

Sermon Notes: 2 Timothy 3

Aug 18, 2024

Paul writes this letter to Timothy, someone he had mentored and walked alongside, to encourage in ministry and leave his last words. Paul is imprisoned in Rome while writing the letter and believes his last days are imminent. Timothy is active in ministry at the time in Ephesus. In the letter Paul asks Timothy to come visit him, to take courage in his leadership, and encourages him to prepare the believers to take hold of the word, it is God-breathed and able to fully equip them.

Read: 2 Timothy 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, **13** while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. **14** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom^[a] 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^[b] may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- A. What does it mean for the Bible to be Godbreathed or inspired by God?
- a. [verbal plenary inspiration](#): That means the inspiration extends to the very words themselves (verbal)—not just concepts or ideas—and that the inspiration extends to all parts of Scripture and all subject matters of Scripture (plenary)
 - b. 2 Peter 1:20-21 “no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. 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.”
 - c. 2 Timothy 3:16a “ All Scripture is breathed out by God...”
 - i. only used in the Bible of the Greek word *theopneustos*, which means “God-breathed, inspired by God, due to the inspiration of God,” but other scriptural passages support the basic premise of Scripture being inspired by God.
 - ii. “That operation of God which we call “inspiration,” that is to say, that operation of the Spirit of God by which He “bears” men in the process of composing Scripture, so that they write, not of themselves, but “from God,” is one of the modes in which God makes known to men His being, His will, His operations, His purposes.” Benjamin B. Warfield, “Inspiration,” ed. James Orr et al., *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia* (Chicago: The Howard-Severance Company, 1915), 1482.

- iii. God inspired the writers by: over 400 times the Bible says “thus says the Lord”. He spoke to writers, He allowed them to see visions or hear prophecies, allowed to be eyewitnesses
 - iv. Exodus 31:18 God’s finger wrote the tablets given to Moses : HE IS INTIMATELY involved, personally overseeing what is being written.
- B. If the Word is Godbreathed, how does this characterize the Word of God? What does this tell us about our Father, its divine author?
 - a. Salvific: “if the “inspiration” by which Scripture is produced renders it trustworthy and authoritative, it renders it trustworthy and authoritative only that it may the better serve to make men wise unto salvation.” Benjamin B. Warfield, “Inspiration,” ed. James Orr et al., The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia (Chicago: The Howard-Severance Company, 1915), 1482.
 - i. James 1:21
 - ii. 2 Tim 3:15
 - b. Authoritative: **2 Timothy 3:16** 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^[b] may be complete, equipped for every good work.
 - c. Immutable: **James 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.^[c]
 - i. Isaiah 40:8 “...but the word of our God stands forever”
 - ii. Numbers 23:19 “God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind.Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?”
 - d. Inerrant: “A correct view of God will lead us to a correct view of His Word. Because God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and completely perfect, His Word will by its very nature have the same characteristics. The same verses that establish the inspiration of the Scriptures also establish that it is both inerrant and authoritative. Without a doubt the Bible is what it claims to be—the undeniable, authoritative, Word of God to humanity.”
 - i. Proverbs 30:5 “Every Word of God proves to be true...”
 - ii. 66 books, approximately 40 authors, written over 1,500 years
 - e. Living and active truth:
 - i. Hebrews 4:12
- C. With this truth, how should we approach the Scriptures?
 - a. 2 Timothy 3 draws a comparison between those who oppose the Scriptures and those who firmly believe in them. Paul also refers to the

'last days', which is believed to refer to the period between Jesus' ascension and His return (the times we are currently living in)

- i. **Those who oppose:** **3** But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. **2** For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3** heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, **4** treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5** having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. **6** For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, **7** always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.
 - ii. **Those who believe:** **14** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom^[a] 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^[b] may be complete, equipped for every good work.
- b. Meekness: an attitude or quality of heart whereby a person is willing to accept and submit without resistance to the will and desire of someone else.
- i. James 1:21 "Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and **receive with meekness** the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."
- c. Holy Spirit: "Faith is central to how anyone receives the validity or value of God's inspired Word because "the man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned" ([1 Corinthians 2:14](#)).
- i. 1 Corinthians 2:13 "And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual."
 - ii. John 14:26 "The Helper (Holy Spirit) will bring to remembrance all that I have taught you..."
- d. Jeremiah 20:9 "his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones.

I am weary of holding it in;
indeed, I cannot.

Long quote mentioned in sermon:

“If heights are to be scaled above man’s native power to achieve, then something more than guidance, however effective, is necessary. This is the reason for the superinduction, at the end of the long process of the production of Scripture, of the additional Divine operation which we call technically “inspiration.” By it, the Spirit of God, flowing confluent in with the providentially and graciously determined work of men, spontaneously producing under the Divine directions the writings appointed to them, gives the product a Divine quality unattainable by human powers alone. Thus these books become not merely the word of godly men, but the immediate word of God Himself, speaking directly as such to the minds and hearts of every reader. The value of “inspiration” emerges, thus, as twofold. It gives to the books written under its “bearing” a quality which is truly superhuman; a trustworthiness, an authority, a searchingness, a profundity, a profitableness which is altogether Divine. And it speaks this Divine word immediately to each reader’s heart and conscience; so that he does not require to make his way to God, painfully, perhaps even uncertainly, through the words of His servants, the human instruments in writing the Scriptures, but can listen directly to the Divine voice itself speaking immediately in the Scriptural word to him.”

Benjamin B. Warfield, “Inspiration,” ed. James Orr et al., *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia* (Chicago: The Howard-Severance Company, 1915), 1481.