

The Last Word (2) 4/14/24
The Power of the Word
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Introduction: We are in our current sermon series I have entitled “The Last Word.” This is a study on the doctrine of the Bible; why is the Bible so important? Why do we base the foundation of all we believe upon it? Why do we commit our lives to reading it, studying it, loving, and obeying it, and even contending for it. We do these things because the Bible is God’s book, and God’s word!

According Nelson’s Bible dictionary, “The Word of God is the means by which God makes Himself known, declares His will, and brings about His purposes.” ...God’s word is the primary means by which He is present and working in the world. He is not Himself part of this world, but He acts in it by means of His word. He becomes personally known through His word (1 Sam 3:21). His word is powerfully creative (Ezk. 37:4) and its purposes are irresistible (Isa 55:11; Jer 23:29). And the Paul told young Timothy, “*All scripture*,” that is “*All of the Word of God*” is God’s word! And because it is...

I. The Word of God has power: (v.16)

1. *All scripture is inspired by God* or breathed by him: the Scriptures are the breath of God and not men; they are "written by the Spirit."
 - a. **Jesus believed this, He even said of scripture**, (Matt 22:31-32)
 - b. **As God’s Word it is to be our authority and guide** – *We are to build our lives and faith* upon it. It is to be the foundation of our lives! (Ps. 119:89; Rom. 10:17; Jb. 23:12; Ps. 138:2; Josh. 1:8-9; 23:6; Mt. 5:17-19; 1 Thess. 2:13)
2. **The Bible is a living book** -Heb 4:12 In comparing the Word of God to a sword, the writer is not suggesting that God uses His Word to slaughter the saints!
 - a. It is true that the Word cuts the heart of sinners with conviction (Acts 5:33; 7:54),
 - b. And that the Word has the power to defeat Satan and demons (Eph 6:17; Mt. 4:1-11; Lk. 4:33-36).
 - c. The emphasis is on the power of the Word to penetrate and expose the inner heart of man.

To say we believe the Word of God to be God’s word and not live like it – We can be sure, the Word of God will expose that kind of shallow living and false intentions.

3. The Bible has the power to give new life - 1 Pe. 1:23 ...

- a. This supernatural event which made it possible for them to obey the truth, purify themselves, and love the brethren.
- b. This change in their lives would not die, because it took place through God’s Word, which is imperishable, the word in v. 4 a living and enduring word!

II. The Word of God has the power of conversion: (v.10)

A. Peter reminds us of this doctrine (1 Pe. 1:23)

- a. I was conceived by the seed of death. As a doctor once said, "*The moment we are born we begin to die.*"

- b. But when a man or woman is conceived with the seed of immortality, he is born with a life that cannot perish.

That is why it is said, *if you have only been born once, you are going to die twice. But if you have been born twice, you’re only going to die once.* (Jn 11:25-26)

B. Paul reminds us of this doctrine (v.15) Paul ties his own testimony and Timothy’s knowledge together, (vv. 10, 15) Timothy fully knew what was the great thing that Paul had in view, both in his preaching and in his conversation: He had seen in Paul the power of his conversion.

In simple fairness, no man seeking for the truth has any right to neglect the reading of the Bible. The most amazing things may happen if he doesn’t, for there is a saving wisdom here that is in no other book.

III. The Word of God has the power of cleansing:

Paul says, the Scriptures are valuable for reproof.

A. It does not mean that the Scriptures are valuable for finding fault;

B. What it does mean is, that they are valuable for convincing a man of the error of his ways and for pointing him on the right path.

It is beyond argument that the Scriptures can convict a man of his error and convince him of the power of Christ.

C. The Word of God is heaven’s detergent (Ps 19:9).

D. The word of God prepares us for each aspect of the ministry, whatever it might be – teaching (instructing believers in God’s truths), rebuking those in sin (cf. 1 Tim 5:20; 2 Tim 4:2), correcting those in error (cf. 2 Tim 2:25; 4:2), and training (lit., "child-training") in righteousness (guiding new believers in God’s ways). for all of these and more the written Word of God is profitable.

IV. The Word of God has the power of completion: (v.17)

1. Just as you and I want our children to grow up and mature - God wants His children to grow too.

A Christian who studies the Bible and applies what he learns will grow in holiness and avoid many of the pitfalls in this world. (*And this is what we are instructed to do*). (2 Tim. 2:15)

2. There are so many Christians who have no appetite for the Word of God. This is so dangerous – because you are unprepared for attacks of our enemy the devil, subject to the pitfalls of this world, and you are open to the deception of false teaching.

Every one of us has an appetite and that appetite is going to be fulfilled in one way or another.

3. The study of the Scriptures trains a man in righteousness until he is equipped for every good work.

V. The Word of God has power in its preaching: (Eph. 6:12; Rom. 15:20; (1 Cor. 9:16) It is perfectly true--as we have so often said--that Christianity is not founded on a printed book but on a living person.