

God-Breathed

2 Timothy 3:1-17

Introduction

Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning? We'll be examining some aspects of the best-selling book ever. It's not just your NY Times best seller like every book written by Politicians have listed on the cover. This book has estimated 5 billion copies sold. It also happens to be the most shoplifted book or stolen book. Which is a bit ironic. We're talking about as you have already guessed, The Bible. We'll be using the Word of God to preach about the Word of God. Now take note that I called the Bible the Word of God.

This is most unique compilation of books ever written. 66 books and about 40 different human authors, over period of 1600 years, 3 different continents (African, Asia and Europe). 3 different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Koine Greek). Its content is beyond its time with total accuracy and somehow it comes together in perfect harmony without error. It has one source and it's not man. We believe God is the source. So where do we get that from? Stayed tuned.

Our passage comes from the 3rd chapter of 2 Timothy. Timothy was a young man that is being tasked with Pastoring in Ephesus – The church of the Ephesians. Because Pastoring is such a high calling and one without its difficulties, Paul shares his heart and wisdom from God to this individual, Timothy. This was Paul's finally letter that he had written before his execution under Emperor Nero. This letter is categorized as a Pastoral epistle along with 1 Timothy and Titus for this reason. Now, just because it's written toward one person doesn't mean it's not applicable to us. As I said, stay tuned.

Scripture

2 Timothy 3:1-17 (1) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. (2) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, (4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (5) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (6) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, (7) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (8) Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. (9) But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was. (10) But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, (11) Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. (12) Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. (13) But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. (14) But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; (15) And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto 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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Outline

I. The world's condition to come, vv. 1-9.

A. The warning of perilous times to come, v. 1.

(1) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

1. Paul writes "in the last days."

a. There has been many speculations when these last days are.

b. If you do a comparison to our times today, we either are

here, or we are getting close.

- c. Well this isn't something people want to hear. We like good news rather than bad news.
2. The word translated "perilous" here has the idea of troubles, difficulty, and stressful situations.
- a. This sort of atmosphere will mark the last days not what causes it.
- b. In ancient Greek, the word was used to describe something that cannot be tamed such as a wild beast and raging sea.
- c. It is used only two times in the NT. Here and in Matthew's account where two demon possessed men are described as exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. Of course, Jesus was more than able to cast these demons out into the swine.
- d. Which implies something interesting to me: The word was used to describe something untamable, yet Jesus was able to take care of it. What do you think that means for the time to come? Only Jesus is able to take care of it and He will.
3. These times are inevitable, be ready.
4. These times are also not marked by financial hardship or natural disasters, while this may be involved; it is marked by human behavior.
5. In reality, these times are a result of disobedience and hostility towards the Word of God.

B. Human depravity in the perilous times, vv. 2-6

(2) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, (4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (5) Having a

form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (6) For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts.

1. Men shall be lovers of themselves.

- a. The phrase here is one word that literally means “self-lover.”
- b. This is certainly characteristic of our present age, when men and women are encouraged to love themselves above all things. People are told to love themselves unconditionally and that such self-love is the foundation for a healthy human personality. When according to God’s Word, self-centeredness is the root of unhealthy personality and relationships.
- c. We don't need to be encouraged to love ourselves; we naturally have such a love. Neither should we be taught to hate ourselves. We must see ourselves as we really are - both the bad of what we are in the flesh and the glory of who we are in Jesus.
- d. It is no coincidence that the first of these qualities will be a life that is self-centered.

2. Men will be covetous.

- a. The word here means “fond of silver.” Some render to be lovers of money.
- b. The idea is “always desiring more.” Their life is marked by discontentment. This is nothing new, but the means to pursue it is more than ever.

3. Men will be boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. . .

- a. Notice these characteristics. These are rooted in self-centeredness, disobedient to God's Word. Ultimately, it's a lifestyle without Jesus.
 - b. Each of these characteristics say "You don't matter, and God does not matter. All that matters is me."
 - c. These are not new, but much more predominant in today's age.
4. Men will be "without natural affection."
- a. This phrase is a single word in Greek. ἄστοργος
 - b. It is derived from the word we use for love in relation to family members, "στέργω."
 - c. This word literally means "without family love"
 - d. God has put in our hearts a certain natural love as a parent for a child and family. It is unnatural to have such as hate and disregard for family.
5. Men shall be "trucebreakers"
- a. How many times have you heard the vow "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do us part"; and yet, the high divorce rate.
 - b. We are in an age where covenants and promise breaking is no big deal.
6. Men shall be "false accusers."
- a. The Greek used here is interesting. It's διάβολος.
 - b. The same word used for "devil" to talk about Satan.
 - c. His name means "the accuser of saints."

- d. Just like the devil, men shall be false accusers. Which should be of no shock seeing how those are don't know God will only do after their father.

John 8:44 (44) Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

- 7. Men shall be incontinent (without self-control), fierce, despisers of those that are good.

- a. If there is a characteristic that stands out the most. It is this one:

“Despisers of those that are good.”

- b. Just like Isaiah 5:20 says: “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”

- c. If there is a dominant age where evil is called good and good is called evil, it is now. We've been in it for a while.

- 8. Men shall be traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

- a. Again, these characteristics are rooted in self-centeredness.

- b. Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. I want to note that there is nothing wrong with having pleasure. I believe that God intended you to have pleasure in this life, but when it comes before God and becomes an idol is where the problem lies.

- c. We don't have to choose between pleasure and God. Living the way God wants you to be is the best pleasure.

- 9. They shall have a form of godliness but denying the power thereof.

- a. These are spiritual frauds. They feel free to be “spiritual,” but

sense no obligation to be Biblical.

- b. They'll appear to be godly but deny the source of the power.
- c. From such, we are to turn away from.
- d. The simple responsibility of Christians is to turn away not only these attitudes, but also from the people who do these things. Many think it is enough if they themselves are not like this, but if we fellowship with these, we will become like them ourselves.

10. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly (gullible) women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts.

- a. These deceive gullible women and lead them away by their various lusts.
- b. They are con-artists and defraud people.

C. The destination of the corrupt ones, vv. 7-9.

(7) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (8) Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. (9) But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

- 1. They are always learning (willing to soak in any teaching) and leads them to not accepting the truth – that is the Gospel.
- 2. Jannes and Jambres are not named in the Exodus account, but these are magicians who opposed Moses.
 - a. They were able work real miracles, but by a dark power.
 - b. When Moses cast down his rod and it turned into a serpent, turned water into blood, brought forth a plague of frogs, they could do the same. Eventually, their power was shown to be inferior to God's power.

c. We should not be surprised when a miraculous spiritual power comes from a demonic source.

3. Just like Jannes and Jambres, the characteristics of the perilous time resist the truth, have corrupted minds, and are reprobates concerning the faith.

4. Sooner or later, their schemes will be exposed.

5. Remember this, just because they use the name of Jesus doesn't mean they are not of this crowd.

1 John 4:1-3 (1) Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (2) Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: (3) And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

II. What God's people can expect to happen to them, vv. 10-13.

A. The example of Paul, vv. 10-11.

(10) But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, (11) Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

1. Paul then shifts his contrast to commend Timothy. He followed the example of Paul in doctrine (teaching), manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, and patience. This is quite the contrasts to the perilous times.

2. Not only these things, but persecution too.

a. In Antioch, where Paul was driven out of the city for preaching the Gospel (Acts 13:50).

b. In Iconium, where Paul was almost executed by stoning (Acts 14:5).

c. In Lystra, Paul was stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:19).

d. All of them had one thing in common though, the Lord delivered him.

Psalm 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

e. Even if it means death, the Lord delivers.

3. Paul lived with the mindset that everyone of God's people should follow.

Philippians 1:20-21 (20) According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. (21) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

B. The expectation of the godly and ungodly, vv. 12-13.

(12) Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. (13) But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

1. All who will (desire) to live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

a. The word will here is the word used for desire.

b. This is one of those promises we don't like to shout "amen!"

2. Those who live in Christ Jesus will suffer some form of persecution; physical or social.

a. In America, you may not suffer physical persecution, but around the world, our Christian brothers and sisters face death and intense persecution because of their faith in Jesus.

b. You will face some form of opposition though if you have not already.

c. Don't expect the world to speak well of you or to applaud you for living a godly life and taking a righteous stand.

d. We get to identify with Jesus when we suffer for good. Count it all joy.

3. The ungodly in contrast will get worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

4. I sure hope no one here is waiting for the world to become a better place, it is only going to get worse until Jesus comes back.

III. How we can persist despite of the perilous times to come, vv. 14-17.

A. Timothy is exhorted to continue in what he has learned, vv. 14-15.

(14) But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; (15) And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1. Paul then encourages Timothy to continue in the things he learned.

- a. Timothy learned not only from Paul, but his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois.

- b. He does not only know, but he is assured – he is confident.

2. Since Timothy was a child, he has known the Holy Scriptures.

- a. The Scriptures would be referring to the OT.

- b. These Scriptures Paul speaks of can give wisdom for salvation through faith in Jesus.

- c. An application we can derive from this is to teach our kids the Scripture young. Not to indoctrinate them as some like to accuse, but to protect them from a lot of garbage out there. I am so grateful to have been taught the Bible at a young age. I wasn't saved until near 16 years old, but the Word still made its roots.

3. In contrast to the characteristics in the perilous times, Paul urges Timothy to continue in what he has learned – continue in the Word of God.

B. The equipping of the believer is by the inspired Word of God, vv. 16-17.

(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 perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

1. All Scripture is “given by inspiration of God.”

- a. I want to take attention to this phrase “given by inspiration of God.”
- b. The word Paul uses is θεόπνευστος. This is a unique compound word in the Greek language and only appears once. It literally means “God-breathed.” The idea is its divinely inspired, not that God gave the people a good thought or idea.
- c. In our BBT we use three means on how we know the Bible is God’s Word and reliable and true. The construction, Prophecies and the claims.
- d. One could say it’s illogical circular reasoning to believe the Bible is God’s Word cause the Bible’s says so” is not good reasoning.
- e. Yet, it is because of the first two means and its content in general. It is a good reason to believe it. If Scripture didn’t think of itself to come from God, why should we? Those claims are backed up.

2. The Word of God is His means by how He speaks to people.

Hebrews 1:1-2 (1) God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, (2) Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3. Note that Hebrews says “By His Son” – Jesus. Since Jesus is the Word, that means that way God speaks to us today is by His Word!

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- a. I’ve heard “I love Jesus, but I really don’t love the Bible.” A new one is I know what the Bible says but I know what God is telling me.”

b. This is total nonsense! To love Jesus is to love His Word! And vice-versa.

5. The Scriptures are also not men's opinions; the men were moved by the Holy Spirit.

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.

6. The Scriptures are profitable for doctrine (teaching) for reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness.

a. What am I to believe about God and man? What am I to believe about sin? What am I to believe about the future, life, or death, or life after death? The scriptures are profitable to establish the foundation of what we are to believe. They're profitable for doctrine. I can base my beliefs upon what God has said because it is indeed God's word.

b. How often the word of God has brought correction to my life? Too often I falter and lose course, but the word of God brings a balance, it brings correction and brings proper perspective.

c. It instructs me how to know Jesus and how to live right.

d. The Scriptures are far more beneficial to us believers than we can imagine, so that the man of God can be equipped and thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

7. The same Word is to be preached: 2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

8. No man of God is called to just preach, he is called and commanded to preach THE WORD – preach THE GOSPEL.
9. What is you like most about your Pastor’s preaching? Is it because he is witty and tells the best jokes? Is it because he is a great storyteller and knows how to get your attention? Or is it foremost that he communicates the Word of God?
10. If you only get the Word of God on Sundays in your life, there is a problem. If you’re getting the Word throughout the week, but not on Sundays from your Pastor, there is an even bigger problem
11. A major issues in our local churches today is there are Pastors and preachers who do not preach the Word, instead, they give into the itching ears.
12. Don’t fall for the popular movement thinking “I don’t need church because I can study the Bible for myself.” We need both church in our lives and the Word. Church is not just for the preaching.
13. If not for the Word of God, I would be out of job here. I’d be out all out ideas. By God’s grace, I don’t need any of my own ideas.

Application

A Psalmist proclaimed that he would hide the Word in his heart so that he won’t sin against God. So how can someone hide God’s Word in this heart if they do not know it? How can someone know God’s Word if they do not read and study it? We are in perilous times for sure. We are privileged and blessed to have easy access to God’s Word, so let us use that freedom to know God more and make His Word priority in our lives. If there was 1 favorite passage in the Bible, I had to consider my favorite, it is this one. Psalm 119:92 “Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction.”

*****Prayer*****