

J.J.

GOD SPEAKS
2 Timothy 3:16-17

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

- Winterlicious Men & Women Ministry Fellowship
- 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 :

Again, we are looking at the basics. We've taught you about Daily Christian living (1 Thess 5), setting a prayer time through the lens of Genesis, the plan of God in your life in Jeremiah 29 and now for me this is very basic but very important for without this, then we wouldn't know anything about who God is and all of us we'll be damned. DOES GOD STILL SPEAK TO US TODAY?

Yes! Through the Bible! I love this topic. I can talk about it the whole day. I'm also glad that in the P&W Night, before a song is sung, they read a verse from the Bible. Praise the Lord.

Some people think that God still speaks to us today just like the time of Moses and Joshua. But remember, everything that God wants us to know has already been revealed here in the Bible

Story : An officemate of mine was telling the story that one time he attended this conference. It was held in Araneta Coliseum and then the speaker said something like this, "Let's pause for a moment of silence right now and let's listen to God's voice and he wants to talk with you." Imagine a big coliseum with thousands of people and it was dead silent, when suddenly the cellphone of my officemate rang. Of course, people looked at him and he was so embarrassed that he wanted to say, "Excuse me, this might be God calling."

But before we talk about the Bible, let me just share to you the primary role of a pastor. It's connected with our topic today.

1 Peter 5 : 1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. (ESV)

If you notice the word shepherd, it was used as a verb and not as a noun. Because it is precisely used as a verb.

Etymology : "poimanon" verb, coming from the word "poimen" which means shepherd.

If I may paraphrase this for better understanding, Christ is saying to the pastors, "pastor the flock of God that is among you."

Notice also, that what I'm pastoring is the the flock of God. It is not my flock. You belong to God. I'm just a steward. (We'll talk about being a steward (steward of God's mysteries) later)

So the question is : How does a pastor, pastor God's flock? How will you know that a pastor is pastoring well? What is his primary role? Because one of these days, the chief Shepherd appears, how will I know I will receive the unfading crown of glory.

We will have to go first to the Bible again for answers. Let's go to the one who wrote this verse : Peter. And then we'll go to the last "habilin" of our Lord Jesus Christ to him in John 21

John 21: ¹⁵ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

¹⁶ He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?"

And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."

Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

Do you see the consistency in Peter's message? He has really put into heart our Lord's "huling habilin" here on earth to him.

First, you are the Lord's sheep (flock), not mine. My lambs ; My sheep."

Story : One time, an intermittent guest noticed that the church is growing and said, "Pastor, dumadami na ang tupa mo" (Pastor, the number of your sheep is growing). I told him gently, "Hindi ko po sila tupa, sa Panginoon po sila" (Not my sheep but the Lord's)

Second, Peter was called to "feed" them and "tend" them (take care). **So the question is, what do I feed you? How do I take care of you?**

And if we look at the cultural context at that time, the shepherds other jobs is to make sure to protect the sheep from wolves, thieves.

Matthew 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you dressed like sheep, but inside they are vicious wolves."

So as pastor, what do I feed you? THE BIBLE!!! How do I protect you? THE BIBLE!!!!

And I have to remember that you are God's flock, not mine. So I'm very, very careful in making sure that what I teach is God's Word, not my own opinion, not what I think what God meant but precisely ONLY GOD'S WORD!

As Paul said,

1 Corinthians 4: 1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

First, we are stewards of God's mysteries (meaning truth that needs to be revealed) and we must be found faithful. Faithful in what?

In making sure as a pastor or a teacher of God's Word, I only feed you with God's Word, not my own message, not my own opinion of what God's Word is BUT only what God really means.

That's why the Bible says in James 3

James 3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

That's why as pastor who is called to teach God's Word, when I exposit to you the Bible, I approach it with trembling, knowing that this is God's Word.

My job is to make it clear to you and give the meaning of it.

Nehemiah 8: 8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

How do I do that?

2 Timothy 2:15 Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth (Amplified Version)

Again, my primary job is to feed you with the truth and to protect you from lies. Everything else is secondary.

And sometimes, I have the unenviable duty to preach, counsel and rebuke you with things that doesn't taste good but is very beneficial to your spiritual health. And sometimes also, you will hear me rebuke you when I'm totally sure that your life or your doctrine doesn't match God's will in God's Word. I do that because I love God and you are God's flock and I want you to only have what is the truth.

Illustration : When we were young, my Nanay (mom) would make sure part of what she prepares for us sometimes would be ampalaya (bitter melon). I hated it during that time. All of my siblings hated it. We would do all that we can not to eat it but our mom would insist that we eat it and sometimes even putting a "tsinelas" on top of the table to force us to eat it. Is it because she's cruel and she doesn't love us? No! It's precisely because she loves us and she knows that eating ampalaya is good for our health. Now I love that ampalaya!

It is only through God's Word that I know your life will be changed to be more like Christ. That is the primary aim of Scriptures – to make you more like Christ. And sometimes, the way of the Lord as taught in God's Word is through suffering but it is all worth it because you have Christ!

Philippians 3: ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

As true followers of Christ, as disciples of Christ, we find our greatest pleasure, not in the conveniences of this world, not in material possessions (though they're not evil per se) BUT ONLY IN CHRIST!

But I believe, we are living at a time that we have so many Bibles printed in books but not imprinted in our hearts. When people have two or three Bible in their homes but are left unread. When even people in churches and in leadership, there's a dearth in the knowledge of His Word.

Story : The new pastor was asked to teach a boys' class in the absence of the regular teacher. He decided to see what they knew, so he asked who knocked down the walls of Jericho. All the boys denied having done it, and the pastor was appalled by their ignorance. At the next deacons' meeting he told about the experience. "Not one of them knows who knocked down the walls of Jericho," he lamented. The group was silent until finally one seasoned veteran of disputes spoke up. "Preacher, this appears to be bothering you a lot. But I've known all those boys since they were born and they're good boys. If they said they didn't know, I believe them. Let's just take some money out of the repair and maintenance fund, fix the walls, and let it go at that."

Today, we're going to study about the Bible and by God's grace, the goal is for you to know the primary importance of God's Word and on why you should read it and even make it a point to read the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation and find greater pleasure on it.

This will be either a 2 or 3 part series until we finish it by God's grace.

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.

2 Timothy 4:6 ⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Look at the reaction to His impending dying. Wow! He was looking forward to it. Why? It's because he has done what God wants him to do and He will face the Lord knowing that he was faithful to Him and has done the work that He has given him.

Some people are afraid of dying. Why? It's because they don't even know the reason they are living for in the first place.

- He wrote this letter to Timothy to encourage him – to be strong because there were lots of persecution and the Ephesian church was weakening...AND THE ONLY WAY IS FOR HIM TO CONTINUE TO PREACH THE WORD

2 Timothy 4: I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Look, here is a man about who knows he is about to die and still he's thinking about encouraging other people to be strong in the Lord and His Word.

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!

Note : You will never see the word "bible" in the Bible.

Etymology : Bible comes from the word "biblion" "book"; from "Byblos" "Egyptian papyrus", possibly coming from the word "Byblos", the name of the port from which Egyptian papyrus was exported to Greece. Papyrus is one of the methods they use to write on at that time.

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!

Acts 17:11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

Even our Lord fought His spiritual battles by saying "It is written"

Matthew 4: ³ And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, (grapho)

"Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

IMPORTANT : One of the tactics of the devil, if he can't get you to deny God's Word, he'll try to get you by distorting God's Word.

*"He will command his angels concerning you,"
and*

*"On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone."*

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

*"You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve."*

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)**

In order for you to understand, the relation between the Old Testament and the New Testament, read the book of Hebrews, specially from Hebrews Chapters 8,9,10,11

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)!

- **You will find Bibles with the Apocrypha/Deuterocanonals like Esdras, Judith, Tobit, though they are historical books, they were never considered part of the original 39 in the Old Testament or part of the Hebrew Bible because it was full of errors**

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.

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 :

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?

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 what is God's original design of God?

*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.

That's why 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.

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)?

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.

Hebrews 6: 4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

But remember, God's Word to you personally speaks only when you read, study, meditate and listen to God's Word properly understood or explained.

SUMMONS :

Lord willing we will continue next week but I do encourage you to read your Bible daily and try to read it systematically.

Why? When it was written by the human authors superintended by the Holy Spirit, it wasn't written randomly. It was also written with a situation behind it. So if you read it systematically, **you will have a better grasp of God's GREAT PLAN OF SALVATION and you will see that at the centre of it all is OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

Suggestion : First thing in the morning, I have my cellphone alarm at 6 a.m. and what I do is when I wake up, I read the Bible first, not for what I'm going to preach but for my personal pleasure and study because I know it's God's Word. I always start with Psalms, (psalm 116), then a chapter of the book I'm currently in the Old Testament (right now in Proverbs 4; just finished the book of Job again) and then a passage in the New Testament (right now in Luke 9 passage of feeding the five thousand men) and then afterwards, that's when I kneel down and pray.

I just don't read it for the sake of it. I pause and taste it and by His grace, I've read the whole Bible four times. The New Testament around six times and Psalms several times. And everytime, I read God's Word. Most of the books I've read is connected with understanding God's Word further aside from the hundreds of commentaries/other's sermons/ I've read is all connected with God's Word.

True Story : A man in Kansas City was severely injured in an explosion. Evangelist Robert L. Sumner tells about him in his book The Wonders of the Word of God. The victim's face was badly disfigured, and he lost his eyesight as well as both hands. He was just a new Christian, and one of his greatest disappointments was that he could no longer read the Bible. Then he heard about a lady in England who read braille with her lips. Hoping to do the same, he sent for some books of the Bible in braille. Much to his dismay, however, he discovered that the nerve endings in his lips had been destroyed by the explosion. One day, as he brought one of the braille pages to his lips, his tongue happened to touch a few of the raised characters and he could feel them. Like a flash he thought, I can read the Bible using my tongue. At the time Robert Sumner wrote his book, the man had "read" through the entire Bible four times. – Robert L. Sumner "The Wonders of the Work of God"

You want to hear God speak to you today to strengthen you, encourage you, show you what to do.
READ THE BIBLE! LISTEN TO HIS WORD BEING PREACHED! YES GOD WANTS TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.

- II. THE BIBLE REVEALS GOD'S WAY
- III. THE BIBLE PREPARES YOU FOR GOD'S WORK

S.G.D.