “Don’t worry, just as long as you believe in God and I believe in God, then we’re the same” But the real question is, how would you know that the God he believes in is actually the true God.

Some would say, “Well you’ll never really know”. Of course not, you will know because God has already spoken about who He is...in the Bible.

Quote : God is incomprehensible but knowable.

Why is it important that our belief is correct or the right belief or THE TRUTH?

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Quote : Our belief dictates our thinking and our thinking dictates our action and our actions have consequences.

Illustration : Over 500 years ago, were afraid to travel very far because they thought dragons or sea monsters would get them and they thought that the world is flat, so if you sail far enough, you will just fall off the edge of the world.

How do you know that your doctrine (set of belief) is the truth?

You have to look at the source.

Illustration : If you are the source of your belief, then that’s not a reliable source since you are imperfect, prone to create mistakes and biased.

If tradition is your source of belief (what you and your parents and grandparents have believed), then how would you know that’s correct? Of course, you wouldn’t and if you do, it’s usually flawed

We said that in order to know what is the truth, you have to look at the source.

Remember, the source must be perfect and not only perfect BUT PERFECT and HOLY because if the source is not perfect, then how can you be sure that what he said has no mistakes. And if the source is not holy, how can you be sure that the source is not lying to you?

And there is only one who is PERFECT AND HOLY - GOD!

AND HE HAS SPOKEN....

All Scripture is God-breathed

It is safe to say, if God is the source of Scripture, it is God’s Word, God speaking to you, **then any kind of belief that doesn’t square up with what the Word of God says, would either be flawed or at its worst...a lie.**

That’s the reason one of the attacks of Satan on the Bible is saying that it’s only a myth or created only by human authors and therefore flawed or is a lie.

But since this is God’s Word, it’s source is holy and pure

Psalm 119:140 Your word is very pure. Therefore your servant loves it.

And the Word of God is truth.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Application : Remember, belief dictates thinking, thinking dictates action, action dictates consequence.

Example : How would you know right now if your style of parenting is correct, right and the truth? As far as we know, there are two kinds of parenting – permissive and the strict. Which one is the correct one? What if your parenting style is wrong? Then you are playing with the consequences in your children's life. Even our parenting style should be based on God's Word

This now brings us to :

2. The Bible shows us how to behave.

rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Now since we know that God's Word is correct, right and the truth,

- **The Bible has the authority to rebuke us *rebuking***

Etymology : rebuke; reproof "elegchos" elegcho means to expose, to put it into the light; convicting, proving

In short, it has the authority to say if what you're doing is right or wrong because you're putting it in the light.

Illustration : One of my friends in the Philippines would always warn us not to fall in love with a girl you met a party last night. He terms girls with a "genic" ...similar to photogenics. He has a term for everything like "talikod-genic", It means some girls look good when you see only their back because of the long hair and they're sexy and when men see them, they would hurry up walking to see their face and then find out the ugly truth. Some girls he says are "Baguio-genic", because everyone seems to look good when they're in Baguio. But he warns never to fall for a girl you just met at a party last night. He calls them gabi genic. Because he says, all girls look beautiful at a party simply because it's dark and you already had a drink or two.

That is what rebuke means, the Bible acts as a light to expose if our beliefs or actions are either correct or not.

The problem most of us don't want to be rebuked. Why? It shows our ugly side. And no one wants to expose their ugly side

Proof: Look at all the photos at Facebook. All the photos are about the beautiful side of our life.

Illustration : I don't like looking at the mirror with bright lights because I see every hole in my face. I like the ones with the soft light since it somehow makes my complexion smoother.

Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,

But if we're doing something wrong, we need to be accept loving rebuke from God's Word or else how can we go to the second part which is correction *correcting*

Illustration : My wife loves me enough to tell me as it is. Last night, she told me, lumalaki na naman ang tiyan mo...and I would always say, “Hindi” But the truth is, I have not controlled my eating again that lumalaki uli tiyan ko and if I don’t accept that truth, how can I go on the road of trying to slim down again, if I don’t accept her “loving rebuke”.

*Proverbs 12: 1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,
But he who hates reproof is stupid.*

Why is it stupid to hate reproof? It’s because it’s the first step to improvement.

Illustration : Using the “lumalaki ang tiyan” scenario again. Have you heard anyone compliment you, “Hoy pastor, looking good, ang laki na ng tiyan mo ha.”

- **The Bible has the credibility to correct us.**

Correcting

Etymology : epanorthosis “epi” upon “anortho” a deformed person

Literally, it means straightening a deformed person

Remember, our rebellious nature doesn’t want to be corrected.

If being exposed to the light (rebuked) shows us our ugly part, **people don’t like to be corrected because it hurts.** Why does it hurt? PRIDE! And no one likes to be hurt.

Sometimes, listening to God’s Word cuts to the heart.

But the most important thing is HOW DO WE REACT WHEN WE ARE CUT TO THE HEART

Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Or we react like this when being corrected?

Acts 7:54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

But remember, when God is correcting us through His Word, He wants to bless us. Yes, correction or discipline hurts but it is for our good.

Proverbs 19:20 Listen to advice and accept correction, and in the end you will be wise.

HOW TO BENEFIT IF BEING CORRECTED - I know being rebuked and corrected by God’s Word isn’t a fun thing. But in order to benefit from this. Look pass the hurt brought about by the rebuke and correction and see if the rebuke or correction will be good for you or not. If it aligns with God’s Word, definitely you will be blessed if you accept correction.

Now a word to those if we are given the task of doing the rebuking and correcting according to God’s Word, to create a positive impact.

1. **Be gentle with your words.** (how you say it)

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

2. **Be careful with your words.** (what you say) e.g. don’t attack the person, correct the behaviour.

Proverbs 10:20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver...

Of course, there are times that you will need to be emphatic and forceful when correcting BUT YOU WON'T NEED TO USE IT MOST OF THE TIME.

Example : Last Winter Retreat, Mica was running without seeing that Oca is backing up his car. I had to shout at Mica, grab her and pull her away. That kind of action was needed at that situation.

There are times that sometimes, somebody has to shout at you because you are heading a slippery slope that is to detriment of your soul.

- **The Bible has the capacity to train us in righteousness**
and training in righteousness

Look at the connection :

- The Bible teaches us the standard...the truth (teaching)
- Then points out if our belief or action is not according to the truth (rebuking)
- Then it tells us how to base our belief or action according to the truth (correcting)

Now, it shows us how to live in the truth; to live lives according to God's word (training in righteousness)

Etymology : training; instruction : paideia (where we get the word pedia) cultivation of minds of children

Again, no one likes training. It's hardwork. But the reason we are being trained is so that we will have victory in actual battles.

Illustration : Athletes know this. They can never win games, they can never improve their skills if they don't train.

Or for example : The doctor told me to lose weight, every morning I do 40 jumping jacks, 20 full squats, 20 push ups and 40 sit ups... and then I had to minimize my carbs. I've already lost 10 lbs. But do I enjoy the exercise every morning? Of course not. Do I enjoy the minimized rice? Of course not.

It's the same with the spiritual life.

Hebrews 12:11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it

GOING TO CHURCH TO LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

WAKING UP EARLIER TO READ THE BIBLE AND PRAYING SOMETIMES WILL NOT BE FUN. But one of these days, you will see the blessings brought by it.

1 Timothy 4:8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

So if you accept rebuke, allow correction, acquire training in God's Word then

¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

If you want to build your muscles, you train. If you want to build your spiritual muscles, you need to hear, read, study, meditate and memorize God's Word.

THIS IS THE WAY TO BECOME A STRONGER BELIEVER and you will be living the Christian life to the fullest.

S.G.D.