

Text: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Meaning: Paul told Timothy to immerse himself in the Word

Big Idea: We must immerse ourselves in the Word to combat a godless culture

Objective: I want the hearers to immerse themselves in the Word

Theme: Truths about the Bible

THE BIBLE

In the 1992 film, A FEW GOOD MEN, you have one of the most famous movie lines of all time. Jack Nicholson, playing colonel Nathan R. Jessup is on the witness stand and he is being questioned by Tom Cruise, playing Lieutenant Daniel Kaffee, for supposedly ordering an illegal disciplinary action on an underperforming Marine which ended up costing him his life. At the Climax of the questioning Lieutenant Kaffee screams at Colonel Jessup, "I WANT THE TRUTH!", to which Colonel Jessup responds, "YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE TRUTH!"

Beloved, I'm here to tell you that in our society today many are demanding the truth. Many are crying out for justice, and righteousness, and fair treatment, but sadly there are many who can't seem to handle the truth. Absolute truth. What is the truth?

SEAN MCDOWELL VIDEO

John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Beloved, the Word of God, the Bible, is the very foundation for all that is true.

Nancy Pearcey

(Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity)

Christianity is not a series of truths in the plural, but rather truth spelled with a capital 'T'....Biblical Christianity is Truth concerning

total reality – and the intellectual holding of that total Truth and then living in the light of that Truth

Jesus even went so far as to say in John 14:6,

"I AM THE WAY, TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. NO MAN COMES TO THE FATHER BUT BY ME."

Beloved, Christianity is on trial, and that means truth itself is being questioned. Daily, as Christians we are on the witness stand with the great Judge of all creation presiding – and he has the Word of God before us and He's asking are we going to tell the TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH SO HELP US GOD!

Church, every day we are under oath. Are we going to boldly testify to the truth of the gospel or are we going to cower under the pressure?

In this series we are going to look at some of the basic truths of the faith that are under attack in our culture today and see what the Scripture actually has to say about these things.

The purpose of this series is not to embolden us with some self-righteous bravado so we will go and vehemently debate our neighbors. The purpose of this series is to help us all know what we believe and why we believe it so we can graciously point others to Christ.

1 Peter 3:15-16

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

In Jude 1:3 we are told to “contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.”

READ 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

The Bible is God’s inspired revelation of the origin and destiny of all things. It is an incredibly transcendent work which has been in existence in its totality since the 300’s A.D. with some portions of the Old Testament dating back as early as the 1400’s B.C. As a literary composition, the Bible is the most remarkable book ever made. It is a divine library of 66 books, some of considerable size, and others no larger than a tract. Over a 1500 year period 40 different authors from all walks of life penned out its contents. The authors include shepherds, farmers, tent-makers, physicians, fishermen, priests, philosophers, and kings. It was written originally in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Yet with all these different authors, three different languages, and 1500 years of writing, it has an unbelievably cohesive and unified message. No other supposed holy book matches the antiquity or credibility of the Bible. As of today it has been translated into over 2,400 languages worldwide, and it is still the number one selling book of all time with over 6 billion copies sold and hundreds of thousands more being purchased or distributed every single day.

Many have tried to discredit it, some doubt its contents, and others have even tried to eradicate it, but nobody has been able to contain it.

VOLTAIRE ILLUSTRATION

Voltaire, the famous 18th century French philosopher, once said the Bible would be merely a footnote in history by the end of his lifetime. Just 50 years after His death the Geneva Bible Society was printing and distributing bibles worldwide from His very home off his very printing press.

It has stood the test of time and the attacks of skeptics and critics everywhere. There have been billions of people throughout the ages who have believed its contents and countless more who believe it still today.

Josh McDowell writes concerning the historicity of the Bible, *Archaeology has established the historicity of the people and events described in the Bible, yielding over 25,000 finds that either directly or indirectly relate to Scripture. Moreover, the historical existence of some 30 individuals named in the New Testament, and nearly 60 in the Old Testament, has been confirmed through archaeological and historical research....the archaeological data we now possess clearly indicates that the Bible is historically reliable and is not the product of myth, superstition, or embellishment*

Pastor Voddie Baucham once said....

I choose to believe the Bible because it is a reliable collection of historical documents written down by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses. They reported supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies and claimed that their writing was divine rather than human in origin.

CHURCH, THE BIBLE IS HISTORICAL, RELIABLE, VERIFIABLE, AND UNDENIABLE!

Most importantly this Bible answers the most important and intriguing questions of life:

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

WHY ARE WE HERE?

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF MY EXISTENCE?

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE WORLD?

**IS THERE ANY HOPE?
ARE THERE MORAL ABSOLUTES?**

Bible – one consistent and transcendent message

There is an all powerful, all knowing, everlasting, holy and loving God who made everything we see and know. He made mankind in His image and gave us His standard for life – but we have fallen short of His standard. We deserve to be destroyed and condemned as a result of our disobedience to Him. However, the word gospel means GOOD NEWS! The good news is that this loving God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to atone for our sin, and He did so by dying for us. Jesus, left Heaven and came to earth and lived a sinless life, and willingly chose to be arrested, beaten, and crucified on a cross for us. They buried Him, but three days later He rose from the dead! Now, whosoever will confess Jesus as Lord and believe in their heart God raised Him from the dead will be saved! And you will begin to live out that very purpose for which you were created, which is to be in a loving relationship with your Creator. But that relationship is only available to us through the atoning death and resurrection of Christ.

That is the GOSPEL! That is the central message of all of Scripture. The question today is have you confessed Christ as Lord and do you believe in your heart that He is alive from the dead even now?

For those who do, Paul gives us some transformative truths concerning the Scriptures.

CONTINUE LEARNING – you never make it as a child of God. The Christian life is continued learning – and learning is what we take to heart.

CONSIDER THE MESSENGER – Do as I say not as I do is not the gospel. The gospel is Do as I do.

Not only should you consider the message, you should also consider the messenger. Who you learn from is just as important as what you learn from them. Be careful who and what you listen to.

TWO IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT THE BIBLE:

1. THE BIBLE IS GOD’S WORD NOT MAN’S OPINION

Paul says here that ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD.

ALL – the Word PAS in the Greek. This word not only speaks of the total message of the Bible, it refers to the sum of its parts as well. In other words every single word of the Bible is God’s revelation to us.

SCRIPTURE – this is the combination of both the Old and New Testaments. In fact, the New Testament was being written when the Lord inspired Paul to pen out these words, so the initial focus is that the Old Testament is just as inspired by God as the New Testament. When Jesus came He ushered in a new covenant, but He did not do away with the old covenant. He fulfilled the righteous demands of the law such that we no longer have to bring animal sacrifices for the atonement of our sin. The moral commands of God we read in the Old Testament are still valid today.

Romans 15:4

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction

BREATHED OUT – some translations say that all Scripture is INSPIRED by God. Breathed out is the literal translation of the word – it means the Holy Spirit breathed this Word out through these men to us. To put it in 5th grade terms: There are many men who penned out these words, but ultimately God is the AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE.

This...leads us to assert that the Bible is infallible, inerrant, and authoritative. The term “infallible” suggests that the Bible

does not mislead, is a sure, reliable guide, and is fully trustworthy in all matters about which it speaks¹

The term “inerrant” suggests that the Bible is free from all falsehood or mistakes, and it provides a safeguard for the confidence that Scripture is reliable in all of its assertions.²

Therefore, the Scripture is our sole authority for faith and practice in the Christian life. Keep in mind, the words themselves do not have life – it is the living WORD OF GOD, the LORD JESUS who gives us LIFE and the Bible is so special because it tells us of our King and Savior Jesus and what He did to give us ETERNAL LIFE.

THINK ABOUT THAT – HOW AWESOME IS OUR GOD! HE MOVED ON 40 DIFFERENT MEN OVER A 1500 YEAR PERIOD THROUGH THOUSANDS OF DIFFERING CIRCUMSTANCES AND HISTORICAL EVENTS TO GIVE US ONE PERFECTLY CONSISTENT AND BEAUTIFULLY COHERENT MESSAGE THAT ALL POINTS TO JESUS!

Church – GOD WROTE A BOOK! It’s called the Bible.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A COMMA MAKES

A wealthy woman who was traveling overseas saw a bracelet she thought was irresistible, so she sent her husband this cable: "Have found wonderful bracelet. Price \$75,000. May I buy it?" Her husband promptly wired back this response: "No, price too high." But the cable operator omitted the comma, so the woman received this message: "No price too high." Elated, she purchased the bracelet. Needless to say, at her return her husband was dismayed. It was just a little thing--a comma--but what a difference it made!

¹ Thomas D. Lea and Hayne P. Griffin, [1, 2 Timothy, Titus](#), vol. 34, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 239.

Beloved, every comma in the Bible is exactly what God has for us. Every WORD MATTERS!

IF YOU WANT A WORD FROM GOD GET IN THE WORD OF GOD!

2. THE BIBLE IS GOD’S MANUAL FOR LIVING

The Bible is God’s instruction manual. It’s His road map for life. God’s heavenly GPS is right here so that you know how to get to the right destination.

Paul says here that the Word of God is PROFITABLE
PROFITABLE – useful, advantageous, beneficial

Whenever we hear the word profit we think about making money. A business or a corporation makes money when it brings in more money than it is paying out.

Beloved, there is GREAT WEALTH IN THE BIBLE! There is a wealth of knowledge and wisdom for living in the Word of God!

THE RICHEST PERSON IN THE WORLD IS THE PERSON WHO OBEYS THE SCRIPTURE!

THE CHRISTIAN

Teaching – speaks of correct doctrine.

The greatest theological commentary in the history of the world IS THE ONE GOD WROTE ABOUT HIMSELF! There are a lot of good books and commentaries out there to help us with theology, but if

² Thomas D. Lea and Hayne P. Griffin, [1, 2 Timothy, Titus](#), vol. 34, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 239.

you dig into this word and you ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and you connect with other mature Christians for counsel you can know what is TRUE ABOUT GOD and WHAT HIS WILL IS FOR YOUR LIFE.

Reproof and Correction

The Word of God also shows us what is wrong with our lives. As we open this Word our loving heavenly Father, like a good Daddy, exhorts us and calls out what is not right in our lives. And for what purpose? Not to condemn us, but to CORRECT US! God's desire is to correct us in His grace, that we would walk in the CORRECT way before Him, not stay in our sin.

Training in Righteousness

Training – speaks of DAILY CONSTRUCTIVE HABITS

The Bible gives us tips and easy to understand principles to apply in order to defeat sin and live successfully by the power of the Spirit.

John Maxwell

You never change your life until you change something you do daily. The secret to success is found in your daily routine.

IT'S BEEN SAID THERE IS NO ELEVATOR TO SUCCESS – YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE STAIRS.

Questions:

WHEN do you get in the Word and pray?

WHERE do you get in the Word and pray?

WHAT resources or plans do you have for time with God?

WHEN do you meet with others to discuss your time with God?

Get in the Word until the Word gets in YOU!

We are what we DAILY DO.

AFRICAN GRASS PATH ILLUSTRATION

Early African converts to Christianity were earnest and regular in private devotions. Each one reportedly had a separate spot in the thicket where he would pour out his heart to God. Over time the paths to these places became well worn. As a result, if one of these believers began to neglect prayer, it was soon apparent to the others. They would kindly remind the negligent one, "Brother, the grass grows on your path."

The Church

Paul finishes this section by telling a young Pastor, Timothy, that it is the Word of God that best equips him for ministry.

The job of the Church and the Pastor is not to get wrapped up in CULTURAL RHETORIC. Our responsibility is to preach, teach, and apply the WORD OF GOD!

Church – don't get caught up in CULTURAL RHETORIC! If the Church should be anything, we should be the pillar and foundation of the TRUTH!

HOME FROM HERE

The story is told about a 7 year old girl who got lost in a big city. The girl frantically ran up and down several streets, looking for a familiar landmark. A policeman saw the girl, realized something was wrong, and offered to help. She got in the police car and he drove her through the nearby neighborhoods. Suddenly she pointed to a church and asked the policemen to let her out. She assured the officer, "This is my church, and I can always find my way home from here."

Beloved, you can always find your way home from here. When I'm in the Word of God and with the people of God consistently I can always find my way home. Otherwise, I am desperately lost.