

## **January 11, 2026: Basic Christian Values, Part 3: The Word of God**

### **Introduction:**

The foundation for this series is found in I Timothy 3:14 **Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, 15if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.**

As Believers, and as a part of God's Family, and on a smaller scale, as a part of THIS family, we have instruction, from God's Word, on how we should live.

We live in a culture that often rushes past or even forsakes the basics in the name of progress. Mastery is built on the basics. The more important something is, the more critical the basics are.

There is a fundamental question of the utmost importance – why am I here? In the study *Experiencing God*, Henry Blackaby makes an analogy telling us to “Picture in your mind a tall ladder leaning against a wall. Now think about your life as a process of climbing that ladder. Wouldn't it be a tragedy to ascend to the top and find you had placed the ladder against the wrong wall? One life to live, and you missed it!” This is why the basic, fundamental things matter. We need to make sure the ladder of our life is against the right wall.

The basics of our faith matter because:

- Spiritual truth is revealed by the Spirit – and the basics of Christianity are not just foundational; they are most often the ways in which He meets His people to bestow grace upon them and to develop them.
- Each of us needs the simple gospel daily – we run into trouble when we think we are beyond it. We are saved from our sin to be reconciled to God – for relationship. Growth is intentional; you must master the basics.

Five Big Ideas about the Word of God:

**11 Timothy 3:14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

Scripture is:

1. trustworthy
2. has the power to make wise for salvation through faith in Christ

3. is God-breathed
4. is useful
5. equips the servant of God for every good work.

### **1. God's word is Trustworthy**

Paul starts this encouragement to Timothy by reminding him of the trustworthiness of the gospel that has been delivered to him.

1 Timothy 3:14 but as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures

Faith must involve being convinced of the truth of the gospel by the trustworthy claims made through the Bible so that we place our belief, loyalty, and allegiance in Jesus Christ to receive salvation because of the accomplishments of His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. This is specific and not just blind faith.

"I choose to believe the Bible because it's a reliable collection of historical documents written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses that report supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies and claim that their writings are divine rather than human in origin." Voddie Baucham

The Bible makes the case of the trustworthiness of the scriptures in multiple places:

- 1 Timothy 3:14, Luke 1:1, 1 John 1:1, 2 Peter 1:16-21, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

The Bible is a collection of books written by 40+ authors, over a roughly 1600 year time span, on 3 continents and in 3 languages. It has law, history, wisdom, songs, Apocalyptic visions, prophecy – all formed together in a coherent revelation of God to humanity. It does not rely on only one person having said or seen what we believe. God's providence has led to many early manuscript discoveries, particularly in the 20th century, like the Dead Sea Scrolls which only serve to reinforce the authenticity of what has been handed down to us.

"The Word of God is like a lion. You don't have to defend a lion. All you have to do is let the lion loose, and the lion will defend itself." Charles Spurgeon

### **2. God's Word is wise for salvation through faith in Christ**

11 Timothy 3:15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

If you are saved, how did you know you needed Jesus? How did you know that there was sin in your life? How did you know that God had a plan for rescuing you from that sin? THE WORD OF GOD.

Romans 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

By proclaiming the Word of God and living a life in accordance with God's Word, the gospel spreads and changes lives.

### **3. All of God's Word is God breathed**

II Timothy 3: 16 All Scripture is God-breathed

All means all, including the Old Testament. Without the Old Testament we do not have a fully formed understanding of God. The doctrines of God, sin, salvation and Christ are all found in the Old Testament. In the book of Matthew alone, Jesus directly has over 50+ direct quotes of the Old Testament, with hundreds of references. The ENTIRE BIBLE is God's specific plan for how He chose to reveal Himself to the world. This is why ALL Scripture being God-breathed and not just some is important for us to understand.

### **4. Scripture is Useful**

Scripture is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training. As God's people now who have been bought for a price, adopted into His family, indwelt and empowered by His Spirit -- we are living out the sacred process of being transformed into the likeness of Christ. We have been reborn, and like infants we begin the process of growing into adulthood in this new life. We live in a fallen world in broken flesh, and as we take on this new life in Christ, the Word of God is the primary means by which we are shaped.

- Scripture is useful because it teaches us:

Hosea 4: 6 My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

We are all in need of the Word of God to teach us knowledge of who He is and His ways.

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Teaching correct doctrine saves us from our fallen hearts which are deceitful above all things. And this teaching the word of God isn't just academic. Scripture's teaching is all encompassing – to our hearts, souls, minds, and bodies.

It teaches us:

- Who God is.
- What He is like.
- How he created the earth and where we came from.
- About sin and our need for a savior.
- How to live a Godly life and how to Grow in your knowledge of Him.
- How to manage our daily life and affairs.
- About the future secured for those found in Christ that is our great hope
- How to conduct ourselves and relate to each other as His body.

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

- Scripture is useful because it rebukes us:

2 Timothy 3:2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. 6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, 7 always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

We need God's word to stand true against our fallen nature, the sin and error of this world, the lies of the enemy, and against the deceitfulness of our own hearts.

Hebrews 12:6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

Rebuke is the loving call of our God who cares too much to not intervene on your behalf. The God who is willing to offend your fallen flesh to save your soul.

- Scripture is useful because it provides correction:  
Psalm 119 – your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. It's through his word that we can see the world around us clearly and navigate the straight path that he's set us on.

Scripture is useful because it provides training in righteousness:  
God's word is there to train us.

Deuteronomy 6:6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

#### 5. Equipped for every good work

Philippians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Good works are prepared for us as His ambassadors here on Earth. The works he has prepared for us are important because they are part of how He accomplishes His Kingdom purposes here and now, by working through His people and through His church. We need scripture to teach, rebuke, correct, and train us so that we can do these good works and represent Christ. But these works are also part of how he continues to form us as He works through us – they are not just boxes to check. When we are following His Word, He can use us to do more than we could ever imagine.

#### 6. **CLOSING:**

Read God's Word.

Get a bible you can read.

Choose a time and a place to commit to reading the Bible.

Have a plan.

Share with your family, your friends, your coworkers. Help them get in the word.

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. Is there anyone in the group who came to Christ as a teen or adult? What did you depend on for guidance in life prior to becoming a Christian? How did that work for you? What benefit have you found from being guided by scripture as a believer? Would you say that you are guided by the Bible in your daily life, why or why not? How or how not?

2. If someone asked you what you believe about the Bible, what would you tell them? How closely does your discipline of taking in the Bible (via sermons, personal reading, small group discussion) match what you believe about the Bible? What is the most helpful plan or strategy you have found to consistently read God's Word? What is one daily routine that helps keep you in God's Word? Do you currently have a plan for Scripture reading this year? What is your greatest struggle when it comes to daily Bible reading?

3. Read again 2 Timothy 3:14-17. Why do you think Paul reminded Timothy of his childhood? What does this teach us about Timothy's family? What does this teach us about the relevancy of Scripture for our lives today? Why is it important to remember the 'source' of Scripture ('God-breathed')? How does God's Word 'equip' us for every 'good work'? In what areas of your life right now, has God been working through Scripture to 'teach, reproof, correct, or train' you? Can you think of an example of how a passage of scripture has benefited you in one of these ways?

4. Look up these additional passages. How does each one contribute to our understanding of the importance of scripture for our lives?

Psalm 119:9-16

Psalm 1:1-3

Psalm 119:9-11

Proverbs 30:5-6

1 Peter 1:20-21