

# THE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH

## 2 Timothy 3:14-17

### “The Word of God Does the Word of God”

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Anaheim Hills, CA | RockCC.com

20:51

I wanna invite you to make your way to 2 Timothy chapter three.

20:55

2 Timothy chapter three. And while you guys are turning there, we're gonna be finishing up chapter three. We're kinda almost coming down the final stretch in our series that we've been working our way through these pastoral epistles that Paul has written to Timothy and to Titus.

21:10

But just to kinda catch you up if you missed the last week or two, we're in this section in 2 Timothy chapter three where Paul has been describing this relentless, this relentless storm of ungodly people, of persecution, of all these things coming against him.

21:27

And I think this, excuse me, this week, what we're going to see in our passage is we're gonna see Paul provide the anchor that provides the steady ground for us to hold onto and the midst of all this storm that has been swirling around him.

21:42

And we're anchored by allowing the word of God to do its work in us. And so this week, as we just sang about a minute ago, allowing the word of God to speak and to influence and to change us in whatever way it chooses to, we're gonna see that kinda play out in three different ways in this passage that we're gonna look at.

22:01

This is kind of our outline for this morning, for those of you guys that are taking notes. The first thing that we're gonna see is the process that God's word will do in us. It talks about how the word was imparted to Timothy and how he was to continue in what he had learned.

22:15

We're also gonna see, in verse 16, the impact, the impact that God's word can have in our lives. One of the most famous verses of scripture, you certainly, hopefully, will be familiar with this passage of scripture.

22:29

But it refers, in verse 16, to the usefulness of scripture, as it provides this valuable, do this, and don't do that warning to us as we get into the instructions of how to handle scripture and how it will work in our lives.

22:44

And then finally, in verse 17, we're gonna see the final product. The third point in our message will describe what's gonna happen to the person who allows God's word to do its work in their lives. So, as we work our way through the text, the topic for this week is absolutely central to who we are as a church.

23:02

There are a few things that are more central to who we are of what you're going to get, the flavor that you'll find here at The Rock Community Church. There is very little that is more important to us than what we're gonna talk about this week.

23:16

There is very little that is more essential to who we are, because there are gonna be a lot of things that you don't like about the church if we can't connect on this one. This is central to who we are.

23:27

We believe that the word of God is essential to us. It should do its work in our lives. It should change us. It should rub up against us and change our opinion on things. And so, like I said a couple of weeks ago, some of our members, I actually had one member come up to me and say, do you realize that you said this?

23:47

Because I've been talking with friends and this was really good. We need to put this on a sign somewhere at the church. So, it seems like some of our members are latching onto this, but simply put, we're Bible people.

23:58

Here at the Rock Community Church, we're Bible people. And so, that's what we're going to look at and consider in 2 Timothy chapter three as we look at this passage. I wanna invite you to follow along with me.

24:08

We're gonna read verses 14 through the end of the chapter, through verse 17. Paul says in 2 Timothy chapter three, verse 14, as for you, Timothy, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 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.

24:32

For all scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

24:44

This is the word of the Lord. Would you pray with me? God, we thank you for your word. God, as we echo that, every time we read our passage of scripture together on a Sunday morning, we acknowledge that this is your word, that is breathed out by you, that is given to us through human authors.

25:04

But God, this is not just the opinions of some human authors. This is the word of God that we have made available to us and we thank you for it. We thank you for the opportunity to gather here together this morning and to study and to consider what you would speak to us, what you would have to say.

25:22

And so God, we pray as we just sang a moment ago, word of God, speak to us this morning. For as Samuel said, your servants are listening. We give this time to you, we pray that you would use it for your glory.

25:35

It's in Jesus' name, we pray, amen. Well, as we dive in, the first thing that we see is this process of how God's word does its work in our lives. And so, as Paul has been talking to Timothy, writing this message to Timothy and kind of acknowledging the suffering and the evil that was going to come.

25:55

If you go back and look at earlier verses in 2 Timothy chapter 3, there is a laundry list at the beginning of this chapter of all of the wickedness that is going to exist in the world. People will be lovers of self and lovers of money and proud and arrogant and abusive and all these things that he mentions there.

26:16

He mentioned last week in our verses that Pastor Mike shared about that persecutions are going to come for indeed all who live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. And so now, acknowledging that suffering was going to come in the face of suffering and increasing godlessness, Paul encourages Timothy to stand strong in what he has already learned, what he's already latched onto and what he already believes.

26:45

He's pointing, Paul is pointing back to something that happened really essentially in Timothy's life that led him to this point. Because Paul is pointing backwards in Timothy's life to his childhood, to the foundation that had been built in Timothy's life, that had been developed in him as the beginning of this letter.

27:06

Second Timothy points back to a couple of women named Lois and Eunice. Timothy's mother and his grandmother and how they had invested their faith. The faith of a mom and a grandma was now Timothy's faith.

27:21

And Paul, I think, is recognizing here the important but the often thankless job that goes along with godly parenting. You know, there are lots of things in this world in our society that receive piles of praise and accolades and all these things that people acknowledge how wonderful people are for different things that they do.

27:43

Everybody gets an award for something, right? You know, I don't really often see people acknowledge the incredibly important work that happens in the home as godly men and godly women, parents, grandparents, and play the role of a godly aunt or a godly uncle.

28:01

That faith that Paul had seen passed down from Lois and Eunice to Timothy, he was acknowledging the blessing that that was and he was acknowledging the significant role that a parent or a grandparent can make in a person's life, in a child's life.

28:19

You know, I think a godly parent can make a mark on their child that no one else is able to match in their life. You know, there's loads of research confirming this. Just go and Google it. You'll find it in about three seconds.

28:32

But the faith of a parent has huge implications for the faith of a child growing up. This isn't just even Christian research. There are secular research outlets that have gone and dug into this and said, you know, more than any other influence in the life of a child, the faith of a parent, the faith of a grandparent, plays a key role in the development of that young person's spirituality.

28:58

A parent is the single most impactful influence in a child's development. We talk about in the church, you may have heard this statistic before. People will look at youth ministries and say, there's something wrong with youth ministry because 80-90%, depending on where you get your statistics, 80 to 90 percent of young people leave the church when they graduate from high school.

29:19

But the thing that keeps them around is, did they see it as important in their parents' life? Did they see that as something that was real to their parents? Because you know what, if they woke up in the morning and they caught their parents reading their Bible, well, they realized that reading their Bible was important.

29:35

And so they read their Bibles. And they realized that if their parents got up and faithfully went to church on the weekends, where even though they were tired, even though they

had some other thing that they could choose to go do, parents that prioritize going to church, well, then children start to realize that going to church is important.

29:52

And they prioritize going to church, going and living out our Christian life. When children see that modeled, when they look at their parents and they say, this is important to them, I guess it should be important to me, makes a difference in young people's lives.

30:09

I want to kind of drive this point home for a second, talking about the significant impact that a parent or a grandparent can make in a young person's life. Response time for you guys. It's okay to move around a little bit at this point.

30:22

So how many in the room, just by a show of hands, how many in the room had a godly parent or a godly grandparent or a godly family member that played a significant role in your spiritual development?

30:35

There's a few hands that didn't go up, but you look around that room, there is a majority of people that were impacted in a significant way by a family member that showed them what faith really looked like.

30:49

I think what Paul is reminding Timothy of here, he's telling Timothy, Timothy, you became a Christian because you heard God's word, but you heard God's word because it was important to mom and grandma.

31:01

The word that transformed mom and grandma had powerfully transformed Timothy as well. And so Paul is encouraging Timothy not to forsake the word of God in the face of persecution, that is, those who desire to live godly lives will be persecuted, as we talked about last week.

31:20

For those who desire to live that godly life, for those who stand and try to stand firm in the midst of all of the evil and the wickedness that's mentioned here earlier in 2 Timothy chapter 3, for all of those that would try to live the right way and to do the right things, the essential pillar, the foundation for how to stand firm in the midst of that storm, is to hold tightly to the word of God.

31:49

So hold tightly to the word of God that Timothy had experienced had been so significant to him as it was passed down to him by mom and by grandma. The word of God played a valuable role in his life, throughout his life.

32:05

And Paul is reminding Timothy, don't let go of that when the storms come, when the wind starts blowing, right? An appropriate thing for us to talk about this morning. I think there were 10 more people that were coming to church this morning and they blew away, they're stuck in the trees or something out there.

32:20

I promise this was written in before we woke up and saw the weather this morning. But I think this encouragement from Paul should stir something in us. It should remind us of what an incredible blessing many of us have received in having a godly parent or a godly grandparent or a godly influence like Paul that maybe wasn't blood but has invested in us.

32:44



But I think it should also cause us to consider how we are investing in the next generation as well. We have young ones that are in our care. And so first and foremost, we have individuals, your family, you have individuals, young people in your family that you have an opportunity to invest in.

33:03

Maybe they're children, maybe they're grandchildren, maybe they're friends of the family or people that you're close to. You have opportunities to be a blessing in the lives of young people and it's important for us to take those opportunities.

33:14

But secondarily, not just our blood families but also in our collective care as a church, we have young people that need what we have to give. So it's not okay for us to just look at young people as an inconvenience, as a something that gets in the way that the mess kind of oozes out of the nursery every once in a while, that we need to push them back into the space that they belong in.

33:40

I think it's good for us to ask the question, how are we going to have an impact in the next generation? What are we teaching them about what a healthy relationship with God looks like? Kent Hughes talking about this verse made a convicting observation.

33:58

Let me read for you what Kent Hughes had to say talking about 2 Timothy 3:14. He said, imagine what it would mean if we could say to all of our children as verse 14 in our passage says, but as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of because you know those from whom you learned it.

34:17

He continues talking, he says, you know your pastors, young person, you know your Sunday school teachers, you know your fathers and your mothers and your

grandparents, you know what they've taught you, you know that their lives match the teaching of their lips.

34:31

So continue in the gospel because you know from whom you learned it. That kind of drives home the point of what children's ministry is, right? That kind of drives home the point of what youth ministry is.

34:44

It's not just something that we kind of delegate off, you know, Pastor Mike, you're the family ministry's pastor, so you just go take care of all that. That's not how ministry works when we try to hand this down to the next generation.

34:59

If we try to pass off that wicked lie, and there's a lot of things I could say about it, but the wicked lie of, do as I say, not as I do. Anybody ever heard that from their parent before? Did you, did you buy it then?

35:14

What makes you think your children are going to buy it now? No, no, no, no, no, that doesn't apply to me. That applies to you. You need to do that, but I'm going to go do what I want. If living out our faith isn't important to us, why would we think that it's going to be important to our children?

35:36

The way that we pass this down, is by living it out in front of them. Paul's talking to Timothy saying, Timothy, you had a blessing. You had an opportunity. You had a gift that a godly mom and a godly grandma lived this out in front of you and passed this down to you.

35:57

Make sure that you hold on to that. When Paul praises Timothy's family for teaching him scripture, he commends every mom and dad, every grandma and granddad who sit and read the Bible with their children, who teach them to pray, who teach them to love other people, who teach them to live in the way that God has called us to live.

36:18

When we do those things, we're not just doing something to help raise a good human. We're doing something to impact the kingdom of God for the future. Young people are not just an inconvenience that should be shooed away and sent back into their classroom or in their space where they belong.

36:34

They're not a distraction or an inconvenience that gets in the way of ministry. Most of the time, they are the ministry. They are what we need to be focusing on and doing. And I wanna say this as clearly and as pointedly as I can.

36:49

If there is someone who has that get off my lawn kind of attitude in the church, has that kind of get off my lawn attitude towards the next generation, they don't understand the commands of God as he has told us to live out our faith and to pass it down to the next generation.

37:06

Deuteronomy chapter six, the Shema, that the single statement that the people of Israel for generations, for thousands of years, would recite daily talks about how we love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, with all our strength.

37:23

And it talks and continues on about how we should teach those things to our children. We must teach them to them as we walk by the way, as we go out and about our day, as we sit down, as we rise up, as we do all of our things.

37:36

Our faith has to be a part of our life and it has to be something that we pass down. Get off my lawn. We can't have that attitude. Children are not an inconvenience. The next generation is not something that we just wanna put away and hide because it's messy.

37:54

It is messy. Come to my house, I'll tell you it's messy. My wife and I had that conversation yesterday. How does it keep coming? But it's worth it. It's not something for us to just push away.

38:17

Timothy was blessed by those that invested in him and I think extending this out a little bit, it's important for us to be a blessing to others and to invest in them. It's not in my notes, but I just also wanna say thank you to all of you that are doing that because I look around the room and I pound on the table a little bit for that and I look around the room and there's a lot of you that are going yep, absolutely and you're living that out as well.

38:40

So thank you for the investment that you're making in my kids, what you're making in our kids. This is important. Thank you. Verse 16, we see the impact of the word of God. So we see Paul encouraged Timothy to continue in the faith that he learned from mom and from grandma, but mom and grandma weren't the only reason that he needed to continue in the faith.

39:05

And he needed to continue in his faith because the word of God is worthy of being followed. It's worthy of being followed because it's true. It's worthy of being followed because it's valuable. It's worthy because it's useful in our lives.

39:17

It makes a difference in our lives when we allow it to do its work in us. With that we arrive at one of the most well-known Bible verses that the key verse that speaks to the value of the Bible that we have in all of scripture.

39:31

Because second Timothy 3:16, it just lays out so beautifully for us what the scripture does in our lives. It says all scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness.

39:47

You know, in this verse Paul explains what scripture is and he also explains what scripture does. What scripture is, he uses right at the beginning of this, he uses the phrase breathed out by God. You know, scripture comes from the very core of who God is.

40:04

This isn't just something that he heard something that somebody else read or wrote or put out there one time and he went, yeah, that sounds good, let's just do that. This isn't just something outside of God that he gave his stamp of approval to, nor did he simply give the authors some bullet points and say, hey, you guys just, you know, kind of get in the ballpark, right?

40:24

This isn't just something that God passed off or even said, it's who God is. From the very essence of who God is, God has given us himself in his word. And we, as a church, we believe in what is referred to in some settings, in the academic settings, as the verbal plenary inspiration, start that over.

40:47

Verbal plenary inspiration of Scripture. Some big words there, some valuable words there. So let me read a definition of what that means. Verbal plenary inspiration means that every word found in the Bible is given to us by God.

41:03

That's verbal. Every word. Everything in the Bible is authoritative. That's plenary. It has authority in our lives. And every word is also divinely directed. It's inspired. God led the authors to write these things and to say these things.

41:22

We believe that God has inspired. Every word has given us His word in every word that is written down, and that every word of the Bible is authoritative in our lives. Simply put, when the Bible speaks, God speaks.

41:38

That's it. When the Bible speaks, God speaks. So now, first, we talked about what Scripture is. Now what Scripture does. You know, as Paul outlines here in this famous verse, Scripture has a couple of very important key tasks that it does in us when we allow it to do its work.

41:58

And he says that the Word of God is profitable, which means that the Bible is useful. It's beneficial for us. It does important things in our lives when we let it. There are, specifically, there's two areas, two essential sections where it kind of teaches us right and wrong.

42:14

And so we're going to see in the first four, the first two of this list of four things, the first two items, teaching and reproof, refer to believing rightly. Refer to this idea, we've talked about it a couple of different times in this series, this idea of orthodoxy, of believing the right things.

42:33

And then the second two items that show up in this list talks about correction and training and righteousness. They refer to living rightly. First two, talk about believing rightly, orthodoxy. And then the second two, talk about living rightly, orthopraxy, right practice.

42:52

You know, Denny Burke, a commentator, kind of defines the four tasks of Scripture in the following ways, talking about these four things. So let me read these for you. He says first, talking about teaching, the first one in the list.

43:05

He says, Scripture tells readers positively what they must believe. It gives us sound doctrine. Second thing it talks about is reproof. And Scripture tells readers negatively what they should not believe.

43:20

It disabuses readers of unsound doctrine. And so much focus has been given in 1 & 2 Timothy, the dangers of false teaching, the dangers of people who would take the Word of God or would take things that sound kind of Bible -adjacent and would twist them and would manipulate them to say what they want them to say.

43:44

2 Timothy 3:16 is telling us that Scripture unwinds those things for us. When we allow the Word of God to do its work in us, we realize, no, wait a minute, that wasn't right. We got to unpack that one a little bit.

44:00

The third thing that Scripture does in us, it talks about correction in our verse here. Correction means setting right, most likely with a reference to conduct, as Denny Burke describes it. Scripture tells readers negatively, hey, don't do that, that's dangerous for you.

44:15

Let's not do that one, right? Simply put, we know what correction means. And then finally, training and righteousness. Training and righteousness indicates teaching or education in right living. We tell people, no, no, no, let's not do that.

44:31

Well, then it also goes along and it says, well, actually we're going to do this instead. Scripture tells readers positively what they should do, not just negatively what they shouldn't. Let me offer a couple of key observations that I want to kind of toss in here.

44:44

So as we look at this list, as we see how the Bible verse 16, it says that Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training and righteousness.

44:58

First thing that I think of when I look at this, it's important for us to acknowledge that believing rightly comes before living rightly. And it seems like a logical conclusion for us to come to, but I think in order for us to live the way that God wants, it's important for us, we have to know what he expects of us, right?

45:16

Because if I go, all right, I'm going to live for Jesus today. What does he want me to do? I don't know! Charge, right? Where are we going? There's a flaw in that plan, right? We have to know what God tells us to do before we can successfully do it.

45:41

We learn what God desires of us through His word. We learn what God expects of us. The Bible teaches us what is right. We have to believe rightly before we can live rightly. Second thing I think it's important for us to point out is that believing rightly comes with an immediate acknowledgement that there are things out there that we should not believe.



46:05

Believing rightly about God by definition implies that those who would disagree with what God has said, well, that means that they're wrong. That sounds mean, doesn't it? Especially in the context that we live in where everybody gets to have their own truth and everybody gets to be received and accepted and your opinion is valuable, but the reality is one plus one can't equal three, six, nine, and 37.

46:33

I know it, one plus one is two, right? And any number other than two, we've got a problem there. Something's not adding up, literally. Believing rightly about God clearly tells us that those who would disagree with the Bible are wrong.

46:53

Those who believe wrongly about God are in error and should be warned that the word of God corrects, it reproves those who are in error. That's not hate speech. That's not me attacking someone. That's simply me loving them enough to say, hey, what the Bible says is true is here.

47:14

You are here. Those things are dangerous, that's a problem. Move. The third thing that I think of when I look at this list is that right belief, the orthodoxy, that right proper belief should lead to right living because we see this list of four things that God says scripture does in us, and there's two of them that are focused on believing rightly, and then there's two of them that are focused on living rightly.

47:47

Which two are important? Both. These aren't mutually exclusive options, right? Scripture does all of these things in us. And I look around at Christianity, the state of Christianity today, and it's disappointing because it seems like most believers tend to err on one side or the other of this discussion.

48:17

And there's some who believe rightly, and they just pound their fists and scream at anybody that would disagree with them. There's this staunch demand for correct intellectual belief with very little application of their faith.

48:31

That's sinful. That's wrong for us to say, no, no, no, we love the word of God, but we don't do anything that it says. There's a disconnect there, right? Bible says love your neighbor. In the Greek it's blah, blah, blah.

48:45

Okay, but are you loving your neighbor? We can't just believe rightly. That often ends up with dry and lifeless faith, calloused, useless, and James would describe it as dead. In addition to that, those who would err to the other side of the spectrum, who live rightly, who just want to just go out there and do it, but don't actually care what the Bible tells them with little concern for understanding the things of God that he's revealed often end up misguided and off track in other ways.

49:22

Both believing rightly and living rightly are essential for living out our faith in the right way. We can't just believe intellectually. We can't just say, let's go, where are we going? I don't know.

49:41

Both are necessary as they inform and apply one another. How will you live rightly if you don't know what God says is right or wrong? How will you show your faith? How will you show your proper belief and faith if you don't live it out?

50:01

James chapter two. What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food and one of you says to them, go in peace, be warm and filled.

50:17

I kind of translate that in my own mind as good luck without giving them the things that are needed for the body. What good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Someone will say you have faith and I have works.

50:34

When James responds, he says, show me your faith apart from your works and I will show you my faith by my works. John Stott, theologian was talking about these two aspects of believing rightly and living rightly.

50:50

He refers to them as creed and conduct. Good preacher, right? He makes them finish or start with the same letter. Listen to what he has to say about how these two things must be married together, believing rightly and living rightly, creed and conduct.

51:04

He says, Paul now goes on to show that the prophet of Scripture relates to both creed and conduct. The false teachers divorced them, but we must marry them together. As for our creed, Scripture is profitable for teaching the truth and refuting error.

51:20

As for our conduct, it is profitable for reformation of manners and discipline in right living. In each pair, the negative and positive counterparts are combined. Do we hope, either in our own lives or in our teaching ministry, to overcome error and to grow in truth, to overcome evil and to grow in holiness?

51:39

Then it is to Scripture that we must primarily turn, for Scripture is profitable for these things. The Bible will do its profitable work in us if we allow it the room that it needs to work in us. Finally, we get to verse 17.

51:56

We see that the final product of Scripture's work in our lives. Verse 17, at the end of that beautiful verse 16, talking about the value of Scripture, verse 17, he continues and he says, all these things are happening in the person, the man of God, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

52:18

Scripture enables any person of God to be complete. The Bible enables all believers to be capable of meeting whatever demands God places on them by being properly equipped, by being readily prepared to do whatever it is that God calls us to.

52:34

Now, Scripture is very clear. It is explicitly clear in Ephesians chapter two that God saves people so that they can live out their faith so that they can do good works. What this text is telling us in 2 Timothy chapter three is that Scripture equips and enables the readers for every single one of those good works.

53:00

God doesn't invite us and call us to be saved and to be a part of his family and then command us, go do good works and then say good luck. And off we go to figure it out for ourselves. The word of God accomplishes its work in our lives because the word of God is going to equip us to do whatever God expects of us, that the person of God will be complete.

53:24

Verse 17 says, the man of God will be complete, equipped for every good work. You know, a key word that describes our understanding of the Bible, the Protestant Christian view of the Bible. We believe that the Bible is sufficient.

53:39

That means that if we have God's word, that means like 2 Peter chapter one says that we have everything that we need for life and godliness. We have everything that we need to be faithful to be fruitful to do what God has called us to do.

53:53

We have it all because God has given us everything that we need in the Bible. It's sufficient for whatever it is that we face in life. It doesn't tell you how to change your oil. Like it's not comprehensive, but it is sufficient for everything that God wants us to know about life and living with godliness.

54:11

But the sufficiency of Scripture, that phrase, the sufficiency of Scripture has been a dividing line of sorts throughout church history, throughout human history, throughout the centuries, right? It was a key issue of the Reformation.

54:24

If you ever have come to church more than about two weeks, you've heard us talk about a guy named Martin Luther, right? He kind of did a big thing. He went down to the local Catholic church and he took his list of complaints.

54:36

He called them the 95 theses and he nailed them to the front door of the church. So we got some problems and he shows up and it started what's now known as the Protestant Reformation. We had these reformers and a big dividing line between the Protestant Christians, between the reformers like Martin Luther and John Calvin and others.

54:57

And the Roman Catholic Church of that day was the issue of the sufficiency of Scripture. Because Luther and the other protestors, the Protestant, right? Protestant, protest, Protestant, the Protestants believe in what is referred to as sola scriptura, which means according to Scripture alone.

55:18

When we have the Bible, we have everything that we need for life and godliness. That's what verse 17 is talking about here, that the man of God may be complete and equipped for every good work because all Scripture is given to us.

55:31

We have what we need to do what we need because God has given us everything that we need. Sola Scriptura is defined by John MacArthur. He says, Sola Scriptura simply means that all truth necessary for our salvation and our spiritual life is taught either explicitly or implicitly in scripture.

55:52

I say all that because the protestors, Protestant Reformation, they disagreed with the Catholic Church of that day. They would disagree with the Catholic Church of our day as well. But I think Protestants are sometimes surprised to learn that Roman Catholics share our belief about many of the things about scripture.

56:14

They believe in the inspiration of scripture. Catholics would confess that scripture is inspired, that it is infallible, that it is authoritative, that it is inerrant. All those important words that say that the Bible is perfect, but the difference between Protestant Christians and Roman Catholics resides in our views on the sufficiency of scripture.

56:37

Paul teaches in 2 Timothy 3 that scripture equips the man of God for every good work. We believe that this can happen outside of mediation. It can happen outside of someone else coming in and telling us what to believe.

56:52

If we read scripture correctly, if we believe it, if we apply it the way that it is supposed to be given to us and applied, we believe that we can be obedient and understand what God would have us to do.

57:05

But for centuries, the Catholic theology has asserted by contrast that scripture is a part of God's revelation. To use some key terms for you, just to make you familiar with the big words, right? Protestants affirm Sola Scriptura by scripture alone, whereas the Roman Catholic Church affirms Prima Scriptura.

57:26

Prima Scriptura says that scripture is the primary source, but is not the only source of right belief. Robert Bellarmine, he was a Catholic theologian. He was described as a counter-reformation theologian.

57:41

He was living in the 1500s-1600s, right around the same time that Luther and Zwingli and Calvin, those guys were kinda blowing some stuff up. He explicitly denied that scripture contains all that is necessary for the faith.

57:57

Let me read a quote for you from a Catholic theologian, Robert Bellarmine. He says the controversy then between us and the heretics, that's us by the way, consists in two things. The first is that we assert that in the scriptures is not expressly contained the whole doctrine necessary, either about faith or about morals.

58:18

Therefore, besides the written word of God, there is also required the unwritten word of God, that is divine and apostolic traditions. The traditions of the church, what the pope has to say, what the priest has to say, are married together with what the word of God has to say.

58:40

They start with scripture, but then it's up to men to interpret what it means for you. The catechism of the Catholic church, made popular by Pope John Paul II in 1994. This is their current catechism that's available widely on the internet.

58:59

Their catechism clearly states paragraph 85. The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of tradition, has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the church alone.

59:15

What it's saying is that you can't believe rightly unless we tell you what to believe. In fact, two paragraphs down in paragraph 87, it says that the faithful, that would be you, should receive all of the church's official teaching with docility.

59:34

Be docile, just sit back and believe what we tell you to believe. So that sounds very different from us saying that the word of God will speak and that the priesthood of believers that you can open up your Bible and if you study it and you understand what it says and you understand what it tells you to do and you do it, you can do what God wants you to do.

59:55

You don't need somebody like me to tell you what's right or wrong. You don't need the Pope to tell you how we should believe here or there. It's the reason why there's been times where it seems like the target's moving.

01:00:09

It's because it's moving. It's because their anchor point is not fixed to a fixed thing like the word of God. It's kind of loosely attached to the scripture, but it's also dependent on men interpreting what it means for today.



01:00:27

I don't mean to just harp on Roman Catholics this morning. because good news, bad news, Protestant church actually does this a lot too. There are many Protestant Christian churches this morning that are filled with the voices of preachers whose sermons are filled with the phrases, I think, and I say far more than God thinks, and God's word says.

01:00:59

There's a lot of churches that what the pastor thinks is the primary thing that people are leaving with that day, not what the word of God says. So get this, make this connection. This is the point of all of this.

01:01:14

When we say that we believe in the sufficiency of the Bible, but then we rush off to conclusions without considering what the Bible actually has to say on whatever the topic is, we functionally contradict ourselves.

01:01:28

We're not doing what we say we do. If we say, yeah, yeah, yeah, we believe in the sufficiency of Scripture, God's word has the authority in my life. Let me go see what somebody else on Amazon has to say about this topic.

01:01:43

Yeah, I don't care what the Bible says, I think, and then we fill in the rest of that sentence, that's not someone who believes in the sufficiency of Scripture. Someone who says, well, yeah, my devotional this morning says, okay, that's not someone who believes in the sufficiency of Scripture.

01:02:00

Someone who looks at their marriage problems and says this book about marriage says, there's not someone who believes in the sufficiency of Scripture. My counselor that I went and I met with says, that's not someone who believes in the sufficiency of Scripture.

01:02:15

Now, please don't misunderstand what I'm saying. I'm not saying that it's bad, that you shouldn't read devotionals, that you shouldn't read books, that you shouldn't talk to someone if you need to talk to someone.

01:02:25

I think we better be careful. I think we better be careful about saying that we believe that the Bible is sufficient but then running anywhere and everywhere except for considering what the Bible has to say on the topic at hand.

01:02:40

We're facing problems in our life or if we're facing conflict in our marriage, if we're facing anxiety and fear and worry in our lives, if we're facing problems at work, we're facing some issue that we don't know what to do.

01:02:58

It doesn't matter what our friends say. It doesn't matter what some person with a blog on the internet says. It doesn't even matter what we think. Matters with the word of God says. Like we started this morning with.

01:03:18

We have to be Bible people first. We have to be Bible people. We have to first ask what does God's word say on the matter? And if we're going to allow some relationship author or some friend or some counselor or whatever other influence we allow in, we have to ask the question, does what they say match up with what God says?

01:03:40

Because there can be value in someone speaking in and giving us a different perspective. But only in as much as it points us back to what God has instructed us to do. If we believe that the word of God is the word of God.

01:03:55

If we believe that all scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for us, we have to be careful. We have to be careful because it's easy for us to say that. But what do our actions reflect? Do our actions reflect that we believe that the word of God that the Bible is breathed out by God and is useful for us, that it gives us everything that we need for life and godliness?

01:04:23

Because either we believe that or we don't. I think our actions are going to reflect that reality far more than our words do. When stuff gets ugly, where do we run? Where do you run? Do you run to social media?

01:04:47

What do you guys think? What should I do? Do you run to some book that you love? Do you run to your significant other? Hey, I got this problem. What do you think? What do we first and foremost run to God?

01:05:05

Because there's one of those answers that's right and a whole bunch of them that are right if they're kept in their proper priority. I'm gonna finish with our passage. Second Timothy 3:16 and 17. All scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness.

01:05:34

That the man of God may be complete. equipped for every good work. Our prayer team is gonna be down here after the service. They would love to pray with you if you've got something going on. Our prayer wall is back out the back doors and off to the right.

01:05:47

If you need prayer, go stick your prayer request on the wall. We would love to pray for you. Would you pray with me now? God, we thank you that you have given us everything that we need for life and godliness.

01:06:03

God, that as you have breathed out and inspired perfectly, given us your holy words, you've given us everything that we need. Help that to sink in in our lives. Help that to sink in through our thick heads because God, I'm as guilty as anybody else in this room that we so often will run off to any other voice and it's easy to get distracted and to miss the most important voice in any conversation.

01:06:36

What does God have to say about this? God, your scripture is useful, is valuable to us. It is a treasure for us to hold fast to. Help us to hold fast. Help us to hold tightly to your word and to be Bible people.

01:06:58

To be people who would consider first and foremost, what does God have to say on whatever situation arises in our lives? More important than what our friends say, more important than what the experts say, more even important than what we think.

01:07:14

God, your word is perfect and is useful in our lives to teach us what's right and wrong, to teach us how to believe rightly, to teach us how to live rightly. And God, we pray this morning that we would be a church that is not just saying the things.

01:07:32

We say that we believe in the sufficiency of scripture. God, help us to be people who believe in the sufficiency of scripture, not just with our words, but with our actions. God, we thank you for... God, for breathing it out and giving it to us.

01:07:51

Thank you for loving us. Thank you for adopting us. Thank you for calling us yours. It's in Jesus' name, we pray, amen.