

TITLE: Conforming to the Bible, part 2
 TEXT: 2 Timothy 3:10-17
 PREACHED AT: Castine 9-19-21
 MAIN POINT: What conforming to the Bible means for Castine.
 SERMON SERIES: Castine's Values

INTRODUCTION

1. While on vacation a few weeks ago, I decided to take on the ocean. For some reason, I wanted to test my ability to withstand the power of the incoming waves. A hurricane a few days before made its way up the coast and perhaps contributed to the large waves. So I waited for one that was larger than the rest of the series and charged. The wave hit me so hard that it slammed me to the bottom; I tumbled over and over and almost lost my swimming shorts because of its enormous power. I lost this contest!
 - 1.1. Why do I share this story? Like trying to withstand the power of waves, we are trying to resist the power of the culture against everything we believe as followers of Jesus, but how? Castine's answer is by conforming to the Bible.
 - 1.1.1. On Wednesday evenings, Chad and Casey Denlinger, Shaun and I, are leading a class for parents. We are trying to assist parents in conforming to the Bible within the experience of the collapse of Christian values and a culture determined to destroy them.
 - 1.1.2. High school students trying to conform to the Bible feel the strength of culture resisting them.
 - 1.1.3. Many, wanting to conform to the Bible, experience the strength of fear as they watch the "hurricane" of the Corona Virus divide families, churches, employees, medical workers over the best practices to prevent more sickness and death.
2. For Castine, the only way to overcome the power of evil expressed in our culture is to conform to the Bible.
 - 2.1. For Castine, conforming to the Bible is not some abstract idea that fits our church context but is lacking once you walk out the door. No, conforming to the Bible means it is helpful in every aspect of life.
3. Why do I continue to say "for Castine?" It is because almost every church claims they conform to the Bible but with very different results. Therefore, it is crucial to know what this phrase means for us.
4. 2 Timothy 3:10-17 will lead us to unpack what conforming to the Bible means for Castine.

DISCUSSION

1. 2 Timothy 3:14 But as for you, **continue** in what you have learned and have **firmly believed**, knowing from whom you learned it 15 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. 16 **All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable** for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be **complete**, equipped for every good work.
 - 1.1. μένω (menō, continue), to wait for, remain, stay, last.
 - 1.2. πιστόω (firmly believed) to be sure about something because of its reliability, feel confidence, be convinced.

- 1.3. Σωτηρία (salvation), “salvation is literally “into salvation,” which makes clear that the wisdom that comes from the holy Scripture has the function of showing people the way to salvation and what they must do to experience it. It is therefore evident that the holy Scripture itself does not bestow salvation but only points to it. The experience of salvation always comes through faith in Christ Jesus.” (Daniel C. Arichea and Howard Hatton, *A Handbook on Paul’s Letters to Timothy and to Titus*, UBS Handbook Series (New York: United Bible Societies, 1995), 235.)
 - 1.4. θεόπνευστος (breathed out by God) is a compound of the word for God, θεός, and the verb “breathe,” πνέω. We translate “all scripture is God-breathed and profitable [useful],” and in doing so agree in essence with most modern English translations (e.g., RSV, NASB, TEV, NIV). (George W. Knight, *The Pastoral Epistles: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1992), 446–447.)
 - 1.5. ὠφέλιμος (profitable) useful, beneficial, advantageous for someone or for something. Titus 3:8; 1 Timothy 4:8; 2 Timothy 3:16. (William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 1108.)
 - 1.6. ἐλεγμός (reproof) ‘reproof, correction’ and ‘discipline, in our literature expression of strong disapproval, reproach, rebuke, reproof. (William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 314.)
 - 1.7. ἐπανόρθωσις, (correction) ‘correcting, restoration, improvement. (William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 359.)
2. For Castine, conforming to the Bible means conforming to God because “God-breathed out” the Bible.
 - 2.1. Each week we try to equip you from the Bible because we understand that the Bible reveals what God thinks, expects, promises, and it provides His protection in life.
 - 2.2. To help narrow conforming, Castine has Core Beliefs that list our non-negotiable items in conforming to the Bible. (Find them soon at Castinechurch.com)
 3. For Castine, conforming to the Bible means it holds the final authority in belief and practice.
 - 3.1. In practice means that your elders guide this ministry by discerning, debating, and deciding ministry direction by careful consultation of the Bible.
 4. For Castine, conforming to the Bible means it supports our ministry goals, which are “growing godly men, women, marriages, and children to go and reach the world.”
 5. For Castine, conforming to the Bible means it is a reliable guide to the best life now and forever.
 6. You now know what conforming to the Bible means for Castine. The biggest question is, how is the Bible conforming you?
 - 6.1. Is conforming to the Bible increasing your passion for God and His work? Is conforming to the Bible guiding your decisions rather than the culture? Is the Bible where you turn first in moments of decisions?