

II Timothy, Sermon #24

II Timothy 3

In these last days, we would have perilous seasons.

A perilous season can be described as God's people resisting truth and reprobate concerning the truth.

An ungodly Christian is a misnomer, oxymoron—what the Bible calls “carnal” Christians—Christians who are not living the Bible.

In order to be able to live an ungodly lifestyle as a Christian, the Bible must be uprooted, displaced, set aside, or done away with—Christians operating/living apart from the Word of God.

The American church has rejected, forsaken and forgotten the Word of God.

And to forget the Bible is to forget God.

They have a form of religion, but deny the Power.

God intended for believers and the Bible to be bonded, betrothed.

If the Bible be taken away, we have no foundation for our faith, no finality for our future, no guide for our living.

So, God challenges us to continue in the Scriptures.

I've entitled this entire series “Living in This World”

II Timothy 3:16

Let's stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

II Timothy 3:16-17

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

Living in This World

#1 – the first truth regarding the Scriptures is—they are holy

Secondly (#2), the Scripture leads us to salvation – v. 15

Third truth (#3) – all Scripture is given by inspiration of God – v. 16

What is “inspiration”?

God, through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit on the Bible’s writers, human authors with their personalities, wrote down/recorded exactly what God wanted them to write without error.

That is the Doctrine of Inspiration.

The Bible says **all** Scripture—the unity of Scriptures

The Bible was written on two continents, written in three languages over 16 centuries in different circumstances—written in tents, deserts, cities, palaces, dungeons.

The human writers are from all kinds of backgrounds—some were politicians, judges, kings, priests, prophets, shepherds, scribes, taxmen, soldiers, physicians, fishermen

Yet, in spite of all this, the Bible is unmistakably unified—the unity of the message of the 66 books.

At least 36 different authors beginning with Moses who wrote around 1500 B.C. and ending with John around A.D. 100

The Bible fits together like a puzzle.

The Bible is without error in all matters

The Bible is inerrant in everything it teaches and reports.

The Bible does not contain any error—that is the Doctrine of Inerrancy.

The Scriptures are infallible—they are accurate/true.

All of this is because of **Who Wrote the Bible!**

All Scripture is given by inspiration **OF GOD!**

You've got it—don't forget it!

Scriptures take on the nature of God.

Illustration—each author and speaker that we come in contact with has certain characteristics by which he is known for in his teaching or writing.

Personality of Paul – best schools, training

Personality of John – fisherman

Stand these two up against one another—you can tell which one wrote, but God within their personalities wrote down His Word exactly.

The fact that the Scriptures are God-breathed proves their infallibility/trustworthiness because the Scriptures take on the nature of God.

God is omniscient.

Therefore, He is complete and true in all He reveals to man in the Bible.

It is by this that God cannot make a mistake, and therefore, the Scriptures are without mistake.

The Bible is without error.

God is also all powerful and therefore, He is completely competent to give us a perfect, unchanging, everlasting Book.

It would be impossible for God to be the author of error.

The Bible says that God cannot lie (Titus 1:2)

I. Because God wrote the Bible, the Bible is accurate.

Psalms 119:160 says, "Thy word is true from the beginning."

As surely as night follows day and day follows night, God still lives, and the Bible is right—right in its composition, right in its character, right in its content; it was right yesterday, it is right today, and it will be right tomorrow.

It is right to live by and right to die by.

The Bible is the Word of God. It is an everlasting Book. It is an accurate Book.

Scripture first of all and above all is from God and about God, His self-revelation to fallen mankind.

From Genesis through Revelation, God reveals His truth, His character, His attributes, and His divine plan for the redemption of man, whom He made in His own image.

Galatians 3:8, 22, "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, 'In thee shall all nations be blessed.' . . . But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe."

The Bible is accurate.

II. Because God wrote the Bible, the Bible is our authority.

The Scriptures are **authoritative**.

Common thought today is whatever I choose to believe is so.

God claims whatever He says is true and is so.

The Bible is the final authority for man whether man wants to believe it or not.

As God, He is all powerful, all knowing, and all present.

It puts Him far above man's ways. He is the Authority.

Is the Bible an exclusive source of truth?

Can you find truth anywhere else? Yes in . . . history, but all that the Bible says about history is true but doesn't contain it all.

Science, but all that the Bible says about science is true, but it does not contain it all.
Horse training, but all that the Bible says about horse training is true, but does not
contain it all.

Life and Godliness—yes—II Peter 1:3-4—all pertained unto life and Godliness.
He has given it all to us.

There is no higher authority on earth than the Word of God.
It's not the pope, priest, pastor

III. Because God wrote the Bible, it is available.

In II Timothy 2:9 Paul says, "Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto
bonds—Paul said, 'I'm in jail.'—but the Word of God is not bound."

You may put the man of God in prison or to death, but the Word of God is still loose, still
unbound/unshackled, still as powerful as ever, still as available as ever.

In her reign of terror, Bloody Mary, along with killing 300 Protestants, confiscated the
Bibles and burned them.

But despite the efforts of Bloody Mary, Voltaire, and a host of others like them, I still
have a Bible.

You still have one.

Thanks to men like William Tyndale who was burned at the stake.

From the Muslims of today, Bible burnings are still prevalent.

The Catholics burned many copies of the Bible.

The Bible is indestructible.

Don't you think for a minute that there is not a war on the Bible.

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away."
(Matthew 24:35)

God told Jeremiah to write all the words that “I have spoken unto you”—against Israel, against Judah—so that they may return from their evil ways.

The Word of God was being read before the king and the wicked king Jehoiakim physically cut the written Word of God with his knife and threw it into the fire (Jeremiah 36:23), thus destroying it.

Jeremiah 36:27-28, “Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, after that the king had burned the roll, and the words which Baruch wrote at the mouth of Jeremiah, saying, ‘Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned.’”

We still have the Book of Jeremiah today.

This is the **Doctrine of Preservation**.

What is the Doctrine of Preservation?

Preservation is “the providential act of God whereby He keeps His Word pure and accurate so that believers of all generations have the very Word of God.”

God has protected His truth in transmission down through the years.

Although we do not have the original autographs, we do have over 5,000 New Testament manuscripts alone.

The doctrine of preservation does not teach that individual copies of the Word of God cannot be destroyed or lost.

For example, the high priest Hilkiyah found the book of the law in the house of the Lord according to II Kings 22:8.

Through a volume of surviving manuscripts, we have the preserved Word.

The Bible is available—can’t destroy it, but it has been watered down through versions.

IV. Because God wrote the Bible, it's effective, it works.

It is the key to everything.

1 Thessalonians 2:13, "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

The Gospel still saves today. People still receive it.

The Bible has a transforming power to change the lives of individuals

The Bible brings conviction; people respond all kinds of ways to conviction.

The Bible brings conversion.

Jesus Christ makes a difference in a person's life.

The Bible brings spiritual growth

Have we been convicted? Converted? Challenged?

The Bible is a hammer:

Jeremiah 23:29, "Is not My word like as a fire?" saith the LORD, 'and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?'"

The Bible is a mirror:

James 1:23, "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass."

The Bible is like water:

Ephesians 5:26, "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."

The Bible is a sword:

Ephesians 6:17, ". . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"

The Bible is a lamp and light:

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

The Bible is like honey and gold:

Psalm 19:10, *“More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”*

The Bible is like milk:

I Peter 2:2, *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”*

The Bible is like bread:

Matthew 4:4, *“But He answered and said, ‘It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.’”*

The Bible is like seed:

Luke 8:11, *“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.”*

Be it understood that we believe the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible, impeccable (having no flaws, perfect), indestructible Word of the living God.

Our God is the God of truth (Deut. 32:4).

The Spirit is Truth – I John 5:6

Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth . . .” – John 14:6

Jesus said, “Thy Word is Truth.” – John 17:17

The Bible is effective.

V. Because God wrote the Bible, the Bible is a living Book

I Peter 1:22-25

Every other book is dead.

Vs. 16 - All Scripture is "given by inspiration of God."

Is one word in the Greek—*theoneustos* = God-breathed—God breathed out all Scripture.

The Scriptures are direct from God.

Since breath is life, when God put His Spirit into the words of Scripture, He was also putting His life in Scripture.

Hebrews 4:12, "*For the word of God is quick [living] . . .*"

Quick and powerful, living and active

The Word has penetrating power and can reach the innermost part of a person.

The Word is always sure, steadfast and full of power.

It is never out of date.

It is never stagnant, never defiled; so, therefore, ever living.

The Bible is the result of the breath of God.

God breathed out the Scripture.

Human authors wrote the texts, but the Bible originated as an action of God who breathed it out.

The Bible is the greatest discovery one can make.

It is more precious than fine gold, more powerful than the forces of nature and man combined, more piercing than a sword with two edges, more satisfying than honey from the honeycomb, more aromatic than the perfumes of Arabia.

It is not the book of the week or the book of the month or the book of the year or the book of the decade or the book of the century or the book of the millennium; it is the Book of the ages.

It is the eternal Book.

The books of men are outdated.
They are placed on library shelves, then replaced.
They appear, then disappear.
They become obsolete, while God's Book abides forever.

I ask you, who can calculate its value or estimate its worth?

Now, how important is the Word of God to living in this world?

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Are you saved by the Bible?

It says we are sinners and doomed to hell.

It says Jesus is the only Savior, and that He can save us from our sins.

We need to believe on Jesus Christ and what He has done for us.

The Bible is the believer's sword—it is the Word of God

Do we use it?

Do we read it? Study it?

Do we love it?

Do we obey it?

The Bible makes all the difference in our living.