



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Christian Doctrine, Part 2: God Speaks (The Doctrine of Revelation)
2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 1 - August 23, 2026

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - The need for communication to make the unknowable known. Our reliance on the communication of others is staggering.

For us to know something of God, we need God to communicate with us!

He has been a speaking God from the beginning: "And God said..." 10x in Genesis 1

1. **General Revelation** - How God reveals himself to all peoples during all times.

A. **Creation** (Psalm 19:1, Romans 1:20-21)

- All of the created order will have within it a reflection of the creator for all to see.

B. **Common Grace** (Matthew 5:45)

- The good things that all people get to experience regardless of their connection to God.

C. **Conscience** (Romans 2:15)

- An internal witness to God's character, that we have an inner compass that points out good and evil.

Problem: General Revelation can tell us something about God, but it cannot articulate our need for reconciliation to God, or the provision that God has made in Jesus Christ for salvation.

2. **Special Revelation** - How God speaks precisely about himself to a given group of people.

A. **The Scriptures** (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:19-21)

- *What do we mean when we refer to "the Scriptures"?*

- The Old Testament - 39 books
 - Torah (5 books) - History (12 books) - Wisdom (5 books) - Prophets (17 books)
- The New Testament - 27 books
 - Gospels (4 books) - History (1 book) - Epistles (21 books) - Apocalypse (1 book)
- ~ 40 authors over 1500 yrs on 3 continents - YET over 63,000 cross references!!
- A note on chapters (added ~13th century) and verses (added ~16th century)

- *Inspiration and Canonization*

- The writing of the Scriptures was by human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit - see: 2 Peter 1:20-21
- The collection of the 27 books in the NT canon was based on (1) apostolicity, (2) orthodoxy, (3) antiquity, and (4) usage in liturgy/preaching.

- *The Attributes of the Scripture (according to Scripture)*

- Trustworthy (Prov. 30:5)
- Comprehensive (Prov. 30:6)
- Effective (Is. 55:11)
- True (John 17:17)
- Living/Active (Heb. 4:12)
- Sufficient (2 Pet. 1:3-4)

- *God Speaks or We Speculate*

- If Scripture is not the agreed upon standard for God's direct communication to his people, then we are all free to speculate about God.
- A low view of Scripture leads to all kinds of unbiblical ideas about God.

B. **The Son** (John 1:1-3, 14)

- The goal of *the Scriptures* is to get you to see *the Son*.
- Jesus is how we see the invisible God (Jn. 1:18, Col. 1:15)
- Jesus is how God is speaking to us in the church age (Hebrews 1:1)
- Jesus even says that all of Scripture is about him. (Luke 24:27, John 5:39)

Solution: God reveals himself to us generally every day, but also specifically, in his Word and in His Son - bringing about the salvation that he promised.



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean that God “reveals himself”? What are the two primary ways that God reveals himself to us?
2. How much can we know about God from his general revelation? Can you think of a time that you learned something about God from creation, common grace, or your conscience?
3. Why is general revelation not enough for our salvation?
4. What some good arguments for the fact that the Bible is God’s Word? Why can we trust it has been passed down faithfully to us?
5. What does it mean that the Bible is trustworthy, comprehensive, effective, true, living & active, and sufficient?
6. What can happen within the church if the people have a low view of the Bible?
7. What does your time reading/studying the Bible expose about what you think of it?
8. What story is the Bible ultimately telling? What & who are we supposed to see throughout the Scripture?