

J.J.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

- Winterlicious Men & Women Ministry Fellowship Tonight at Chako @ 5:30 pm
- Lost & Found Winter Retreat – please register with Marivic and Chicay
Fee : 2 years ago \$30 per adult \$15 2-7 years old which includes food and lodging already

INTRODUCTION :

Story : Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. They discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother who is now almost blind. The first said: "I built a big house for our mother."

The second said: "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver."

The third said: "You remember how our mother enjoys reading the Bible. Now she can't see very well. So I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took elders in the church 12 years to teach him. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse and the parrot recites it."
Soon thereafter, their mother sent out her letters of thanks.

"Milton," she said, "the house you built is so huge. I live only in one room, but I have to clean the whole house."

"Gerald," she said, "I am too old to travel. I stay most of the time at home so I rarely use the Mercedes. And that driver is so rude! He's a pain!"

"But Donald," she said, "the little chicken you sent was delicious!"

Lesson : We will never know the importance of God's Word if we don't know the value of it.

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

Background:

- This is the last letter of Paul because he was imprisoned and he knows his time has come.
- He wrote this letter to Timothy to encourage him – to be strong because there were lots of persecution and the Ephesian church was weakening...

Quote : (Ray Stedman commenting about 2 Timothy 3) "How can a Christian survive during stressful and pressure-filled times? In a world gone insane with hate and passion, amidst a race that is destroying itself with moral filth and shameless self-indulgence, in a church which 'maintains the form of religion but denies the power thereof,' how can a Christian maintain his integrity against the current of the day?"

"Saturate your mind with the Scriptures. Let your thinking be controlled by the Word of God"

- Ray Stedman '(Thinking Christianly

Review :

I. THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

All Scripture is God-breathed

The Bible does not contain God's Word. IT IS GOD'S WORD!

Remember, when you are reading the Bible, **this is God speaking to you.**

What is the Bible?

All Scripture

Etymology : Scripture "graphe" a writing; written

Everything must be tested according to what is written; not according to what you think or what the society thinks or not even what the pastor thinks...IT MUST BE TESTED ACCORDING TO THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD WRITTEN IN THE BIBLE

The verse were studying says : *All Scripture*

What's inside this *All?*

Sixty-six books divided in Old Testament and New Testament (39 in the OT and 27 in the NT)

- **The Old Testament lays the foundation of the coming Messiah**
- **The New Testament reveals who the Messiah is :** Jesus Christ (The Son of God, very God Himself who became Man)

Hebrews 1: 1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son

***Quote :** The New is in the Old contained, and the Old is in the New explained – Graham Scroogie

Remember, the Old Testament and the New Testament is written by 40 authors in three different languages in different styles and genre points only to one person : JESUS CHRIST!

Illustration : It's just like one whole symphony orchestra, different instruments with different sounds, different players (human authors with different styles), conducted by one conductor (Holy Spirit), coming together harmoniously to play Vivaldi's Four Seasons (Christ)!

How did it come to be sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation?

It's what you call the "canon" rules/standard used to determine which book is God's Word.

Important to Note : It is NOT man who determines which book is God's Word. God used the councils to recognize which books were God's Word through the canon.

Good Illustration : Newton was the first one to talk about the law of gravity, but he wasn't the one who created the law of gravity, he only recognized it or discovered it through a process. The law of gravity has always been there.

Just like for example : The Gospel of Matthew or the Letter to the Ephesians or Ecclesiastes or Genesis – man did not write them to become God’s Word. When it was written, it has always been God’s Word, God just used man through the standards/principles (canon) to recognize it as God’s Word.

Which now brings us to : CONTINUE

All Scripture is God-breathed

Etymology : God-breathed “theopneustos” theo “God” pneustos “breath”

In other translations :

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, (NKJV)

2 Timothy 3:16 ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God (NLT)

Today, we think of the word “inspire” as some sort of “mystical” thing like, you saw the sunset and you were “inspired” to write a poem.

Or you have this experience in life and you were “inspired” to write a book or novel.

That’s not the meaning of the word inspired here.

Etymology of inspire “in spirare” Latin meaning to breathe in

Sidelight : When I was younger, I went to the doctor for a check-up and it’s the usual thing where she got a stethoscope and placed it on my chest and then she said, “Inspire” Huh? I thought, does she want me to inspire her? But experience taught me that when a stethoscope is put on your chest, you have to breathe in and so I “inspired” and then afterwards, she said, “Expire”...Huh? Does she want me to die? “ex spirare” to breathe out

So what does “inspired by God” or “God-breathed” means?

Theopneustos : “theos” God “pneo” to breathe, to blow

Let’s look at Scriptures again when God’s breath was used.

Genesis 2: 7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

So now it means, that God has breathed His life into the Bible.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, (ESV)

What is the reason He breathed life into the Bible? Let’s look again at the first time when God breathed life in to man. What was the purpose?

*Genesis 1: 27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.*

The original purpose of God for man is to reflect Him but sin destroyed it, distorted it. It’s just like you are looking at a mirror and then someone broke the mirror into pieces (sin) and you can’t now see God’s reflection in man. You see glimpses of it but not totally because of sin.

That’s why when you say “inspired by God”, the Bible is revelation of who God is, who He is, what His will is, His ways and His commands. You want to know God’s will? THE BIBLE! No other way.

Let me quote J.I. Packer :

“He made us with the intention that and we might walk together forever in a love relationship. But such a relationship can only exist only when the parties involved know something of each other. God, our Maker, knows all about us before we say anything (Ps 139:1-4); but we can know nothing about Him unless He tells us. Here, therefore, is a further reason why God speaks to us: not only to move us to do what He wants, but to enable us to know Him so that we may love Him. “ - J.I. Packer (Knowing God)

Important : When you read God’s Word, study God’s Word, listen to God’s Word being preached, you are listening to God speak words of encouragement, instruction, correction, to you, just like a loving Father would do to his own children because He loves them.

Isn’t that what happens to you sometimes, you are hearing God’s Word (logos) and then you know that God is personally speaking to you through His word (rhema)?

The Bible has two Greek words for “word” : logos and rhema

Illustration : Again, the difference between logos and rhema is this? Logos is the general revelation of God

Example : I can say, “I love you” to all of you.

But rhema is God speaking to you personally through His Word (logos)

Example : I can say “I love you “ to all of you but I say to my wife “I love you”, that’s my personal message to my wife and she receives it personally.

Quote : But remember, God’s Word speaks personally to you only when you read, study, listen meditate listen to God’s Word properly understood

Illustration : (demonstrate how to grasp the Bible with hand) Read, Study, Hear, Meditate and Memorize

So now if the Bible is God’s Word, then it means that His words are true because His perfect and holy.

He is called

Psalm 31:5 God of truth (KJV)

And if He is the God of truth, all His words are true.

Psalm 119:160 The entirety of Your word is truth.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

So what does it mean now that God’s Word is true? It means it is a reliable source to follow and trust.

If it’s a reliable source to follow and trust then what should we do?

- **We need to follow His commands because it is for our good and for His glory.**

Remember, the reason He made us is so that we will glorify Him and have the loving relationship with us. The reason He gave these commands is because He loves us and His only intention is always for our good.

That’s why Jesus taught us to call God, “Our Father”. And like our own fathers, God wouldn’t tell his kids to do something that would be for their destruction.

Illustration : There was this son who was in puberty who went to his father because he wanted to develop his muscles. He asked for his dad for help. He expected his dad to give him tips and ask him to do pushups or pullups. But instead, his dad who owns a big acre of land with a forest in it said, "Get the axe" and get me 20 40 footer trees" He got frustrated because that's hard work but since he's an obedient son, he got the axe and got his dad 20 trees. It took him around a two weeks to finish the job. Afterwards, he approached his dad and asked him for help to develop his muscles. Now the dad asked him to manually saw all these logs and make fences out of it. That's a harder task and it will take him around a month to saw these logs and make fences out of it. But since he is an obedient child, he followed his dad and it took him about a month to finish the job. After a month of hardwork, he again approached the dad and asked him to develop his muscles. The dad then asked him to put all the fences he cut and dig holes in entire field and put a fence around it. Now these will take him another month since it's a big field. But still he obeyed his dad. After all of these hardwork, he was so disappointed with his dad because he asked for help to develop his muscles and all his dad did was give him hard commands to fulfill. So he approached his dad and told him about his disappointment. But the dad said, "Come follow me", he then asked his son to follow him inside the house and they went in front of the mirror. He asked him to take his shirt off and the son realized that all of these hardwork was designed to develop his muscles and it also taught him things like hardwork and perseverance and even helped his family in fencing their field.

Important Application : Just like us, we ask God, "Lord make me more loving" And then He will send you people who are so hard to love and then He commands "Love." Or we ask God, "Lord make me more patient" And then He will give us situation that will really test our patience.

Following God's commands has many good ramifications if we follow it. **It's for our own personal good and development, it will also teach you so many things aside from the things that you asked for and it will also help in the Kingdom of God.**

*Isaiah 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

QUOTE : Obedience = Blessings

- **We need to trust His promises because He will fulfill them.**

Since God's Word is true, it means when He promises something, then He will definitely make sure it will become true.

If God says "He will provide all of your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus", then He will provide for your needs.

If God says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you." He will fulfill to add all these things (needs) when we follow His commands.

If God says "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you" Give all your worries to Him.

And if God says, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." DO IT AND BELIEVE IT!

Remember this, most of God's promises will be fulfilled when His commands are followed.

Obedience = Blessings

Summons : If obedience is equal to blessings, it is good to know what His commands are. Where will we find it? THE BIBLE. That's the reason God asks us to read it and then to obey it. **You cannot obey a command that you do not know. You cannot trust in a promise that you know nothing about.**

No wonder some Christians live in fear and misery, they either trust their own wisdom rather than God's wisdom. Or they know the Bible but don't use it (follow or apply or trust).

Story : When their son left for his freshman year at University, his parents gave him a Bible, assuring him it would be a great help. Later, as he began sending them letters asking for money, they would write back telling him to read his Bible, citing chapter and verse. He would reply that he was reading the Bible--but he still needed money. When he came home for a semester break, his parents told him they knew he had not been reading his Bible. How? They had tucked \$50 and \$100 bills by the verses they had cited in their letters.

Read your Bible. There are commands and promises inside that are for your good and for His glory.

S.G.D.