

Subject: *The Holy Scriptures – Part 2*

Scripture: *2 Timothy 1:1-5; 3:10-17*

Today will be the third message in our new series called “What We Teach.” We began this series with a message about the importance of biblical doctrine, and then a message about the Holy Scriptures. In our message today we will consider another important element about the Scriptures. It is important to have a correct and high view of Scripture because everything we teach comes from Scripture.

THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

In our last message we considered the authority of God’s Word. When the Bible speaks, God speaks. Connected to this matter of biblical authority is the doctrine of inspiration (2 Tim. 3:16, “all scripture is given by inspiration of God,” lit., God-breathed). When we speak of inspiration we mean divine inspiration, not human inspiration. When we speak of inspiration we mean verbal, plenary inspiration (the words and the whole Bible). The fact that all Scripture is inspired by God determines everything else about Scripture.

1) God’s inspiration determines the AUTHORITY of Scripture

The Bible has full and final authority.

2) God’s inspiration determines the ACCURACY of Scripture

The Bible is inerrant and infallible. It is perfect and will never mislead us.

3) God’s inspiration determines the ABILITY of Scripture

The Bible tells us what we need to know. It makes us wise unto salvation (2 Tim. 3:15). It tells us how to live for Christ. It has the ability to give life and transform our lives.

Romans 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

This is the summary statement about the Scripture (from last week):

“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.”

We are living in a world that has a low view of authority, and it has always been that way. From the very beginning God told Adam and Eve what they could and could not do, yet they dismissed the authority of His words and disobeyed. They chose their own will instead of God’s will. We must understand the absolute authority of Scripture and submit to it.

The authority of Scripture...

- A. Is not a derived religious authority; it is the original authority of God Himself
- B. Does not change with the times or the culture; it is the unchangeable authority of God
- C. Is not one authority among many possible authorities; it is the exclusive authority of God
- D. Is not an authority that can be successfully challenged or overthrown; it is the permanent authority of God
- E. Is not a relative or subordinate authority; it is the ultimate authority of God
- F. Is not merely a suggestive authority; it is the absolute authority of God

The truth of the Bible is not something just to be considered; it is truth to be obeyed.

THE CLARITY OF SCRIPTURE

The Bible is clear and understandable. It is meant to be understood, so that we can believe it and obey it. Scripture was written for our good and for God's glory. It was written to reveal God and His plan of redemption. It was written so we could know Him and His will.

- A. Scripture is meant to be understood

Deuteronomy 29:29 *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

The Bible contains all that God has revealed to us and to our children. The Bible is revealed truth, not concealed truth. God has made it known to us and not hidden it from us. He wants us to understand what He has written and preserved.

Psalms 119:105 *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

Psalms 119:130 *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*

Proverbs 6:23 *For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.*

Romans 15:4 *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

Paul says the OT Scriptures were written for our instruction, endurance, and encouragement. All of those require understanding.

2 Peter 1:19-21 ¹⁹ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: ²⁰ Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

B. Scripture can be understood by children

Timothy had learned Scripture from the time he was a child (infant, 2 Tim. 3:15). From his early childhood Timothy's grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice read and taught him the Scriptures. His understanding of Scripture began at home. He learned about God, creation, sin, Christ, salvation, the church, holy living, heaven and hell. His home was a Bible school.

This was God's plan for His people from the very beginning.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: ⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. ⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. ⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. ⁹ And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Scripture can be understood by children, and they must be taught by their parents. The church is meant to come alongside and help parents, but it can never take the place of parents.

How often we have heard that things began to go wrong in the nation when Bible was taken out of our public schools. That is true. But something else has gone wrong. The Bible has been neglected in our homes.