

Sermon Notes 10/9/22
“God Breathed”

Why must we continue in the Bible?

1. It is the _____ word of God.

2 Timothy 3:15

John 5:39

2. It is the _____ word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16

Hebrews 4:12

3. It is the _____ word of God.

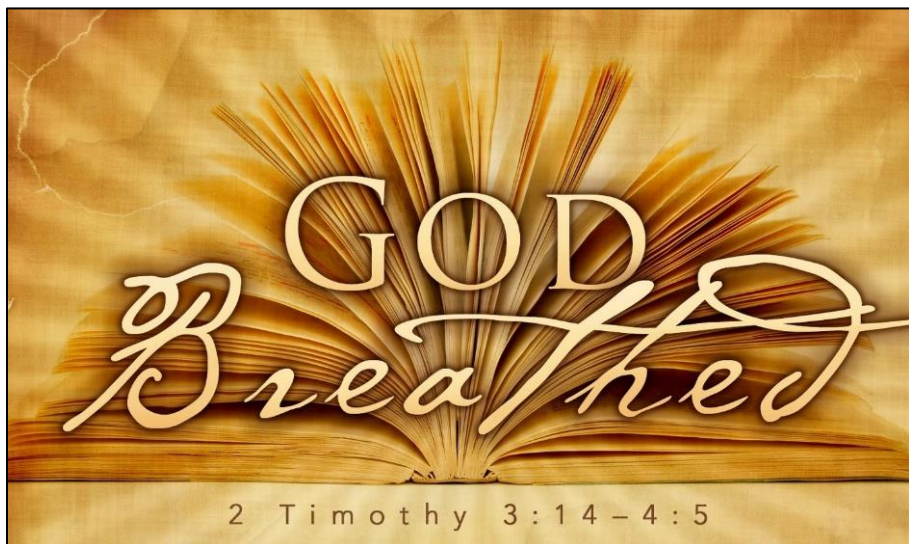
2 Timothy 3:17

2 Peter 1:3-4

4. It is the _____ word of God.

2 Timothy 4:1-2a

John 12:48-50



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 6: October 9

2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5

A wise man once said, “the writing of many books is endless,” (Eccl. 12:12 NASB). According to a study conducted by Google Books, over 129 million books have been published since the invention of Gutenberg’s printing press. That study was conducted in 2010. Currently, an average of 4 million new books are published each year.¹ However, among all those books, only one book is the word of God. The Bible is the primary way that God speaks to us today. As Christians, we must continue to read the Bible and live according to the Bible. The written word of God is our only source of absolute, authoritative, and objective truth.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17

1. What did Paul tell Timothy to do in verse 14? Why?
2. Who taught Timothy the holy Scriptures? (3:14-15, see also 1:5)
3. When did Timothy first start learning the holy Scriptures? (3:15)

The “holy Scriptures” in verse 15 are referring to the books of the Old Testament. When he was just a toddler, Timothy began learning the Old Testament Scriptures from his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. He was probably a young teenager when Paul and Barnabas first preached the gospel in Timothy’s hometown of Lystra (Acts 14:6-7). Paul taught Lois and Eunice how the Old Testament leads us to put our faith in Jesus for salvation (Gal. 3:24). And Jesus taught us that the books of the Old Testament are ultimately about Him (Matt. 5:17; Luke 24:25-27, 44-47; John 5:39).

4. What are the holy Scriptures able to do? (3:15)

James Smith writes,

¹ Rob Errera, “How Many Books Are Published Each Year? [2022 Statistics],” Toner Buzz, February 16, 2022, <https://www.tonerbuzz.com/blog/how-many-books-are-published-each-year/>.

The power of the Scriptures is indicated in the words *make you wise unto salvation*. Though there is much in the way of general wisdom in the Scriptures, it is salvation wisdom that is all important. The Old Testament prophecies in particular point people to Christ as the ultimate Deliverer... Scripture is incomparable. No other book or collection of writings in the world can make a lost sinner wise unto salvation. No other literature authoritatively teaches us salvation facts and trains us in true godliness.²

5. What is true about “all Scripture”? (3:16)

Jack Cottrell notes,

Paul’s grandest teaching about the divine origin of the Bible is 2 Tim 3:16... The NIV accurately says, “All Scripture is God-breathed.” The reason why this does not literally match the word inspired is that this English word means “to breathe in,” while *theopneustos* or “God-breathed” means “to breathe out.” Thus, even though we will all no doubt continue to speak of the Bible as “inspired,” we should remember that we mean by this that the Bible is “God-breathed” or breathed out by God.³

6. For what is Scripture useful? (3:16)

7. For what good work does the Scripture equip the person of God? (3:17)

Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell observe,

Paul ends this section on the sufficiency of Scripture by saying, “so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:17). Though we cannot see it in English, Paul here uses two forms of the Greek word for equip (an adjective and a participle) to make his point. The man of God is super-equipped by the Word of God. The man of God is before all else a man of the Bible.⁴

² James Smith, *Pastoral Epistles Revisited* (Coppell, TX: lulu.com, 2017), 334.

³ Jack Cottrell, *The Faith Once for All: Bible Doctrine for Today* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2002), 52-53.

⁴ R. Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell, *1–2 Timothy and Titus* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 261.

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5

8. How did Paul emphasize the seriousness of the charge he gave Timothy in verse 1?

C. Michael Moss writes,

Paul now brings to a conclusion his appeal to Timothy. He began that appeal in 1:6 and then picked it up again in 3:10. The appeal in this section takes the form of a solemn charge, almost an oath which Timothy is to take. In vv. 1-5 alone, Paul uses nine imperatives concerning Timothy's ministry and his commitment to the Lord. Paul is certain that he is about to die. He is now handing the gauntlet to Timothy. He must carry on the ministry which is everything to Paul.⁵

9. Who will Jesus Christ judge? (4:1)

10. What did Paul tell Timothy to preach in verse 2?

11. When did Timothy need to be ready to preach God's word? (4:2)

12. According to verse 3, how will people respond to sound doctrine?

13. According to verse 4, what will people do in response to the truth?

14. What did Paul tell Timothy to do in verse 5?

15. What do you believe about the Bible? Why?

16. How can we read the Bible in a way that truly corrects us?

17. How has the Bible equipped you for good works?

18. In what way are all Christians able to be evangelists?

19. How can you use the Bible in your own spiritual growth this week?

20. What duties of ministry will you carry out this week?

⁵ C. Michael Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 235.