

Subject: *The Holy Scriptures – Part 1*

Scripture: *2 Timothy 3:10-17*

This is the second message in a series about the basic teachings of our church. The title of the series is “What We Teach” and this message will explain in part what we believe and teach about the Bible, the Holy Scriptures.

The Scriptures have always been the foundation of a true church. From the time of the Reformation in the 1500s the church has held five truths as foundational pillars of what we believe and teach. These are spelled out with a brief summary in today’s bulletin insert: Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone, and Glory to God Alone. Of these five, Scripture Alone is the most important. It comes first because it is the foundation for all the others.

Here is the statement on Scripture Alone: “All Scripture in the Old and New Testaments is uniquely inspired by God. Therefore Scripture alone has the absolute authority of God and demands our highest respect and full submission. Scripture is the sufficient and complete source of truth that our church believes, teaches, and practices. Scripture is God’s full and final word for our church, our families, and our individual lives.”

THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

In our text Paul is writing to Timothy in the second of two letters. He is writing to him about the priorities of his life as a pastor and his teaching ministry in the local church. Paul was Timothy’s mentor and he taught him by example (vs. 10). He reminded him that ministry is costly (vs. 11-12). He warned him about false teachers and opposition (vs. 13). He urged him to continue in the things he had learned and known from childhood (vs. 14-15). Finally, he gave him a profound statement about Scripture (vs. 16-17).

A. Scripture is God’s written revelation to man

The scriptures (vs. 15, 16) mean what is written. The 66 books of the Bible were given to us as the Holy Spirit used 40 men to write it down over a period of 1,500 years.

B. Scripture is given and inspired by God

The phrase “given by inspiration of God” literally means “God-breathed.” Scripture claims to be the Word of God. The prophets referred to Scripture as the foundation of God’s promises and judgments. Christ and the apostles referred to Scripture as the foundation of all truth. Over 2,500 times in the OT the Bible says that God spoke what is written. The phrase “the word of God” is found over 40 times in the NT. One of the great texts on the Scripture itself is Psalm 19:7-11. Notice the phrase “of the LORD.”

Psalms 19:7-11 ⁷ *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.* ⁸ *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.* ⁹ *The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.* ¹⁰ *More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.* ¹¹ *Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*

C. Scripture is inerrant and infallible

All Scripture is holy, perfect, and pure. Since God is the source of all scripture, it does not have any errors or mistakes. God cannot lie and He never makes a mistake.

Proverbs 30:5-6 ⁵ *Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.* ⁶ *Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.*

D. Scripture is completely trustworthy

We can trust what it says about every subject. Scripture is the final word. When Scripture speaks, God speaks. We need to be careful about what we think and the ideas we follow. The only reliable source of truth is the Bible.

Matthew 16:13-23

In this text we see three possible sources of thought (man, God, and Satan), but only one source of truth (God).

1 Timothy 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*

2 Tim. 3:13-15

The holy scriptures are able to make us wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. What other place can we go to find that kind of wisdom?

What should you do with the Scriptures?

- 1) Respect the Scriptures
- 2) Love the Scriptures
- 3) Read the Scriptures
- 4) Study the Scriptures
- 5) Learn the Scriptures
- 6) Believe the Scriptures
- 7) Obey the Scriptures
- 8) Memorize the Scriptures
- 9) Meditate on the Scriptures
- 10) Treasure the Scriptures

What is your attitude toward the Bible? Does it shape your thoughts, attitudes, and actions? Or do you try to make the Bible fit your thoughts, your values, and your decisions?