

The Word of God in Biblical Perspective
Says Or Sez Who?
2 Timothy 3:14-17
By: Dr. Harry Reeder
August 16, 2009 – Morning Sermon

I want to deal with three passages of Scripture for this study but I will start with 2 Timothy 3:14. I want to invite you back tonight for a special service. Every Lord's Day evening service is special but this one is our convocation which focuses on our faculty and administrators at Briarwood Christian School but by invitation from them and our session we want to go beyond that as well. I want to make sure every homeschooler, and all of the educators and administrators in public and private schools know this is service is for you. We want to sanctify this coming year with understanding from God's Word and with prayer and after the service is one of our summer fun nights with refreshments and all. We usually have a special speaker for this service but you just have me tonight. There is something that God has laid on my heart to share with you and that is, it's not why Christian education directly but what is Christian education that will guide our school, our missionaries (teachers, administrators etc) in the public school system, our homeschoolers and certainly our wonderful administration and faculty at Briarwood Christian School. Please be here tonight to encourage them and make this a matter of prayer and for understanding what Christian education is.

Here is God's Word. It's the Truth. This is Paul's word to Timothy before Paul dies, placing the mantle of the ministry of the Word upon him. 2 Timothy 3:14-17 says, ***14** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it **15** and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.*

The grass withers. The flower fades but the Word of our God abides forever, by His mercy and grace may it be preached for you.

I want to look at three text beginning with this one in 2 Timothy but before I do that I want to say Adoniram Judson. Have you ever heard of him? He was a great missionary associated with Luther Rice who was associated with of course, William Carey. Judson, called of God at 24 years old with his 23 year old wife, left and went to serve the Lord in Burma. William Carey told him not to go there because it would cost him his life but Adoniram Judson with his newly wed wife went there. He arrived in Burma on July 17, 1813 and it would cost him imprisonment, countless bouts with malaria, fever, dysentery, cholera, typhoid and it would cost him two wives. It would cost him 7 of his 13 children and finally it would cost him his life in 1850. One time he would try to come back to America to try and secure help for one of his wives but otherwise he gave his whole life in Burma. He had only 1 convert after 6 years of ministry. One the 19th year of his ministry the heavens opened up. He had made an unbelievable impact. The Gospel began to go forward and he was overwhelmed by it. He said, "It seems as if the early and latter rains all came at the same time."

Today there are over 5,000 Evangelical churches proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. What did he do from 1813 to 1834 that led to the Great Awakening of 1836? He very specifically focused on one thing for 17 years. I will tell you at the end of this study and I will tell exactly what it was but I hope by the time we get to the end you will understand why he made that choice in his life and ministry of what he would do during those first 17 years. Now let's go back to the text in 2 Timothy 3:14-17. It is an interesting text.

I have said, "The Scripture cannot be broken" quoting Jesus. The Bible is the Word of Truth. Jesus said, "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). This is our fourth study in the series of the majesty and sufficiency of Scripture, the inspiration of the Word of God that comes back to this home text but stop and think for a minute. Every Lord's Day you come here with an expectation that from this pulpit the Scripture will be read. There will be the preaching of God's Word. You expect that the music leader would have researched everything that we sing and that we would sing only that which is faithful to God's Word. Our confessions of Truth will either be the Word of God or faithful to the teaching of God's Word. When you go to our congregational communities God's Word is opened or a book to lead us to some focus in God's Word is used. Our small groups, whether Men of the Covenant or Women of the Covenant, or home groups, no matter what they are facilitators have been trained to guide us to study the Word of God. We confidently declare that this is an appropriate priority where a pastor tries to find ways, elders and disciplers try to find ways that you are in God's Word regularly, daily, consistently.

Why do we do that? Think of the audacity of saying, "This Book, which actually is 66 books, written with 40 plus human authors, over a span of 1400 to 1600 years, is Truth." We're not even saying that the Bible is a collection of truths. We are saying what Jesus said. It's not a collection of truths. It's The Truth of the glory of God revealed in Christ as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. These books all come to a focus not only reliable, inerrant and inspired but that we would declare that this is God's Word and we would give ourselves to it. We would embrace it, teach it and exhort you to be connected to it and all of those things that we do and continually do time and time again. The audacity to say it's the Truth, so why would we say that confidently? Why would we say it consistently? Why would we say it insistently? Why would we do that? That's what I want us to see. We do that because we believe it is inspired. Let me be even more precise. We really believe the inspiration of the Scripture is the effect of what God has done. We actually believe in the expiration of the Scripture. One may be thinking, "Harry you mean it died? It expired on us?" I want us to take some time to understand that in this study.

Let's take a closer look at this passage in 2 Timothy. There is an interesting phrase in 2 Timothy 3:16; *All Scripture is **breathed out by God** (God breathed)...* Your translation may say "inspired by God." Inspired is not actually an accurate translation. That is a translation that embraces the effect of that word but the word that is actually there is *theopneustos* which is two Greek words that have been put together. *Theo* means God and *pneustos* means breathed. We get the words pneumatic and pneumonia from *pneustos*. God breathed. In other words God has expired (breathed out) and we have this Scripture inspired by Him. It is the breath of God. *Timothy, continue in what you have*

learned, the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Paul, can I find that wisdom anywhere else? No, you can't find it in the book of Creation or in the pages of your conscience. You can only find it the pages of Scripture where it declares who God is and who you are. It shows you that you need a Savior and that God's power has been devoted to provide a Savior for us who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. It is on those pages that I will feed you. It is on those pages that I will nourish and equip you for every good work, man of God. It is right here in this Word and I will My breath, have given you that Word. Inspiration is the effect. Expiration is, well, there is almost a little clue for us there, *theopneustos*. How did we get the Bible? It was through God's breath. He breathed out the Scripture. The Scripture is the breath of God to me. Now, stop.

What else is called the breath of God in the Bible? It isn't hard and I'm not trying to trick you. It is the Holy Spirit. So how did we get the Bible breathed out by God but it was by the breath of God, the Holy Spirit. So the clue is right there in the text has to how we got this Bible, through 40 plus authors, over 1600 years. There was the Author behind the authors. There was the Author at work, God breathed it by His breath, the Holy Spirit.

When I talk about the inspiration of the Scripture I want you to stay with me for something that I think is important. I know we'd probably do this in a Sunday School but I think it's important to explain this. When I say the inspiration of the Scriptures there would be a lot of people who say, "I believe the Bible is inspired" but they don't mean what we mean. They use the word but not how we mean it. So let me give you five views so that you are aware, ready and armed on how people view the Bible.

There is the Secular view of the inspiration of the Scriptures which is what? The Secular view is that this is a book of antiquity. It is a book with a collection of legends and myths. It is inspired in the sense of any good book might be inspired. Now it has some value historically but it's not really reliable. It has some value of literary accomplishment although there are better literary efforts than this but basically it is one of these inspirational books in the sense that people wrote things that are of some value to people. It's more blessed to give than to receive so there's something inspirational about that book. So that is what the secularists mean.

Most of your children you just sent to college, that's about the best you're going for hope that they hear in most of their classes unless we have a good Christian missionary teaching there as a professor. Most of them will hear what I heard in the 1960s, right after the flood. Noah's ark was done away with and there I was in college. Right there my history professor was famous for his opening lecture for freshman history and that was my major. He was my number one teacher at East Carolina. He was famous and well renowned for his opening lecture in which he would take a Bible and throw it against the back of the wall and say, "Now, that's what I think about that and there are some things you might profit from it." How many impressionable freshmen were then overcome and overwhelmed by the many things he would say to attack it and hasn't been equipped to handle it. Legend, myth, book of antiquity, may have some inspirational thoughts and ideas but that's it. That's the secular view.

The second view is the Liberal view of inspiration. Within the realm of professing Christendom this view will be found in most of our mainline churches today.

There is this notion of a liberal view of Scripture. Before I give it I want to be absolutely clear about this. I feel a responsibility as a pastor to do this. When I speak of liberalism within professing Christianity I am not speaking of something that is kind of a “sub” Christian testimony. Liberalism is no Christian testimony. It is not a deformed Christianity. It is no Christianity. It stands apostate. It stands in opposition, not simply on the right view of the Bible as true but beyond that. How is man seen in liberalism? They are seen as a victim that only needs a hand up.

How is man seen in the Bible? He is seen as lost and in need of a Savior. How does liberalism view sin? They say there is no such thing. There are bad circumstances and unfortunate choices. But according to the Bible all have sinned and come short of the glory of God and my condition is not that I’m a victim but that I am dead in my sins and I need to be born again. I don’t need simply a help up but I need to be redeemed and born again. Jesus didn’t go to the cross to die a model death. Jesus went to the cross to die an atoning death where He paid for the sins of all of His people that we might have all of life in Him. God is not a concept to help me cope. God is the One in whom there is none like. He is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is my Creator and my Sustainer. The Liberalism’s view of the Bible is simply the religious corollary to the secular view. It’s a book of myths and legends according to the Liberal view that may have some inspirational ideas of religious significance as a piece of your life but there is absolutely no view that it’s true or the Word of God.

In the midst of that and its growth over the last 250 years of Liberalism there was a response and this is what we call the Neo-Orthodox view. The leader of this view was a man by the name of Carl Barth who I think was actually a believer, in my opinion, but of course only the Lord knows but his view of Scripture was highly faulty. His intent was that he was going to save Christianity from its orthodox, its right view of Scripture, in the face of the onslaught of the criticism of the day that the Bible can’t be true. He said, “I’m going to save us by saying ‘yes the Bible is the Word of God’” but he didn’t mean what we mean. He meant the Bible becomes the Word of God when you encounter it. His view of inspiration was not the Holy Spirit’s work in giving us the Truth. His view of inspiration was the Holy Spirit’s work when you take the Bible and encounter it then it becomes truth for you. So we can dismiss this discussion of whether it’s true or not. It’s not true. It’s not reliable in what it states but it will reliably be used by the Holy Spirit to become the Word of God when you encounter it in your life in days of need and difficulty as you read it and in wonderful opportunities, it becomes the Word of God to you.

Then there is something that is very prevalent today that is very close to this and it’s a Neo-Evangelical view in which they say, “We don’t believe what Carl Barth says but that this is the Word of God yet it’s not necessary that the Bible be non-contradictory. It’s not necessary that the Bible be true but what is necessary is that you will meet Christ in the Bible and God will meet you in the Bible. Therefore when God meets you in the Bible and you see Christ in the Bible, that’s what is important. The Bible is given through human authors and to quote one of these proponents the Bible is just kind of messy. There’s no need to try to prove that it doesn’t contradict itself for that it is without error because that’s beside the point. That’s just the messiness of the Bible. In fact, what the Bible is really there for is that it’s God’s instrument to meet Jesus in the Bible and that’s

all that's really necessary. But you don't have to have a trustworthy Bible or a reliable Bible it will just reliably be used and that is what is presented to us."

What is the Biblical view? The Biblical view is that the Bible doesn't become the Word of God. The Bible doesn't turn into the Word of God and the Bible isn't something that's just messy. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. We believe what Jesus said; "Sanctify them in the Truth; Their Word is Truth" (John 17). Whenever the Bible says something it is true. Now, not everybody's interpretation is true but the Bible itself is true. We believe that the Bible is inspired by God, through the work of the Holy Spirit and through human authors and it's absolutely inerrant in its original manuscript.

Harry, do we have the original manuscripts? No, but we literally have thousands of copies of the original manuscripts and by taking those copies, we can see where the copyist made mistakes and you do what's called Biblical criticism and by looking at it we get back to the original manuscript, not because we have it in our hand but because all the copies when compared and put together then give us that which we have. You may be thinking, "If God really wanted us to have His Word then why didn't He keep the original manuscripts around?" It is because He knows our inclinations. Would you like to visit the churches in Italy that have splinters of the cross and how people bow down and worship it? Would you like to go with me on our trip to the Holy Land and see how many people squat down and touch places where it says Jesus was? What would we do if we had the original manuscripts? We would enshrine them and worship them and then we would be guilty of worshipping the Bible. So God has taken care of that and providentially preserved for us the witness of the original manuscripts so that we have it here.

Now how did God get this, breath of God, to us? Peter gives a passage that explains this a little bit more. Paul says it is God breathed. Peter tells us how God breathed it out to us. 2 Peter 1:20 says, "*Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.*" In this verse Peter makes a declaration that the prophecy which means speaking forth truth did not come as a matter of private interpretation. In other words, these were not words of Prophets that God used but these were God's Word given through the Prophets and to clarify it even more look at the next verse. 2 Peter 1:21 says, "*For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*" First he starts it off in the negative. Anything in God's Word that is God's Word and everything in God's Word is God's Word did not come by the will of Moses, Elijah, David, Paul, Peter etc, but it came by the will of God through Moses, Elijah, David, Paul, Peter etc. But in contrast to that men spoke, not about God but from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

So how do we have this Bible? We have 40 plus human authors. They were chosen by God, set aside by the work of the Holy Spirit and He carried them along. So having negatively said it didn't come from man the Bible came from God. It then says the Bible came from God through these human authors. These were Holy men meaning set apart. They are not holy in that they are sinless. They are sinners saved by grace and if you don't believe it go read about their lives in the Bible. My favorites are what I see as the three most prolific authors in the Bible – Moses, David, and Paul. They are all three murderers. Paul was a religious terrorist and killed Christians. These were humans saved by grace, called and set apart by the Holy Spirit, not only to Christ and salvation

but to a particular ministry. The Prophets give us the Old Covenant pointing to Christ and then the Apostles give us the New Testament that point back and explain Christ. Therefore in Christ this becomes the Word of Christ to us that God has given us His Word.

They were fully human, sinners saved by grace, redeemed, called, set aside and carried along by the Holy Spirit. Who were they? They were kings. They were priests. They were tax collectors. They were fishermen. They were carpenters. Who were the carpenters? Jesus' brothers were the sons of a carpenter. These are men fully human in real life and in real situations. Paul is there when he gets a letter from Thessalonica that people are being put to death because of Jesus but Jesus hasn't come back. So, Paul what is it that we need to know now? You said Jesus was coming back. These people have died and Jesus hasn't come back. Paul what has happened to them? Paul answers them in Thessalonica during that real life situation as he the human author, with real life, in real words, in real situations, communicates to them as he is carried along by the Holy Spirit. Even though they are fully human, they know it and they do not cover themselves up because they let you see them warts, pimples and all. They let you see everything about them that you might know that their hope is in Christ and not in themselves but they knew it was God's Word.

They knew it was not their word about God but that it was God's Word through them to you and that's why they would say, "Thus says the Lord..." They wouldn't say, "Thus says Moses about the Lord..." That's why Paul would say "I am glad you received my word not as the word of men but what it really is, the Word of God" (1 Thessalonians 2:13) to the Thessalonians. That's why Jesus would say, "And God spoke through Moses." Jesus Himself would tell us that it wasn't Moses speaking about God but it was God speaking through Moses. Thus says the Lord. The Word of the Lord came to them. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day and the Lord said..." (Revelation 1:10) this was according to John. These men understood that they were being carried along and that they weren't giving philosophical thoughts of inspiration about God but there were giving the breath of God, the Truth of God's Word out to us. They knew it. They stated it and they gave it to us. These were real life men in real life situations with real words. They weren't just sitting and using the language of the day but as these men were there they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit.

What does that mean "carried along"? Here is the way Jesus said it. He said to them, "The Holy Spirit will guide you into all the truth" (John 16:13). As much as I love that obviously because Jesus said it but I also love what Jesus said through Peter when He said they were carried along in 2 Peter 1:21. When I was a teenager there was what they called a British Invasion of singing groups. My favorite group was not the Beatles. They hair cuts they had were just terrible. I couldn't look at it or stand it and I got tired of the song "I Wanna Hold Your Hand." I needed something with substance to it so I like Gerry and the Pacemakers myself. My favorite song was "Ferry Crossed the Mersey." That song has depth to it. I don't think you'd like for me to sing it but when I went to England I had to go the Mersey to see if they had a ferry. They do have a ferry that crosses the Mersey which is a river and I would see the ferry carry the people to the other side. God takes sinners, saves them, 40 plus of them and calls them to a very specific task and then He ferried them across to bring us the Truth. He carried them along. He ferried them across that we might have the Truth.

So what does that mean for us? That means that you have a Bible that is wholly from the Holy Spirit and fully given through human authors. It is 100 percent divine, the Author behind the authors. It is 100 percent human. These were real human beings. They weren't just sitting there and all of a sudden a quill comes up from the floor and goes into their hand. Paper would appear and they would start magically writing out words. No, they are real men, in real life, in real situations writing things out but the Author of the authors is the Holy Spirit who is carrying them and because God is true, this is the Word of God from God through them and it absolutely reliable.

I want to give you an analogy. We have in the Bible the Word inscripturated. It the Word of Christ who was the Word incarnate. Was Jesus human? This isn't a trick. How human was He? He was 100 percent human. He got angry without sin. He laughed. He would sweat. By a Man came death and by a Man came the resurrection of the dead. Was He the Son of God? Absolutely, He was 100 percent. He was 100 percent man. He was 100 percent God. He was without sin. So here's the analogy. The Word incarnate has an analogy in the Word inscripturated. Is it 100 percent human? Absolutely. Is it 100 percent divine? Absolutely and without error as God the Holy Spirit carries them along infallibly to give us an infallible, inerrant, utter reliable Word.

So what are our takeaways? I want to give you three of them. The first one is that you and I are holding in our hands a providentially, preserved copy of God's Word for us. It's the Truth. So the takeaway is that the Bible is God's lifeline to you. It has come through the given lives of men and women who wrote it, preserved it, who translated it, and this copy of God's Word has been given to you as a lifeline. Students, you are really on my heart today. This Bible was first put in the English language in 1611 and here is what they wrote in the preface; it is better to put confidence in God and His Word than in man and his deceit.

This is the Word of God. It's the Truth. It tells you that you can't save yourself, you need a Savior and it gives you great news. There is a Savior, who is Christ the Lord and He gives you eternal life now. Do you believe it? Now, whether you believe it or not it's the Truth. You don't make it the Truth by believing it but the question is do you believe the Truth of God's Word and will you flee to Christ? I plead with you to come to Christ. That degree is not going to make your life. That job you want is not going to make your life. That marriage partner is not going to make your life. Marriage is not going to make your life. Money is not going to make your life but Jesus Christ who you meet in the pages of this Book, by the power of the Holy Spirit is life evermore.

The third passage I want to look at is in John 6:63 which says, "*It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all.* (Put no confidence in the flesh.) ***The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.***" Who gives life? It's the Spirit, have no confidence in the flesh. How does the Holy Spirit give life? It's through the Word. The Holy Spirit gives you life through His Word and you can profit from His Word only by the Holy Spirit who is the Teacher. It says to you to come, why will you die? Come and live. You may say, "I meet a lot of Christians who aren't living very well." Invariably, do you know what the Christians did? They got away from the lifeline. The preaching of the Word wasn't that important anymore. They backed out of a small group. They don't come much on Sunday night. On Sunday mornings they begin to move to the back and then all of a sudden there not there. Then they are here and not there and then they are gone. They may show up or they may not. They get away from the lifeline, then the

marriage, then their witness, then they're entangled in a sin and all of a sudden that washing of the water of the Word has been gone. The pollution of the world begins to take hold of them. That's why pastors say "don't forsake the assembling of yourselves with others." That's why pastors, elders, deacons, and disciplers plead with you to stay in the Word.

Come to the Word of God consistently. Come to the Word of God systematically. Come to the Word of God teachable. Come to the Word of God regularly. Be in the Word of God. Be like Timothy in the Word of God. Paul said to Timothy, "the things you have learned, continue in them." Stay in that Word. Stay immersed in it, marinated in it. Embrace it. Drink it. Eat it up. It's the lifeline that the Lord has given to you. It is there that the Holy Spirit works. You may or may not ever see a miracle other than your own conversion but you do have the message of Truth and it is that that gives you life. It is that which makes your life. It is that which gives you direction as a citizen, a father, a husband, with all the areas of your life, as members of the body of Christ – it is that Word. It is not to be worshiped.

The church does not make the Word of God. The church is built upon the Word of God. God declares His Word as Truth and every church makes a decision to believe it. Will we preach it? Will we teach it? Every Christian makes a decision. They make a decision about what church they will be apart of, what their daily life is going to be apart of. You and I don't make the Bible the Word of God. We are to use it as the Word of God. God, You have declared it as Your Word. You have declared it as Truth, now I personally and my family, we will use the Truth. We will embrace the Truth.

I had the opportunity in the lobby to see two of our families with babies come in which is a regular thing at this church. They say, "Pastor look at our baby." Guess where I found the baby? When you go to someone's home you will find the baby in a cradle. Now they have these things which I didn't have when me and my wife were bringing up children, that you put the kids in where you staple them to the car, pull them out and carry them around and all. But I know if I'm going to see your baby I have to go look in that. Do you want to find Jesus? You don't find Jesus just by gazing in the skies. You find Jesus as your Lord and Savior when you come and meet Him in your Bible every single day. Come and see Him. You don't find Him sitting in the corner looking at your navel. You don't find Him by gazing around. You don't find Him at ball games. His witness will be there through believers but you meet Him by spending time in His Word. Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of Christ you meet Him in His Word. It is the Word of Christ. His testimony is all around you but you meet Him in the Scripture.

The second takeaway is not only is it a lifeline but it's an arbiter. Are there things hard to understand in the Bible? Yes, but sense the Bible cannot err guess what it can't have? It can't have contradictions. So if there is something that is hard for me to understand will I make use of my pastor? Sure. Will I make use of my elders? Absolutely. Will I make use of my congregation community pastor or my small group leader? Absolutely. Am I going to buy some commentaries that will help me? Absolutely. Will I come on Monday mornings and learn the Westminster Confession of Faith to help me? Absolutely, but the final arbiter of faith and practice is not any commentary, not any man. Men, counsels and books do err. God's Word is its final

interpreter. Is there a difficult text then go to the simple text because the difficult text will not contradict the simple text, therefore it is its final arbiter.

Finally, my last thought is that since we do not make the Bible the Word of God because we believe it, we believe it because it declares itself to be the Word and we have embraced that. The church will use that. Then my third takeaway is that we can finally say our confidence is in God's Word because we know it cannot be broken. While we don't make it the Word of God we use it as the Word of God with absolute confidence because the Bible cannot be broken.

There was a man named Dale who was one of the elders in Charlotte where I served. God gloriously used him. He was so burdened for his father. He went and said "Pastor, I know what the Bible meant to me to help me in my conversion. I bought a Bible for my dad, so which one do you recommend?" I gave him a recommendation so that he had a good direct translation and so he went and took it to his dad and gave it to him. Five years later Dale came to me and said, "Pastor, my dad has passed away would you do the funeral?" I said, "Certainly. I would like to use the Bible of those who have died. Did you dad have a Bible?" He said, "Oh yeah, I bought it for him five years ago, do you remember?" I said, "Oh yeah." The next day he came to my office just weeping. There was the Bible still in the box. It had never been opened. The Word of Life had been given to him and in death we saw the lifeline had not been believed and used.

Do you remember Adoniram Judson the man I talked about in the beginning of this study? What did he do that launched an awakening in Burma for 17 years? For 17 years he translated the Bible and after he arrived in 1813 by 1834 he had 3,000 copies to give away. Two years later the heavens opened up. Oh he preached a sermon everyday in which he averaged 7 sermons every week. Praise the Lord! But at the end of 17 years the Bible was finished. It was spread through the people and the heavens opened and men and women were saved. That's the Word of God, the Breath of God. Come and breath the Truth of God. Come and drink deeply. Eat ravenously. He will nourish your soul. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments that we could be together in Your Word. Thank You Father that we hold in our hands what You have not only designed and called men to give to us by the breath of the Holy Spirit but many have given there all that we might have it. Adoniram Judson, children, wives and his own life, laid on the alter of service that men and women might have a Bible in their hands and meet the Savior. Father would You allow us to passionately, consistently, regularly hear it, study it, search it, and meet our Savior fresh and new day by day. Father, there are some reading this today whom I have already invited and now is their moment. The Word has said, "Come and I will give you life." Will you now pray with me? Pray, "Jesus I come. I come from my sin. I put no confidence in the flesh. I come by Your Spirit and Your Word is Spirit and life to me and through it I come to Christ. I will not worship this Bible but I will use it to worship, trust and live for my Savior." Oh God feed Your people I pray and may they feast and drink deeply and give them great satisfaction in the joy of their Savior. I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.