

2 Timothy 3:14-17 The Work of the Word

I met a sweet sister in the Lord – this wed night after the evening Bible study.

A) It was her first time here – she brought her granddaughter to the Children’s ministry.

B) She was absolutely amazed that we had a midweek service and that so many people were here to study the Bible.

C) She came up to introduce herself and said – *I just want to commend you for being brave enough to have a midweek service*

1) She continued – *There are not many Churches – around here that Have a midweek Bible study. I commend you for your Bravery*

D) I Knew that we were one of the few Churches in N. County to have a Sunday evening service –

1) But I didn’t know that we were one of the only ones to have a Midweek Bible study. **But it is true!**

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There are not many Churches that do.

I thought about her words the next day: An act of Bravery!

A) It is just what we do – Here at CC we study the Bible Chapter by Chapter / verse by verse – working our way thru

B) **Not an act of Bravery:** But then I was reminded of the words of the Prophet Amos – said – days were coming – Famine for the Word of God. Amos 8:11

C) Clarified: **Not a famine in its availability.** The famine is not that People will be without Bibles –

1) No, the Famine would be in **the hearing** of the word

D) Paul tells us here in Chapter 4:1-5

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.

We are living in that day and age! – Famine in the hearing of the word of God.

A) I am thankful to be a part of a Church where pp gather all week long to Study, to seek the Lord!

B) I feel blessed and proud to be your Pastor!

C) Now in our study of 2 Timothy we looked at Ch.3 in its totality last week

1) We briefly touched on V.14-17 last time.

D) In these verses Paul lays out a-5 fold description of the Work of God’s Word

I want us to come back to that today: Consider some important aspects of the word of God

A) My prayer as we go thru this, is that we might – appreciate even more the affect that God’s word has on our lives

B) And that our passion to study it/ to know the word would be ignited even more

14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Now Paul tells that the Bible is given to us by inspiration of God.

A) Literally “All Scripture is God-breathed.” “All Scripture is breathed into by God.”

B) Doesn’t contain the Word of God – It is the Word of God !

1) Love letter / Guide book/ instruction manual

A woman was sitting next to her first grade daughter during morning worship one Sunday, ... looked down at her open Bible. In a low whisper, she asked, *"Did God really write that?"*

"Yes," Susan quietly whispered back.

Looking down at her mom's Bible again, the little girl said in amazement, *"Wow! He really has neat handwriting!"*

C) Not quite what it means -

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. NASB

D) All 66 books / all 1,118 Chapters/ all 774,746 verses All 3 Million 500,000 and 34 words are all inspired & Living

1) Every word /Every verse/Every Chapter/ Every Book - **INSPIRED BY GOD !**

Here is what is amazing about it's inspiration: Most of you know but for the few who don't –

A) The Bible was compiled over a 1500 year period. Genesis to Revelation. 1500 years

B) Written in 3 different languages: Hebrew/ Greek/ Aramaic.

1) 3 different continents

C) 40 Different authors from various backgrounds: Kings/ Farmers

1) Doctors/ Fishermen.

2) Sheep herders and Military Generals

D) And yet it points us to one thing: **How to be right with God – by believing in His Son Jesus Christ.**

1) Central message.

E) Think about that – One controversial subject: 10 people here in Vista – how many opinions – at least 7 probably 10

But on the most important subject of all – How to be saved 40 different authors – 1500yrs / 3 Languages/ 3 Continents - ONE MESSAGE

A) Salvation in one name, the name of Jesus.

B) And that is what Paul reveals to us here in v.15 – The first work of the word – able to make you wise unto Salvation

C) The word of God describes for us the condition of the human heart!

1) It shows us the Condemnation of Sin – Reason man feels guilty – **We are guilty. Sinners – fallen short of God's standard.**

D) Man is lost – Man is doomed – But God made a way to be saved.

1) Revealed that way in His word

John 5:24

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Roman 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Philippians Called **The word of life**- It is characterized as that which gives life.

Psalms 19:7, "The law of the Lord is perfect, "Converting the soul."

It has the power to convert.

A) Problem today however– we read in the beginning here of Ch.3 because men in the last days would be Lovers of self / Lovers.. money / ...Pleasure

B) They don't want to hear the word – they don't want to hear the truth.

1) John 3 The word is like a light – Exposes men's deeds –

C) Because men loved darkness – They rejected the light – didn't want to hear the truth –

D) That is what Amos meant when he declared – **There would be a famine concerning the hearing of the word**

E) Hosea put it this way: **"My people are destroyed for lack of Knowledge because they have rejected Knowledge."** Hosea 4:6

1) It is not that they didn't have it – They rejected what they did have

But for every person who humbles himself in coming to the word of God – admitting their sin – turning to Christ

A) The word is able to provide the way of Salvation – Forgiveness – freedom from Guilt / shame – Make a person completely new

B) Totally right with God – Assurance of Salvation

C) That is too narrow, People say!

Wait a second – if they found a cure for Aids – PP will stand in line for days to get it in order to be cured of aids

A) No one is going to say: there is only ONE CURE – that is too narrow minded – that is so bigoted

B) I want to be cured by drinking tomato Juice or Meditating for hrs in the mts- They wouldn't say that – no one would

1) Just happy and excited there is a cure.

C) Well, the entire Human race has been infected with the Disease of Sin

1) And it is terminal – Soul that sins will surely die

D) No way around that – JESUS IS THE CURE

1) **God in His love says I will make it simple for you.**

The remarkable thing is not that there is only one cure – the remarkable thing is that there is a cure at all.

A) God has given us His word – so that we would be sure to know that it is the way. **Able to make one wise unto salvation**

B) Then after a person is saved, the word of God has a 4 fold affect upon their lives – it is Profitable Paul says for Doctrine or teaching.

C) Teaching: What is right – what we believe – And it is important that we believe the right things.

1) God's word is totally sufficient to teach us! – NO need of other resources

D) There are so many resources and opinions out there that tell us what to believe –

But the Bible – given to us by God, is an all in one resource

A) It teaches us about God/ Christ / HS / Angels/ death/ life / Satan

B) A Great Book – *What the Bible teaches* by RA Torrey – All Scripture

C) But the Bible is not just a book that teaches us Theology – It is also a book of Practicality

1) That is where the rubber meets the road for so many of us. **How to live – how to make it thru life.**

The Bible teaches us about Love/ Romance/ Marriage!

The Bible teaches us about Friendship

The Bible teaches us about Business

The Bible teaches us about Leadership

The Bible teaches us about Stewardship

The Bible teaches us about Parenting

The Bible teaches us about Social issues: Morality/ Integrity / Equality / Homosexuality/

All things that pertain to life and godliness

#3 Reproof = Rebuke

A) The Word that has such a positive ministry, in teaching building foundation,

B) But it also has a negative ministry of tearing things down.

1) The Word is not just a builder, it is something that rips and tears and shreds what deserves to be torn.

C) The Bible has a rebuking ministry, a rebuking effect.

That's calling people back from error. Confronting sin

D) That is not politically correct in a society that preaches tolerance.

1) Truth offends- We need to be confronted with error & Sin!

Hebrews 4:12,13 Gives us insight into how this happens

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

A) Here the writer of Hebrews tells us that the word cuts deeply – It unveils –

B) Now the picture here is very vivid.

C) The Word is like a huge sword which is just driven to the core of a person's being, slices right through and judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

D) It is both an X Ray machine and Surgeons scalpel all in one

1) God takes His Word, cuts deep into your heart, lays you open, right before God's eyes.

E) And nothing is hidden, He sees every single thing about you.

It sifts, it analyzes, it reveals emotions, attitudes and thoughts.

A) And you've experienced that. As you sit down and read through God's Word and you read about something...

B) Confronted with a Lack of love / selfishness / Pride / Bitterness –

1) It has a way of exposing all of those things in us. It cuts us open – We see ourselves for what we are!

C) It exposes sin it exposes error – But the Lord doesn't leave us in that place –

#4 Correction

A) The Scripture not only exposes sin as to its reality, not only exposes error, but it has the ability to correct both.

B) It has a corrective capability. It doesn't cut us open and leave us bleeding - what good would that be.

1) But it corrects

C) The word here, literally means to lift you up and straighten you up

D) The Word of God comes along, it cuts you to ribbons, it slays you,

1) It exposes false belief, false teaching, confronts sin issues and then the Word of God picks you up and straightens you up and sets you back on your feet.

It has the ability to straighten up your conduct, to thoroughly restore to an upright position,

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but

be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

I think of **Humpty Dumpty**, all the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty together again.

That's a comment on life. That's a pretty profound fairy tale saying that once you've destroyed it, it's gone.

But in God's terms, once you've fallen and crumbled, God's Word is able to pick you up and put you back together again. That's the tremendous truth of God's promise.

That's the restoring ministry of God's Word. And don't we rejoice in that?

"He that is taken in a fault, you that are spiritual do...what?...restore him in love."

The Word has the ability to do that...

#5 And then finally, the Word works in training in righteousness

A) Nurture: Instructing a Child - It means to train a child, it's having to do with educating children.

B) The Word is able to bring you up, that's what it means, to nurture you, to raise you, to grow you, to bring you up to maturity.

C) Complete – Lacking in nothing.

D) God's aim in our lives is to bring us to completion.

He is working on each of us – Like a sculptor – mold and shape you – the word is His tool.

A) Water soften / knife to cut / his hands to mold

B) The fiery trial

C) Let the word have its way: Make it a priority

1) Study, dig / Come out Wed nights

D) Home group -