

Series 'Immovable' – Three **topical sermons** that define us as a church – Firm foundations

Biblical – Trinitarian – Protestant | You have a better chance of pushing over the Sandias

Starting out with biblical – 66 Books | Aprox. 40 Authors | 1500 years | 7 billion copies sold

- The Bible has shaped history, literature, and culture for a millennia – No greater impact
- Word of God is a stained-glass window – Our job is to shine the light that shows its beauty

Big Idea - We stand on the unchanging Truth of Scripture

We live in a world where truth moving target – What was true 10 years ago isn't true today

- Modernism = Late 19th – mid 20th looked absolute truths: Science – Religion – Reason
- Postmodernism = Relativism: There is no standard of Truth...constructed by individuals

We, as Christians, reject postmodernism and subscribe to an ultimate, unchanging, Truth

Here is our anchor text for this topical sermon – **What the Bible is and what it does**

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- Paul writing to Timothy...facing pressure to soften message, adjust truth, palatable
- Paul doesn't tell Timothy: be more creative, strategic, persuasive – stay close Scripture

I come from the land of tornados – Sirens go off...get into the basement / cellar – Safest

When the world around us stirs and swells...we get close to where it's safe...The Holy Word

1. The Bible is: Divine in its Inspiration (2 Timothy 3:16a)

All Scripture is breathed out by God - beautiful imagery God exhaling his Words human authors

Inspiration: God supernaturally prompted & guided the authors of the Bible, through their unique personalities, to write exactly what He wanted to communicate

- Divine Origin / Human Instrument – Not collection of good ideas from smart men...God
 - Partnership: Not robots; he used their unique personalities, vocabularies, and styles
 - Guided them so that the final product was exactly what He intended

What does a pipe do? It carries the water, but it isn't the water itself...stay connected spring

Three things that divine inspiration means from several different texts I'll put on the screen

- Authoritative – Not good book/historical = supreme standard for faith, conduct, truth

2 Peter 1:20-21 ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.'

- Passage cornerstone for understanding why Christians believe the Bible is authoritative
- Peter = "This wasn't just a bunch of guys sharing their opinions; it a divine partnership

The Scripture is the Rule for Existence and is not to be argued or contended with

When the Bible says 'Do this / Don't do that' it has the authority to make those commands

In the military there are commanding officers...The Bible is our four-star general

- Love your neighbor – Seek justice, encourage the oppressed – No other God's before

These are not options to weigh out...they are direct commands from the Lord to be followed

- Eternal – The nature of the message, found in the pages of Scripture, is timeless

Isaiah 40:8 'The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.'

This shows a comparison between human frailty and divine stability

Current situation...whatever you're going through is like grass withering – Stands forever

A rock vs sand in your hand – The world is the mighty rock that will last forever

- Reliable – 100% certainty that the Bible is going to perform its function every time

Psalm 119:160 "The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever."

- Bible is inerrant & infallible | Bible is w/o error; Bible can have no error – Never wrong

How did we get our modern Bible today...handed down for centuries...do we have evidence

• **Bibliographical** – There are more surviving copies of Bible than any other ancient text

- New Testament = 5,800 catalogued Greek manuscripts | 19,300 other languages
- Old Testament = Dead Sea Scrolls 220 manuscripts 3rd century BC
 - Cairo Genizah – Synagogue 10k | Masoretic Tradition – Thousands of later Hebrew

• **Historical & Archaeological Reliability** – For centuries people have tried...and failed

- House of David was found in 1993 – Hezekiah's Tunnel is still there today | **Every time**

• **Internal Consistency** - Reliability also refers to the cohesion of the message

- 66 – 40 (Kings, fishermen, doctors, tax collectors) – 1500 years = No contradictions
Despite diversity, the books maintain a consistent narrative arc and theological message

• **Prophetic Accuracy** – There over 300 prophecies fulfilled by Jesus alone – Says Done

The Bible is: Divine in its Inspiration...so we trust it | **Not given life to this book missing**

2. The Bible is: Powerful in its Effect (2 Timothy 3:16b-17)

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Bible not merely historical book...power – metamorphic impact human behavior, culture

Robert Frost – Two roads diverged in wood...Took the one less traveled...made all difference

• **Equips** - provides necessary tools, wisdom, and development to handle life's challenges

- **Teaching** - Establishing the truth and showing us the right path

- **Reproof** - Pointing out where we have stepped off that path

- **Correction** - Showing us how to get back on the right path

- **Training in Righteousness** - Showing us how to stay on the right path

Imagine building a skyscraper...architect shows us with plans...foreman says 'wing it'

• **Transforms** – The Bible is not just a book of information but internal renovation

Hebrews 4:12 ¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." | I could preach this verse for two weeks...profound power of Word

Unlike static textbook or ancient artifact – The "Word" possesses its own vitality

• Bible cuts...have you ever been cut by the Bible...read/heard something that changes

- The Bible doesn't cut like a knife wielding madman but scalpel in a skillful surgeon

• **Protects** – The Bible protects us from Spiritual attacks – Weapon in Spiritual Warfare

Eph. 6:17 "and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,"

• Anyone ever felt the flaming darts of the evil one? Discouragement, division, distraction

- Bible is the offensive weapon against Spiritual Warfare – Jesus Wilderness – **Sword**

• **Guides** – Often described roadmap/guide – More...living narrative God and Humanity

Psalm 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

• **Feet** – Immediate steps in front of you (Lamps burning olive oil)...just see a little

- Isn't it true that life doesn't give us much in the way of long-range visibility (10 years)

• **Path** – This shows broader illumination...with every step you take the Bible is your guide

Think of this text like headlights vs your GPS – One showing in front...the other destination

• **Saves** – You have to be told the Scriptures in order to be saved...message of Jesus

2 Timothy 3:15 "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."

A core value of the Scriptures is found in this verse...function = make you wise for salvation

• Sacred Writings – Was the Old Testament for Timothy...whole Bible for us (Caedmon's)

• Faith in Christ Jesus – Critical hinge. It is not facts about the Bible that save...Jesus

The Bible is: Powerful in its Effect...so we live it

Schedule – Read Purpose – Respond Immediately – Lean In when pressure hits – Next steps