



Sermon Transcript September 15, 2019

We Believe The Bible: Why Does It Matter? 2 Timothy 3:10-17

This message from the Bible was addressed originally to the people of Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church on September 15, 2019 at 511 Maple Street, Wethersfield, CT, 06109 by Rev. Michael Conserva. This is a transcription that bears the strength and weaknesses of oral delivery. It is not meant to be a polished essay. An audio version of this sermon may also be found on the church website at www.wethefc.com

Sermon Text
2 Timothy 3:10-17

¹⁰ You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom [\[a\]](#) you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God [\[b\]](#) may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Introduction

The Bible is a unique book. There is no other book like the Bible. Today I want to ask the question: Why is the Bible important for our lives? Think about it. What other 2,000 year old book do we hold in such high esteem? Which other book do we open up and preaching about every week? Why would we take a book so seriously that was written so long ago by people who lived in such a different culture? Why should we read the Bible or even study the Bible? Why is the Bible important? Why does it matter for life and practice? What other book do you know that is like the Bible. Think about it...the Bible was written...

- over a 1500-year span (from 1400 B.C to A.D. 100)
- over 40 generations
- over 40 authors from many walks of life (i.e. - kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, tax collectors)
- in different places (i.e. - wilderness, dungeon, palaces)
- at different times (i.e. - war, peace)
- in different moods (i.e. - heights of joy, depths of despair)
- on three continents (Asia, Africa, and Europe)
- in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek)

Aside from that, the Bible is historically accurate, never contradicts itself and is absolutely reliable. Why does the Bible matter?

Big Idea: ***The Bible matters because, What you believe about the Bible influences everything you believe and affects every decision you make.***

I want to share with you this morning four reasons as to why the Bible matters and is important for your life.

Reason #1 The Message of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:14-15)

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Paul grabs Timothy's attention in vs. 10 with a strong emphatic "You." He repeats it again in vs. 14, "But as for you." showing a stark contrast between the character of the

evil men in verses 1-9, who go from bad to worse deceiving and being deceived and Timothy's faithfulness to "continue" (present tense imperative) in what you have learned and have firmly believed." It is the same word that Jesus used in John 15 describing the vine and branches when He says, "abide in Me." It means to remain. The message is to "keep on remaining," "keep on keeping on" as they say.

Earlier Paul had advised Timothy to "*Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.*" (1 Timothy 4:16)

What we believe about the Bible has everything to do with our continuance and service in the faith. You see, Timothy had become convinced of the gospel through the instruction of three very important people in his life. His mother Lois, his grandmother Eunice, and of course his closet friend, mentor and confidant, the Apostle Paul. The scripture says from childhood he was acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make one wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. From the lips of his mother and grandmother he learned the Old Testament Scriptures and then when Paul came along preaching the gospel from the Old Testament he believed.

Lois and Eunice began to teach Timothy from the earliest possible age the substance of the Old Testament. His first stories were Bible stories. From them he learned of the great events and grand passages of the Old Testament. They taught him Bible's precepts and principles. When Timothy came to faith he understood that Jesus fulfilled the sacrificial system, He fulfilled the all of the messianic prophecies, He fulfilled all of the promises, and He fulfilled the genealogy. Jesus fulfilled it all.

He not only heard it from his mother and grandmother, and Paul, but he saw it lived out in their lives and in their home and it had a powerful impact upon his life and it made him wise for salvation.

Why is the Bible important? Why does it matter? Because what you believe about the Bible influences everything you believe and affects every decision you will make.

Let me give you another reason.

Reason #2 The Origin of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16)

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God...

This is an amazing statement and it is vitally important that we understand this

statement.

First of all, what did Paul mean by “All Scripture”? Secondly, many translations use the word “inspired”. What does “inspired” mean? First of all, what did Paul mean by “All Scripture”? The word translated “Scripture” is used 51 times in the New Testament. Sometimes it refers to the Old Testament (Luke 24:45; John 10:35) and sometimes it refers to the New Testament (2 Peter 3:16).

The phrase “sacred writings” (*graphe*) in 3:15 clearly refers to the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), which Timothy had studied since his childhood (Matt. 21:42; 22:29; 26:54; Luke 24:25-27, 44-47). The phrase “*every writing*” in 3:16 parallels “sacred writing,” placing them on the same plane. Church Swindoll commenting on this passage said, Paul clearly means for “every writing” to indicate each divine utterance written through a supernaturally inspired prophet.” In other words, God did not close the canon of Scripture with the Old Testament Scriptures—the canon of “all scripture” includes both the Old Testament Scripture and the writings of the New Testament. Even the early church and the New Testament writers affirmed this to be true (2 Pet. 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:27; Colossians 4:16).

The word ‘breathed’ in verse 16 is often translated ‘inspired,’ and that word originally comes from a Latin word which means ‘in-breathed.’ But there are some difficulties with the word ‘inspired’ in the ways in which we use it today.

For instance, we often speak about performances, like movies, concerts or even sporting events as being inspired. We might say something like, ‘that was an inspiring performance’. What we mean is that it was something out of the ordinary and in that sense it was inspiring or we felt ‘inspired’ by it.

A faith based film was just released called Overcomer and it is a very inspiring film. How about watching Tom Brady pick apart the Steelers defense this past Sunday evening was inspiring to watch. Or when my wife, Ellen, comes up from the basement where her art studio is and shows me a painting that she is particularly proud of, she might say something like, ‘I felt inspired.’

The trouble with that meaning is that it doesn’t even come remotely close to what Paul had in mind;

The term breathed out—is not a term that we are necessarily familiar with today,

although it makes perfect sense and the ESV has properly translated it here.

Illustration of the kids when they first saw their breath. We are getting to the colder part of the year and pretty soon when we speak will be able to see our breath. When we speak our words are breath out.

What Paul is saying here is that Scripture is literally God's word breathed out to us.

Peter further explains it this way 2 Peter 2:21, *"For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*

The word "moved" is used in Acts (27:15, 17) to describe the effect of strong winds upon Paul's ship. Luke says that the ship was "driven along" by the wind, meaning that it was no longer under the control of the sailors, but of the wind. But just as the sailors were active, though not in control, so the human authors of Scripture were active, but not in control (see Charles Ryrie, *What You Should Know About Inerrancy* [Moody Press], p. 46). The Holy Spirit moved the authors so that the words they wrote were the words God intended. Wayne Grudem put it this way...

"God's providential oversight and direction of the life of each author was such that their personalities, their backgrounds and training, their abilities to evaluate events in the world around them, their access to historical data, their judgement with regard to the accuracy of information, and their individual circumstances when they wrote, were all exactly what God wanted them to be, so that when they actually came to the point of putting pen to paper, the words were fully their own words but also fully the words that God wanted them to write, words that God would also claim as his own."

So what this means is that the Bible is uniquely trustworthy and authoritative for faith and practice. Because God is trustworthy, his Word is trustworthy. Because God is authoritative, His Word is authoritative. That is why the EFCA and WEFC say that they Bible is our final authority in faith and practice and therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

You cannot pick and choose from the Bible what you want to believe is inspired. The Bible doesn't present itself that way. Moreover, the Bible will have no sustaining power for your life if you make yourself the arbiter of what you will and will not believe about the Scriptures.

The Bible matters, because what you believe about the influences everything you believe and affects every decision you will make.

The Message of the Bible, the Origin of the Bible...let me give you a third reason.

Reason #3 The Uses of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16)

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...

The Apostle Paul uses two pairs of words to flesh out Scripture's usefulness. The first pair—"teaching and reproof"—have to do with doctrine. The second pair—"correction and training in righteousness"—have to do with conduct.

Paul gives us four uses of Scripture.

1) Scripture is useful for teaching God's truth.

Theology matters because what we know about God shapes the way we think and live. What you believe about God's nature, what He is like, what He wants from you and whether or not you will answer to him, affects every part of your life.

The Bible is our instruction manual. Just as you buy a new computer or a new car, the manufacturer explains to you how to operate the equipment for maximum results. It would be foolish to spend a lot of money on a new computer or car and then ignore or, even worse, violate the manufacturer's instructions. The Bible is His instruction manual on how to live for best results. It addresses matters that we grapple with every day. How do I relate to my mate? How do I relate to others? How do I raise my children? How do I manage my money? How do I conduct my business? How do I make wise decisions? How should I think? How do I control my emotions, such as anger, depression, anxiety, and impulsiveness? How do I overcome temptation? The Bible speaks practically on these matters and many more matters.

The fact that the Bible is profitable for teaching implies, of course, that it is necessary to hear it, read it, study it, memorize it, meditate on it.

2) Scripture is useful for confronting our sin.

Reproof sounds like a negative word, but it is not. We actually need this in our lives to grow in righteousness. Reproof convinces us to behave differently. It exposes sin by revealing areas that we do not see or choose to ignore. Reproof happens when the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to reveal to us our sin, wrong thinking, wrong attitudes,

our wrong actions, and the foolishness of our ways. Proverbs 19:3 says, “When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the Lord.” If we are not using the Bible to confront our sin, then you're not growing in righteousness.

3) Scripture is useful for correction.

Correction comes from the Greek word for “straight.” The Word just doesn't point out where we are wrong and leave us there. It straightens us out. Correction, takes it a step further and builds upon reproof by bringing about a restoration or reformation, if you will. The correction of the Word shows us how to straighten out what we're doing wrong. The Bible trains us in the right way that we should live.

Listen, very important, it is only when we allow the truth of God's Word to confront our sin and straighten us out that we will be ready for the positive effect of “training in righteousness.”

4) Scripture is useful for training in righteousness.

DL Moody said: “The scriptures were not given for our information but our transformation.”- Training takes the transformation process even further. Once we are back on the right path, the Bible tells us how to stay there.

There are two reasons why Christians get off the path. They either break training or they break the rules. Both scenarios can be rectified. We can begin training again. It is never too late and we must keep short accounts with God and with others. Once we're back on the path, the Bible tells us how to stay there and make further progress. “Training” literally means, “child-training.” The Greek term, from which we derive the English word “pedagogy,” and it is based on the idea of guiding a child to adulthood. You see, you just can't keep reproofing and correcting a child where they are wrong all the time. That is like trying to drive by looking in the rearview mirror. Training shows the correct way to behave, just as parents work with their children to train them in various social graces, morals, relational skills and good habits, so the Word of God trains us in all areas of life so that we can know what is His good and perfect will and what pleases Him. Swindoll says, “Scripture trains us to align our behavior so that it matches our new, righteous identity (2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:10; 4:24; Col 3:10. No matter where you are in life, Scripture is useful for your life.

We get more out of the Bible when we let it get into us. No matter how many times you have been through it, let it go through you. - God's word is like rock salt in the back of your car in the winter time. It's a lot more useful when you take it out and apply it.

The Bible matters, because what you believe about the influences everything you believe and affects every decision you will make.

The Message of the Bible, the Origin of the Bible, the Uses of the Bible, Lastly ...

Reason #4 The Results of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:17)

17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

N. T. Wright point out that Paul uses two forms of the Greek word for equip, an adjective (complete) and a (passive) participle (equipped) to make his point. It suggests it's a divine activity in which God intends for us to be supernaturally equipped to accomplish every kind of good work. It means to be furnished or supplied. We will have adequate resources to minister to others, because you have been tested and tried through the crucible of life and you are able to impart that to others, enabled to do every good work. The Scripture gives us everything we need pertaining to life and godliness.

To run well and finish well, one cannot cultivate a casual relationship with Scripture. We need to hear it, read it, study it, memorize it, meditate on it, apply it and treasure it.

Conclusion

I want to call you to two things this morning. First to a fresh commitment to the Word of God. You say you believe it, you say you trust it, you say you love it, but are you faithful in God's Word? I want to urge you to set aside time wasting activities to devote yourself to training in the Scriptures.

Secondly, I want to call you to a fresh commitment to the one to whom Scripture points, to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible is His Story of how He left heaven's glory to be born of a virgin; to live a perfect, sinless life; to die on the cross as the substitute for our sins; to rise from the dead and return to heaven to reign and rule as Lord and Savior in the life of everyone that comes to Him in faith. Have you come to Him in faith? Have you received him? Have you confessed Him publicly in baptism? I want to invite you this morning to come to Him and find in Him everything that you need.

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COMMUNITY GROUPS

Getting To Know Me Questions

1. Is there anyone in the group who came to Christ as a teen or adult? What did you depend on for guidance in life prior to becoming a Christian? How did that work for you? What benefit have you found from being guided by scripture as a believer?

Diving Into The Word

2. Read the EFCA doctrinal statement on the Bible. Underline key words and phrases. What stands out to you about this statement? Why is that important to faith and practice?
3. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17. Find all the ways the scriptures are described in verses 14-17. What is the importance of each of these descriptions for us?
4. There are four practical benefits of scripture for our lives.
 - Teaching (or doctrine)- showing us the way to go
 - Rebuking- warning us when we're getting off track
 - Correcting- helping us get back on track
 - Training in Righteousness- helping us stay on track.
5. Can you think of an example of how a passage of scripture has benefited you in one of these ways?
6. At the end of v. 17 it tells us that the result of scriptures work in our lives is to equip us for every good work. How has God's Word helped to equip you for the ministry God has for you to do?
7. If there is time, look up these additional passages. How does each one contribute to our understanding of the importance of scripture for our lives? Psalm 1:1-3 Psalm 119:9-11
8. How would you answer a non-Christian who said, "I don't believe in the Bible; besides, it's full of contradictions"?

Taking It Home

9. If the Bible is as important for our lives as we say it is, what will you do to increase your intake of God's Word?
10. How would you help a person who said, "I've tried to read the Bible, but I don't get anything out of it"?