

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

www.twojourneys.org

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at twojourneys.org

Boldness & Faithfulness in the Gospel, pt. 7: The Origin and Purpose of the Scriptures 2 Timothy 3:14-17

I. Introduction

II. Charge to Timothy: Continue in the Faith (vs. 14-15)

A. Contrasted with false teachers

B. Two kinds of progress... forward and back

1. Ungodly teachers “progress” (vs. 13)

vs. 13 “evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

2. Timothy’s progress (vs. 14)

vs. 14 “BUT AS FOR YOU...” Timothy should be different

“continue in what you have learned and become convinced of

a. Paul expects PROGRESS

b. Christian life not meant to be static

c. continue in **doctrine** and **life**

C. Total security in Timothy’s way

vs. 15 “...because you know those from whom you learned it”

1. Teacher and teaching linked

2. Timothy’s teachers

a. Family: Lois & Eunice

*Grandmother Lois

*mother Eunice

vs. 15 “How from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures...”

Illus. “The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.” Consistent pattern in church history of godly mothers who trained their children in the Scriptures

b. Godly church leaders

Acts 16:2 “The brothers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.”

1 Timothy 4:14 “[Timothy’s gift given when]... the body of elders laid their hands on you.”

c. Apostle Paul

*led Timothy to Christ (1:2)

*laid hands on him at ordination (1:6)

*an “apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God” (1:1)

*Christ had entrusted the gospel to Him personally (1:11-12)

*likened himself to Moses in his authority with God’s truth (3:8)

Ephesians 2:20 “God’s household [is] built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.”

3. Security in the Holy Scriptures, known from infancy

vs. 15 “and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures...”

a. word means “sacred writings”

b. technical term referring to Old Testament

c. Timothy’s godly mother & grandmother raised him with an open Bible

Illus. Mystery... an apple inside a bottle on the mantelpiece

This brings us right to the heart of the passage... the Origin, Purpose, and Effectiveness of Scripture

II. The Origin of Scripture

vs. 16 “All Scripture is God-breathed...”

A. The History of Scripture... it all began on Mt. Sinai

Exodus 31:18 “When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.”

1. God wanted His words written down... He did it first
2. From then on, God spoke to the prophets & they wrote it down

Exodus 4:11-12 “The Lord said the Moses, ‘Who gave man his mouth? ... I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.’”

Exodus 24:4 “Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said.”

Jeremiah 1:9 “Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, ‘Now, I have put my words in your mouth.’”

Jeremiah 36:2 “Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you...”

NOTE: “All the words”... not just word!! God told the prophets specifically what to say, and when they wrote them down, he gave them the words to write

Psalms 147:15-19

- 15 He sends forth His command to the earth; **His word** runs very swiftly.
- 16 He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes.
- 17 He casts forth His ice as fragments; Who can stand before His cold?

18 He sends forth **His word** and melts them; He causes His wind to blow & the waters to flow.

19 He declares **His words** to Jacob, His statutes and His ordinances to Israel

Hebrews 1:1 “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways...”

Romans 3:1-2 “What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision. Much in every way! First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God.”

3. The Perfect Word of God

Psalm 12:6 “The words of the Lord are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times.”

B. What Scripture?

1. Various options in translation

RSV “Every scripture inspired by God is also useful for teaching...”

IMPLICATION: some Scripture is NOT inspired by God

“Every ripe grape is sweet... BUT grapes that aren’t ripe aren’t sweet”

Problem: This translation ignores the fact that two things are being said about ALL Scripture: 1) it is God-breathed, 2) it is useful

2. What was scripture to Timothy?

a. OT only??

b. Paul considered his doctrine to be authoritative

1 Thessalonians 2:13 “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God which is at work among you who believe.”

C. Inspired or Breathed-out by God?

1. Paul invented a word... **θεοπνευστος** = God-breathed

NOT that the words of Scripture were breathed in by God, but that the actual words were exhaled from God's mouth

2. Every word of Scripture is exhaled from the mouth of God

Psalm 33:6 "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; their starry host by the breath of His mouth."

God's creative activity... God intelligent power, active and energetic

3. This verse in Timothy does not discuss the method of Scripture's composition, but rather its divine origin
4. A couple of parallel verses further explain the process

2 Peter 1:20-21 "First of all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture ever came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

- a. KEY statement #1: no prophet ever sat down and said, "I think I'm going to write a prophecy of scripture today." PROPHECY NEVER HAD ITS ORIGIN IN THE WILL OF MAN
- b. KEY statement #2: "Men spoke from God..." The words they said came not from their own imaginations, but came from God
- c. KEY statement #3: "as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit"

Acts 27:15 "The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along."

C. Christ's Attitude Toward Scripture

1. Eternal and Unbreakable

- a. Eternal

Matthew 5:17-18 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you

the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”

NOT JUST OLD TESTAMENT:

Matthew 24:35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

b. Unbreakable

John 10:35 “the Scripture cannot be broken...”

2. Spoken directly from the mouth of God

Matthew 4:4 “It is written, ‘Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Matthew 19:4-5 “ ‘Haven’t you read,’ he replied, ‘that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ AND SAID ‘for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh’?”

Summary: On the origin of Scripture, Paul teaches what all the Bible teaches... “What Scripture says, God says!” Every word of Scripture is God-breathed... breathed-out from the very mouth of God... Christ also had the same attitude toward Scripture, and so should we

III. The Purpose of Scripture

vs. 15 “The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

vs. 16 “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness”

A. Scripture has the same two-fold purpose that Timothy does:

EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP!!!

1. Paul has been preparing Timothy... WIN... BUILD... SEND

2. In 2:15, he said Timothy had to be a skilled craftsman with the Word
3. Now, we see why! It's the WORD OF GOD alone that accomplishes these two purposes

“wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” = EVANGELISM

“so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” =
DISCIPLESHIP

B. Evangelism

1. Wise for salvation implies that wisdom is required, a wisdom we don't naturally possess
2. Wisdom about
 - a. God... specifically His awesome greatness

Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...”

- b. Ourselves... specifically our wretched sinfulness

Psalm 51:5-6 “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts, you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.”

- c. The Future... specifically the wrath to come

Ephesians 5:5 “Because of these things the wrath of God is coming.”

Proverbs 22:3 “The wise man sees danger and takes refuge; but the fool keep going and suffer for it.”

ONLY REFUGE FROM WRATH TO COME IS JESUS CHRIST... BIBLE
TEACHES THAT WISDOM TOO!!

- d. Jesus Christ... His person and work, specifically on the cross

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 “But we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

3. Wisdom for salvation only comes through faith in Christ Jesus

vs. 15 “able to make you wise for salvation *THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS...*”

- a. the Scriptures from first to last testify about Jesus Christ

Luke 24:44 “Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

- b. faith in Christ unlocks the meaning of the Bible

John 5:39 “You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These Scriptures testify about me, yet you are unwilling to come to me that you may have life.”

C. DISCIPLESHIP...

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

1. Timothy... this is for YOU first
2. This is also the tool you will use to bring others to maturity!!
3. Word means COMPLETE... TRAINING FINISHED
4. Completely able to transform your world through the power of the Holy Spirit
5. HOW...

vs. 16 “teaching, rebuking, correcting, training in righteousness”

- a. TEACHING = commitment of true doctrine
- b. REBUKING = correction of false doctrine
- c. CORRECTING = correction of false practices
- d. TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS = teaching of true, godly living

Summary: The purpose of Scripture is to build the church through evangelism and discipleship... if the church is not growing it is because of a failure to teach and obey Scripture

V. The Effectiveness of the Bible

A. Does it work? Is it effective??

B. YES!!! Vs. 15 “It is able to make you wise...” IT IS POWERFUL TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN YOUR HEART!!!

C. vs. 16 It is USEFUL... profitable... effective, able to bring about a positive outcome, through teaching, rebuking, correcting, training in righteousness