

Foundations
God's Truth
 2 Timothy 3:16

Truth: "...that which corresponds with objective reality." In scripture, the word truth is translated from *aletheia*, which means *that which is not concealed, but revealed*.

"Lead me in your truth & teach me..." **Psalm 25:5a**

In discovering truth, we approach it in one of two ways:

- **Speculation:** Human efforts to make a ventured guess as to the truth about God, the world, us & everything
- **Revelation:** God's communication to humanity with clarity that is otherwise impossible. God has given it to us in two forms:
 - **General Revelation** (Ps 19:1-4, Rom 1:19-21) Act of God whereby He makes truth known to humanity through His creation, providence, and conscience.

"Humans cannot open their eyes without being compelled to see God." **J Calvin**

- **Special Revelation** (2 Tim 3:16, Heb 1:1) Act of God by which He makes Himself known to people by His redemptive word-work found in the person of Jesus & the scriptures.

Main Idea: The Bible is God's Special Revelation of Himself in Truth

"All Scripture is breathed out by God & profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

Three Aspects of God's Truth Revealed in 2 Timothy 3:16

I. **Revelation of God's Truth** - "All Scripture..." (16a)

"For the word of God is living & active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul & of spirit, of joints & of marrow, & discerning the thoughts & intentions of the heart." **Hebrews 4:12**

II. **Source of God's Truth** - "...is given by inspiration of God," (16b)

What does the Bible Claim about Itself?

- **The Old Testament** - Phrases like "God spoke" or "The Word of the Lord came" or "God said" happen over 4,000 times.

"Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him." **Proverbs 30:5**

- **The New Testament** - Quotes the OT roughly 300 times, alludes to the OT over 4,000 times. The NT refers to itself as the words of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

"He will glorify Me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you."

John 16:14

"And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual."

1 Corinthians 2:13

"...when you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit."

Ephesians 3:4-5

- **Jesus** - What did Jesus believe about the Bible?

"For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished." **Matthew 5:18**

"No archeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference ...archeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible."

Dr. Nelson Glueck. Israeli Archeologist

III. **Value of God's Truth** - "...and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (16b-17)

- Doctrine - What is Right
- Reproof - What is Not Right
- Correction - How to Get Right
- Instruction in Righteousness - How to Stay Right

Sola Scriptura = Scripture alone is our highest authority (Supreme Court)

"We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old & New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, & the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge & endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, & trusted in all that it promises."

Salem Church Statement of Faith (Article Two)

"So faith comes from hearing, & hearing through the word of Christ."

Romans 10:17

God revealed Himself to you through the universe & through the Bible for one very important reason: He desires a relationship with you, available in Jesus. **That's God's Truth & That's our First Foundation!**

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* - Josh McDowell (1999)
- *Theology for the Church* - Daniel L. Akin (2007)
- *Wiersbe Bible Commentary* - Warren Wiersbe (2007)
- *New Illustrated Bible Dictionary* - Ronald F. Youngblood (1995)
- *MacArthur New Testament Commentary* - John MacArthur (2004)
- *Strong's Concordance* - James Strong (1890)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* - Tony Evans (2009)
- *Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* - Charles Swindoll (1998)
- *Why You Should Study the Bible* - James Merritt (2004)
- *The Bible: God Speaks to Me* - James Merritt (2007)
- *Knowing God* - J.I. Packer (1973)
- *Doctrine* - Mark Driscoll (2010)

