

Summary

This sermon explores the power and profitability of God's Word, beginning with the story of missionary Robert Thomas who was martyred in Korea but whose scattered Bibles eventually led to widespread conversion 25 years later. The pastor emphasizes that Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for four key purposes: teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness. He challenges the congregation to be people of the Word rather than relying on feelings or popular preachers, stressing the need for biblical foundation in all spiritual matters.

The message calls for authentic worship that is vertical (focused on God) rather than horizontal (focused on ourselves), and emphasizes the need for the church to be a 'plumb line' of righteousness in a world that needs to see holy people living according to God's standards. The pastor warns against turning personal spiritual experiences into doctrine and encourages the congregation to be teachable, allowing God's Word to correct and shape their lives for true righteousness.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with grateful hearts, knowing that Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. As we gather together to discuss what You have spoken to us through this message, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want us to learn today. Help us to be teachable and humble, ready to be corrected where needed and encouraged where You see fit. May Your Holy Spirit guide our conversation and draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one book (other than the Bible) that has had a significant impact on your life, and why?

Key Verses

1. 2 Timothy 3:16
2. Psalm 86:11
3. Psalm 119:105
4. Romans 10:17
5. Jeremiah 10:24
6. Ephesians 5:26
7. Isaiah 28:17

Questions

1. The story of Robert Thomas shows how God's Word can have impact even when we don't see immediate results. Can you share a time when you planted a 'seed' of God's Word and didn't see the fruit until much later?
2. The pastor mentioned that we often walk in our feelings rather than God's Word. What are some practical ways we can ensure we're making decisions based on Scripture rather than emotions?
3. How do you distinguish between God speaking to you and your own thoughts or desires? What role does Scripture play in this discernment?
4. The Bereans searched the Scriptures to verify what Paul taught. How can we apply this principle when listening to sermons, reading Christian books, or receiving spiritual advice?
5. The pastor talked about needing correction and reproof from God's Word. Share about a time when Scripture convicted or corrected you. How did you respond?
6. What's the difference between horizontal worship (focused on what God does for us) and vertical worship (focused on who God is)? How can we cultivate more vertical worship in our personal and corporate worship times?
7. The pastor mentioned that God is more concerned about our holiness than our happiness. How do you balance pursuing holiness while still experiencing joy in your Christian walk?
8. What does it mean for the church to be a 'plumb line' of righteousness in today's world? How can we individually and collectively fulfill this calling?

Life Application

This week, commit to spending time in God's Word daily, not just for information but for transformation. Choose one area of your life where you feel 'out of plumb' with God's standards and ask Him to use His Word to bring correction and alignment. Additionally, practice vertical worship by spending time praising God for who He is, not just what He's done for you.

Key Takeaways

1. God's Word has power even when we don't see immediate results, as demonstrated by the story of Robert Thomas and the Korean villagers
2. Scripture is profitable for four purposes: teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness
3. We must base our decisions and spiritual discernment on God's Word rather than feelings or popular opinions
4. True worship should be vertical (focused on God's character) rather than horizontal (focused on our benefits)
5. The church is called to be a 'plumb line' of righteousness, showing the world what it means to live according to God's standards

Ending Prayer

Lord God, thank You for Your Word that is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword. Thank You for the ways You have spoken to us today through this discussion. Help us to be people who not only hear Your Word but who live it out daily. Make us teachable and humble, ready to receive correction when needed. Help us to worship You for who You are, not just for what You do for us. Use us as a plumb line of righteousness in our communities, showing others what it looks like to live according to Your truth. May Your Word continue to transform us from the inside out. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.