

~2 Timothy~

Lesson 16 – The God-Breathed Word of Truth (part 1)

Let's begin by reading our text today- **2 Tim 3:10-4:5**.

The section of Scripture in our study of 2nd Timothy is the pinnacle of the letter and we find ourselves at verses 16-17 in this section. It is in these two verses that explain the purpose and origin of the Bible. This text answers the question,

Where did the Bible come from and what is its purpose?

We have been building toward these verses and last week we studied 3:13-15, and we learned the reason for the Old Testament Scriptures. That the Sacred Writings, the hiera grammata, ἱερὰ γράμματα, make us wise unto salvation. We learned that the Old Testament foreshadows and points to Jesus as our Savior. And we learned from Jesus Himself that to have eternal life, we must find Him in the Scriptures and believe in Him. And if you are not willing to come to Jesus through the Scriptures, you will not have eternal life, John 5:38-40.

But when you find Jesus in the Scriptures, this is when you find Truth. This is how the Scriptures make you wise unto salvation, preparing you for Jesus. Making you ready to believe, because salvation is only given through faith in one name, the name of Jesus, Acts 4:12. And when you find Jesus in the Scriptures and believe, this is knowing Truth and the Truth will set you free! John 8:32-33.

Paul told Timothy in verse 14 to abide in the things he learned, namely the ALL of Scripture, Old and New Testament. He said, abide in this Timothy, abide in the Word of Truth.

Today we continue our study with this thought. That the Christian surrounds himself and immerses himself in the Word. He abides in the Word. And today in verses 16-17 we will learn the purpose and origin of the Scriptures.

And we are going to “abide” in these 2 verses for a couple of weeks.

... Lets read verses 16-17 again and then start studying it out...

2 Timothy 3:16-17 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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

† *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...*

- pasa graphe theopneustos πᾶσα γραφή θεόπνευστος, “All Scripture is God-breathed”
- “**All Scripture**”- pasa graphe, πᾶσα γραφή,
 - graphe, γραφή, comes from the word grapho, γράφω, which is the same root word as grammata, γράμματα, from verse 15, hiera grammata, ἱερὰ γράμματα,
 - In verse 15 Paul is referring specifically to the Old Testament by adding the word, hiera, ἱερὰ, which as we saw last week refers to things associated with the temple, like:
 - hieron, ἱερόν as the temple
 - hierous, ἱερός as a priest
 - this is , hiera grammata, ἱερὰ γράμματα, the Sacred Writings
 - Now in verse 16 he says, pasa graphe, πᾶσα γραφή, including the New Testament Scriptures by saying, “ALL Scripture”, that of the Old and New Testament.
- What's the difference between the Word and the Scripture?
 - The Word- the logos, λόγος, is the Word of God Himself. This is Jesus, who was sent to give Life
 - He is the express image of the Father, Heb 1:3
 - He is the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and Truth, John 1:14

- The Father sent His Word and healed them and delivered them from destruction, Ps 107:20
- The Word is eternal life to those who believe in Him, John 3:15-17; 5:38-40
- The Scripture- graphe, γραφή, is the written record of the logos, λόγος,
 - This is the language of the Word. It is the 39 books of the OT and the 27 books of the NT.
 - The Scriptures are how we can comprehend and know the logos, λόγος.
 - Scripture is that which testifies of the logos, λόγος, John 5:39, 46; Lk 24:27; 24:44;

I love Martin Luther's quote when he says, "Without languages, we could not have received the Gospel... Languages are the sheath that contains the sword of the Spirit; they are the casket that guards the jewels; they are the vessel that holds the wine; and, as the Gospel says, they are the baskets in which the loaves and fishes are kept to feed the multitude."

- At this point in time, around 65-66AD, all of the NT had been written except for John's writings.

Book	Author	Date	Book	Author	Date
Mark	John Mark	50 ^{AD}	Hebrews	Paul (in prison)	60 ^{AD}
I Thessalonians	Paul	52 ^{AD}	Ephesians	Paul (in prison)	61 ^{AD}
II Thessalonians	Paul	53 ^{AD}	Colossians	Paul (in prison)	62 ^{AD}
Galatians	Paul	55 ^{AD}	Philemon	Paul (in prison)	62 ^{AD}
Matthew	Matthew	55 ^{AD}	Phillipians	Paul (in prison)	62 ^{AD}
I Corinthians	Paul	56 ^{AD}	I Timothy	Paul	63 ^{AD}
II Corinthians	Paul	58 ^{AD}	Titus	Paul	63 ^{AD}
Romans	Paul	58 ^{AD}	II Timothy	Paul (2nd imprisonment)	65 ^{AD}
James	James	60 ^{AD}	Acts	Luke	65 ^{AD}
I-2 Peter	Peter	60 ^{AD}	John	John	90 ^{AD}
Jude	Jude	60 ^{AD}	I-2-3 John	John	90 ^{AD}
Luke	Luke	60 ^{AD}	Revelation	John	90 ^{AD}

- And even though the "canon" of the Bible wasn't officially decreed until the late 4th century, at the Council of Hippo (393), and the Council of Carthage (397), the Apostles and the churches in the first century knew these writings to be the Word of God.
 - Paul refers to Luke's gospel as Scripture, graphe, γραφή, in the same breath as he refers to Deuteronomy, **1 Timothy 5:18**- referring to Deut 25:4 and the words of Jesus in Luke 10:7
 - Peter recognized Paul's writings as Scripture, graphe, γραφή, in **2 Pet 3:15-16**
 - Paul refers to his writings as the Word of God and having been received from Jesus Christ Himself, **Gal 1:11-12; 1 Thess 2:13; 1 Tim 1:11, 2:7, 6:3; Titus 1:1-3**
- "All Scripture... is God-breathed"- pasa graphe... theopneustos, πᾶσα γραφή... θεόπνευστος,
 - theopneustos, θεόπνευστος is a compound of Theos, θεος, (God) + pneo, πνέω, (breath, wind)
 - The life giving Word is the logos, λόγος, of God and the written record of the logos, λόγος, is the Scriptures, graphe, γραφή.
- Peter says in 2 Peter 1:20-21²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved (carried about) by the Holy Spirit.

No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation

ὅτι πᾶσα προφητεία, γραφῆς ἰδίας ἐπιλύσεως οὐ γίνεται.

That every prophecy did not come about by one's own releasing of the Scriptures

- The origin or source of Scripture is God, not man. No prophecy of Scripture has come out of any human source, but men, being moved by the Holy Spirit... spoke from God. The idea is like the wind blowing a sail of a ship. The wind blowing and moving and carrying the ship along as the Holy Spirit moved men to write

the word of God.

- The Bible has One Author, that is God, written over the course of 1,600 years in 66 books and penned by 31 men as they were moved and breathed on by the Holy Spirit
 - 38 men if you include multiple writers for the Psalms and 1 & 2 Samuel
- The miracle of this is how God used men with all their personalities and experiences and perceptions, but through them the Word of God was written so that every word in our Bible is not from men but from God.
- God breathed onto man to write His word, but it was not apart from **WHO** these men were and not apart from even their vocabulary. God moved upon men to record His Word.
- The Bible is inerrant, without error. There are no contradictions within the Word of God. In fact, when you think you have found a contradiction, just dig deeper and I guarantee you will always find a hidden treasure. And that treasure is usually in the original language.
 - Psalm 12:6 says, “*The Words of the Lord are pure words, like silver tried, dokimion, δοκίμιον, proven genuine, ... purified seven times.*”
- The Bible is how God speaks to us. We only know God through the Scriptures. This is how He chose to reveal Himself to us.

In the **Old Testament**- the hiera grammata, ἱερὰ γράμματα,
He spoke to the fathers through the prophets.

Hebrews 1:1-2

- Jeremiah spoke and wrote the Words of God as the words were given to him by the Holy Spirit, **Jer 1:4-9**
 - God spoke to Moses and Moses wrote the words of God, **Exodus 34:27**
 - Remember what Jesus said about the writings of Moses? Eternal life is only found when you are seeking Jesus in the Scriptures, **John 5:38-40, 2 Cor 3:14-18**

Now in the dispensation of grace, in the **New Testament**, He is speaking to us through His Son, the logos, λόγος. And it is in Christ that the veil is lifted so we can have a fuller understanding of God and His plan of redemption.

- Jesus chose to reveal Himself as the Word, the logos, λόγος, John 1:1
 - Jesus bears a relationship to the Father as the Word, and He has done this from before time began. In fact, the Word created time because He was before all things, John 1:1-3; 1 Jn 5:7-8
 - Before anything was ever created, the Word existed with God the Father, and it was through the Word that all creation was made, John 1:3; Col 1:16-18
- It is in this dispensation of grace that the Word, who was with the Father in the beginning, has now revealed Himself as the Word the logos, λόγος, sent by God,
 - Isaiah 55:11- “*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*”
 - Psalm 107:20- “*He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.*”
 - John 5:30; 7:16; 8:28-29.
 - Jesus is the Word of God sent by the Father to give life to all who believe. When you behold the Word, the logos, λόγος, you see the Father and all His grace and Truth, **John 1:1-14**;
- The Scriptures, graphe, γραφή, are the physical writings of the logos, λόγος, administered through language.
 - Jesus isn’t the language. He is the Word of God sent from the Father to give us life.
 - The logos, λόγος, is the Word of life contained in the Scriptures. And this life in the Scriptures is portrayed through language that we might comprehend them, **1 John 1:1-4; 5:13**; John 20:31.
- All Scripture, Old and New Testament, is God-breathed as the Spirit moved upon men to write the Word of God.
 - It was after Jesus received the promise of the Spirit, Acts 2:32-33, He sent the Spirit to us that we

might know Him through His revealed Word, [John 14:25-26](#); [16:12-15](#); 1 Cor 2:9-13.

- Paul received the revelation of this mystery from Jesus Christ through the Spirit, [Eph 3:3-5](#), Gal 1:11-12
 - And as Paul received the revelation, he wrote it down as Scripture as God breathed upon him
- The Scriptures give life because the source of the Scriptures is the Word of Life
 - Proverbs 4:20-22 *The Word is life to those who find them*, (to those who find Jesus in the Scriptures)
- Jesus spoke the Words of God. He says, “*I only speak the words that the Father speaks to Me*”, John 5:19, 30; 8:26, 28; 12:49-50; 14:10, 24,
- Jesus is the Word of God, the logos, λόγος, that was sent from the Father, John 1:1; 1 Jn 1:1-3; Rev 19:13,
 - Jesus is the Word of Life, 1 John 1:1.
 - Jesus said, “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God*”, Luke 4:4 (not in modern translations); Deut 8:3.
 - Jesus said, “*I AM the Bread of Life...and if anyone eats of this Bread he will live forever*”, John 6:48-51
 - The Word is our sustenance, our nourishment, our daily bread and we ingest it, we partake of this Word through reading and meditating on the Scriptures.
- It is not the genius of men who wrote the Bible, but rather it was the logos, λόγος of God that breathed on men, and the Scriptures were written through men as they were moved along by the Holy Spirit
 - God is serious about His Word. In fact, Ps 138:2 says, ...“*You have magnified Your Word above Your Name.*”
 - John gives us a warning at the end of Revelation not to add or take away from the words of this book, and there are serious consequences to those who do, Rev 22:18-19.
- This is why Paul is so adamant with Timothy to keep the words of the Gospel pure and to hold them fast without compromise, 2 Tim 1:13-14, 2:15, 4:2.
- Otherwise, without the pure Scriptures, without the stance for Truth, heresies and folklore, fables and myths begin to rise up.

The Preservation of the Gospel

The devil has always tried to steal and corrupt the Word and for over 1,000 years the Roman Catholic church made it illegal to own or read the Bible. The penalty for owning a Bible was torture and death. This spiraled the world into the Dark Ages.

But God preserved His Word even through these dark times. He used the Jewish Masoretes to preserve the Hebrew Old Testament.

These were Jewish scribes and scholars of Babylonia and Palestine, in the 6th to 10th centuries AD, who set the standard for Hebrew pronunciation and grammar. These men made it their life's work to follow Romans 3:2, and protect, guard, and transcribe these precious writings of the Old Testament.

The Masoretes made it their special work to correct the faults from the years past, and prevent any corruption in the future. Their work is known today as the Masoretic Text. A complete Hebrew Old Testament, written as God intended, without any corruption of tradition influence of man. This is the God breathed Scriptures of the Old Testament.

And God used the Byzantine Empire to preserve the Greek New Testament. In Byzantium, Greek manuscripts of the Holy Scriptures were continually being copied and preserved up until the 14th century.

Constantine began this process by having the pure Greek NT transcribed by bishops and preserved in his new capitol of the Roman Empire called Constantinople.

These texts are known as the Byzantine Manuscripts. These manuscripts were kept pure from the Gnostic heresies.

Then in the sixteenth century, in 1516, the Light shined in the darkness, and Erasmus took a stand against the Catholic Church and produced the first printed Greek NT using the pure Manuscripts of the Byzantine Empire. This is known as the Textus Receptus. This is the God-breathed Scriptures of the New Testament.

Then in 1517 Martin Luther took his stance for Truth against the Catholic church and nailed his 95 Thesis to the Wittenburg Church door. In 1522 Martin Luther translated the NT into the German language using the Greek NT of Erasmus.

In 1526 William Tyndale translated the NT into the English language also using Erasmus' Greek NT. Tyndale gave his life to translate the Bible and in 1536 he was burned at the stake by the Catholic church.

From this point, the Light was shining in the darkness and through the blood of many brave men and women, they overcame by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony and they loved not their lives even unto death and the Bible was brought to light again.

This Scripture we are holding in our laps today is the inerrant, God-breathed Word of God.

Every word is so important, and it is such a privilege to have access to the Word of Life.

This is why I teach verse by verse and we look at every Word.

Because it is the Living Word of God.

Let's read **2 Timothy 3:16-17** again as we close.