

**The Word of God from 2nd Timothy: Our Sole Authority** - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."

**TITLE: Sermon #1: The Inspiration of the Word of God Written**--v. 16: "All scripture is God breathed..."

**Sermon #2 The Intention of the Word of God Written**

**Sermon #3 Sufficiency of the Word of God Written**

**Sermon #4 Interpretation of the Word of God Written**

**Sermon #5 Protection/Preservation of the Word of God Written**

**Sermon #6 Perpetuation (Passing on) of the Word of God Written**

In a day and age when relativity is praised and false teaching is rampant, it is imperative that we, as Christians, are grounded firmly in the truth of God's Word. But why the Bible? Why do we go to this book as our authority?

## 1) The Need for a God-Breathed Word

★ **Last Days** → **3:1** "*But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.*" Paul references the last days which is understood to mean the time between Christ's first and second comings. Paul is saying that in the time between Christ's first coming (*when He became man and dwelt among us, was killed by us on the cross, and then ascended into heaven*) and His second coming (*when He will come again to judge the world and bring justice*), there will be difficulty! Ok...so what does that have to do with the Bible being our sole authority? Well, let's take a look at how these difficulties are described:

Paul is clear that men are the cause of these difficulties (v. 2 "For people will be..."). Upon first glance at the chapter we see that many descriptions of men during these last days, descriptions such as *proud, arrogant, abusive, heartless, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*. However there are **3** underlying problems that Paul makes clear are the cause of every other downfall of these people:

**a) v. 7: Ignorance of the Truth** "For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, **always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.**"

The Catholic apologist G.K. Chesterton said, "*An open mind, like an open mouth, does have a purpose: and that is to close it upon something solid. Otherwise, it could end up like a city sewer, rejecting nothing.*"

I am all for knowledge. I am all for learning. I would not claim that education is

wrong and neither would the Bible. Often you will hear people make the claim that if everyone over the past 2 thousand years had been Christians or believed in God we wouldn't be where we are today with technology and science and all of the modern advancements we've made over the past centuries. This simply isn't the case!

★ **In no way does God promote the shutting down of our minds in the name of "faith".** Actually, the exact opposite is true: **all over scripture we are called to grow in knowledge, to apply our minds** (2 Corinthians 10:5 "*We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...*") (Eph. 4:18 "*They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.*") (Psalm 119:99), **to renew our minds** (Romans 12:2)--**Christians are not meant to be dumb, illiterate drones!**

When Paul says that these false teachers are "always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth" he is referring to the DOWNFALL OF ALL HUMAN RELIGION: men trying to arrive at a knowledge of God on their own accord.

THE DOWNFALL OF ALL HUMAN RELIGION is nothing more than man's attempt to bind himself to God.

(*Religo*, the Latin word from which we get Religion, literally means *to bind*.)

BROKEN RELATIONSHIP: Men know there is a disconnect between them and God--they know they are divided because of sin. And because of this, men are constantly trying to bind themselves back to God, to fix this broken relationship.

★ The problem is that unless they are seeking to do this through Jesus Christ and His work on the cross ALONE they are working in vain. Man cannot arrive at a knowledge of God unless God reveals it to them.

So...

→ Under the guise of advancing their knowledge, the men Paul is talking about are actually never coming to a right understanding of the truth that Jesus makes clear. God has revealed to us certain absolute truths: all men are sinners. There is a heaven and there is a hell. When we die we are judged by a JUST God. The only way to heaven is through Jesus. These are indisputable, clear, absolute truths given to us by Jesus which are not open to input from our own human reasoning.

WE STAND ON THIS TO GO ANYWHERE: We stand upon these and by standing upon them we are able to move on to understanding the rest of this world with all of its incredibly complex questions!

But without God revealing these truths to us we are infinitely confined to our hamster wheels...constantly running, striving, working but for what end? It is in vain that we try to understand God from anywhere else than from God Himself.

**1 Corinthians 1:20, 21** "Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe."

Further, in

**1 Corinthians 2:14** "The natural man does not understand the things of God..."

★★★ SO WE SEE, PAUL DESCRIBES the first underlying reason for the wickedness of men in the last days as an **IGNORANCE OF TRUTH**. They pursue knowledge and understanding from the wrong source: themselves rather than God and therefore live in ignorance.

[ → → → **The Fruit of Ignorance: v. 5: A "superficial religiosity;"** nothing more than an empty shell. There is an actual denial of the power of Christ--it is more or less treated as silly childish stories with little to no relevance upon their lives. Sure, people are members of their church, they attend on Christmas and Easter, they confess that, "Yes I believe in God and Jesus..." but it goes no deeper than just that: a verbal confession. In practice and in everyday matters of life, they deny the power of God. They are superficial in their religion or, a term I use often, "practical atheists". They would not say there is no God but when it comes down to their daily living they live as if He does not exist. They are practical atheists. ]

**b) v. 8: Opposition to the Truth** "Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, **so these men also oppose the truth**, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith."

Although we are not told the exact teachings of these men opposing the truth, we know that **anything other than God's truth is in opposition to God's truth**. In rebuking the Pharisees in Mark 7:8-9 Jesus tells them that in holding to the traditions of men they have rejected the commands of God:

→ Mark 7:8-9 "'You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.' And He said to them, 'You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your traditions!'"

**The commandments of God are absolutely opposed to traditions of men! It is one or the other, there is no alternative!**

So we go back to Paul:

- Jannes & Jambres: although nowhere else mentioned in the Bible, these names would have been familiar to Timothy and the Jews.

- According to extra-biblical Jewish writings, these two men were the Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses during his confrontations with Pharaoh in Exodus 7. Paul equates these men opposing the truth to those who opposed Moses.

**[PERSONAL NOTES:** So it will be with those in the last days who oppose the truth--they are characterized in two ways: **1)** corrupted in mind as the teachers described in 2 Timothy 4:3 and **2)** Disqualified regarding the faith as seen in 1 Timothy 3:1-5 and Titus 1:7-9]

**★★★** SO WE SEE, PAUL DESCRIBES the second underlying reason for the wickedness of men in the last days as them being opposed to the truth.

**c) v. 13: Deepening Deception Regarding the Truth** "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, **while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.**"

**★\_We are faced here with a prevailing reality that has implications for every single person in this room; either infinitely beautiful or unimaginably tragic.★**

**THIS REALITY? EVERYONE REACTS.**

**Positively:**

**Romans 1:16,17** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'"

**Negatively:**

**Romans 1:18** "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all

ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth."

**Romans 1:20,21** "For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.**"

→ No one stands still in their minds with regard to God; this morning you will either move towards Him or away from Him. (EXPOUND UPON THIS POINT)

These men are spiraling downwards towards deeper and deeper sin and depravity of mind. **John 3:20 "For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed."**

### **DARKNESS GETS DARKER.**

*So we are faced with the question...*

**Q?:** How will Timothy be protected and spared from these characteristics (always learning, opposing the truth, sliding further and further into evil)? **WHAT MUST HE DO?**

**verse 14:** "But as for you, *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 Jesus Christ. ALL SCRIPTURE IS BREATHED OUT (or inspired) BY GOD..."

Make this a crescendo here:

→ problem: MEN ARE IN DARKNESS.

→ What is Timothy supposed to do?

→ solution: God has breathed out His word.

\*Note: *Breathed out* is the Greek word *Theopneustos* (*thay-op-new-staas*) which literally means *God-breathed; breathed out by God*.

**A!:** TIMOTHY MUST HOLD TO THE WORD OF GOD AS HIS SOLE AUTHORITY.

## **2) The Reality of the God-Breathed Word**

We often hear of the Bible as being the “inspired Word of God.” But what does that mean?

Well, the Greek word THAY - OP - NEW - STAAS literally means *God-breathed* or *breathed out by God* and this is the word we found used here in 2 Timothy 3:15.

These words that we read in this book are not merely wise words from ancient prophets and followers of Jesus--NO. These are, as they claim to be, the words of the Almighty God.

### a) The Inspiration of the Old Testament

→ The only thing that will preserve Timothy and his hearers is the scriptures.

→ **WHAT SCRIPTURES? Old Testament:** the NT was in the process of being written.

→ **Jesus' view of the OT:**

- **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. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota (the smallest Hebrew letter), not a dot (little part of a Hebrew letter), will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”* [Not even the slightest part of the Law will pass away! Why? The word of the Lord remains forever! (1 Peter 1:24,25)]

- **John 10:34-36** *“Jesus answered them, ‘Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? If He called them gods to whom the word of God came--and Scripture cannot be broken--do you say of Him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?”*

- **Matthew 4:1-10** - What did Jesus use to combat the devil? He used OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE.

→ **v. 3** "And the tempter came and said to Him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But He answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Deuteronomy 8:3)

→ **v. 7** "Jesus said to him, 'Again, it is written...'" (Deut. 6:16)

→ **v. 10** "Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written...'" (Deut. 6:13)

[ - **Matthew 19:4:** "He answered, 'Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female...'"

- **Matthew 22:29**: Sadducees trying to trap Jesus about resurrection. You are wrong because you don't know the Scriptures!
- **Acts 4:24-25**: The Apostles refer to the OT being inspired (quoting from Psalm 2).
- **Romans 9:17**: What the scripture says, God says. Scripture says--look at the context because God said it to Pharaoh. Scripture and God are interchangeable because they are the same. ]

→ **2 Peter 1:20-21** "...no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 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."

## **BUT WHAT ABOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT? IS THAT ALSO THE WORD OF GOD?**

### **b) The Inspiration of the New Testament**

→ Is the New Testament also inspired?

- **John 14:26** Jesus says to His disciples that the Holy Spirit will bring remembrance to His disciples in order to write the Scriptures: "*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*"

- **2 Timothy 3:16 with 2 Peter 3:16**: SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT CLARIFYING the New Testament AS SCRIPTURE.

→ 2 Tim. 3:16 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness..."

→ 2 Peter 3:16 (15) "*And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.*"

- [ - 1 Cor. 14:37: Paul is saying that his writings are God's commands.
- 1 Thess. 2:13: Another claim to inspiration from Paul...
- John 16:13: Specific promises made to the 11 about inspiration. ]

### **APPLICATION:**

It is established: the scriptures are God breathed.

Timothy, the way to arrive at truth and to avoid opposing truth and to be deceived and deceive others is to continue in the God-breathed scriptures.

So what does this mean for us today, Oulu, Finland, 2011? New revelations (Mormons), man-made traditions (Catholics), legalistic rules, and anything else that is not founded in the God-breathed words of Scripture will lead us astray.

Day-to-day lives lived in accordance with the WORD OF GOD!

If you are here today and have not turned away from your sin and rebellion to God and turned to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith and are still a

- lover of self
- lover of money
- proud and arrogant
- lover of pleasure rather than a lover of God

...Do not ignore the Words of God you have read today in the Bible. Do not ignore the truth that is staring you in the face. Everyone reacts.

Everyone today will react → either in humble submission to God's Words or in rebellious suppression of it.

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."