Scripture: the Sole Source of Godly Living

**2 Timothy 3:16 – 4:4** **[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Introduction

* Dan came down sick Friday
* TWO book recommendations: *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners & The Hidden Smile of God*
* John Bunyan – famous dead guy
  + The year is 1660, John Bunyan is on trial for preaching the gospel without a license
  + The account goes like this:
    - Judge Kelynge asked Bunyan a series of questions about why he does not obey the state church
    - Bunyan replies with a series of quotes from Scripture
    - One of the judges says, “Wait a minute,”…”I think he’s bluffing…”
  + Finally judge Kelynge says, “I can’t combat your Scripture!...Confound you!.” [[2]](#footnote-2)
* Spurgeon described Bunyan like this: “*Why, this man is a living Bible! Prick him anywhere…[he bleeds Bible]…the very essence of the Bible flows from him. He cannot speak without quoting a text, for his very soul is full of the Word of God*.” [[3]](#footnote-3)
* How about us? – What do we want to fill our souls?
* Two things to ponder this morning:
  + God’s Word is the life of the Christian, and, therefore…God’s Word is the life of the Church
  + God’s Word will always stand against the world

Message

* God’s Word is the life of the Christian
  + And it is so, because it brings two things
    - The indicatives – why we obey
    - The imperatives – what obedience looks like
  + Another way is: Who we are, and who we are to be
    - God accomplishes that by displaying Jesus
      * Grace, peace, mercy
    - (3:15) It brings us Jesus – OT or NT
      * Who we were – sinners saved by grace
      * Who we are – saints yet sinners
      * Who we are to be – holy and blameless
    - Who makes this possible? – Jesus
      * The testimony of every Christian:
  + (Ephesians 2:1-10) “*And you* [all] *were dead in the trespasses and sins* ***2****in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—* ***3****among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*
    - Who you were
      * Dead unable to seek God
      * Served Satan
      * Loving your sinful lusts
      * Waiting for the wrath of God to fall on you
    - Why you need a Savior
  + ***4****But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us,* ***5****even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—* ***6****and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,* ***7****so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.* ***8****For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,* ***9****not a result of works, so that no one may boast.* 
    - What God has done
      * Greatly loved you
      * Brought mercy
      * Seated you in heavenly places
      * Granted you the immeasurable riches of Jesus
    - Who you are
      * Belong to God
      * You’re a child of God
      * In the family of God
  + ***10****For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*.”
    - What God is calling you to
      * Works God has for you
      * To glorify Him
      * And enjoy Him
      * Then properly serve Him

**God’s Word informs us on the nature of God and the nature of man**

* + You might ask, how does the Word show us who we are?
  + (3:16 & 4:2)…BY:
    - Teaching – instruction as to who God is and what God has commanded
    - Reproof – **ἐλεγμός**, strong disapproval with the connotation of refuting, [[4]](#footnote-4)
    - Rebuke – to express strong disapproval of someone, *rebuke, reprove, censure* also *speak seriously,* warn in order to prevent an action or bring one to an end [[5]](#footnote-5)
    - Correcting – **ἐπανόρθωσις,** improvement, restoration [[6]](#footnote-6)
    - Exhort – **παρακαλέω,** to urge strongly, *appeal to, urge, exhort, encourage***[[7]](#footnote-7)**
    - Training in righteousness – guidance toward the discipline, that leads to the increased quality or characteristic of conduct before God
    - Complete patience (4:2)
      * I don’t think I really need to explain this one
      * Notice: complete
      * Because the standard is Jesus
        + It reminds us this is what God is extending to us
        + Indicatives to the imperatives
        + So it not only instructs, but encourages
  + What that looks like – because in a way, they all shades of one bigger truth
    - Immerse ourselves in the great work of Jesus
      * The cross
      * All the benefits
    - That our hearts might be moved to live in a way that both honors Him and pursues Him
    - Orthodoxy – orthopraxy [right truth = right living]
  + Because Christians ARE the Church
* God’s Word is the life of the Church
  + It not only teaches us as individuals but…
  + It also teaches us who we are to be as a family
  + It allows for us in love to exhort, and also to rebuke
  + It lays the ground rules for life together
    - The most important to understand is this:
    - Scripture validates experience, experience does not validate Scripture
    - When you’re tempted to make the statement, “It feels like…”
    - There are a host of ways I can “feel,” and none are necessarily biblical.
    - 13 -14 years ago I was part of an Elder council who had to set someone outside of ministry for a sin issue
      * We were accused of not caring
        + Because that is how a friend of theirs “felt”
        + In reality Scripture was telling them, “your mad because your friend is reaping what they sowed.”
      * The Elders are first responsible to guard the church – according to Scripture
  + Husbands, you have to be very careful before getting offended on behalf of your wife because you “feel” she was slighted.
    - If you weren’t there and you don’t really know,
    - Then you don’t really know
    - Gossip – according to Scripture
  + Scripture informs what is truth – and how we should feel
  + You might think I’m making a big deal of this, but these types of issues are what usually divides a church.
  + And God desires unity in His church. He paid a great price to secure it.
* That’s why a unified church, standing on God’s Word, will always stand against the world
  + Idolatry creates its own truth
    - D.A. Carson gives an example:
    - Tolerance
      * Definition used to be: “*I may disagree with you, but I insist on your right to articulate your opinion, however stupid and ignorant I think it is*.”
      * Now, the definition is: “*Now, tolerance means that you must not say****anybody****is wrong.  That’s the one wrong thing to say. But, now notice, under this view of tolerance, you are tolerant, not of individuals, you are tolerant of****all positions***.” **[[8]](#footnote-8)**
    - (John 15:19) ‘ *“If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”* ’
  + Again, idolatry creates its own version of truth
  + But God’s Word reveals real truth
  + The correct God
    - He’s not Allah
    - If your familiar with the controversy at Wheaton College
    - Here’s what a former Muslim says: “In Islam they say that ‘God says you do this, but don’t do this.’ But this God is not like that god. This is not Allah. He loves you at first, and everything He has done is out of love for you.”**[[9]](#footnote-9)**
    - In fact He is not the god of Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Hindu’s, or the current geographical nation of Israel.
  + Our God, as revealed in Scripture, has a divine Son and Spirit existing in three separate yet equal persons.
    - (1 John 2:23) “*No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also*.”
    - No other religion has this
    - No other religion claims this!
  + Idolatry causes division
  + This is why it is soooo important to know what Scripture says

Conclusion

* If what I’ve said is true:
  + What’s your plan for reading the Word of God this year?
* Coffee cup slogan time: Failing to plan is planning to fail
  + Do I have time?
  + Why not?
  + What things DO you have time for, they’re likely more important than the Bible
* How important is Scripture?
  + (v:16) It is the very breath of God
  + Moses, when declaring the word of God to the people finished with this:
  + (Deuteronomy 32:46b, 47) ‘ *“observe carefully…all the words of this law. For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life.”* ’ [NASB]
* Goal is Jesus: the goal is joy

1. Unless noted, all quotes are from: *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*. (1995). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Heroes of the Faith, John Bunyan, (Barbour Books, 1966) pp. 129-131 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Charles Spurgeon, *Autobiography*, vol. 2 (Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1973), p.159. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (2000). *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature* (3rd ed., p. 314). Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Arndt, Danker, & Bauer. (3rd ed., p. 384). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Arndt, Danker, & Bauer. (3rd ed., p. 359). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Arndt, Danker, & Bauer. (3rd ed., p. 765). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. D. A. Carson, The Intolerance of Tolerance, (Eerdmans, 2012) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Voice of the Martyrs Magazine, *Review 2015*, (p.9). (©2015 The Voice of the Martyrs.) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)