

Taking God at His Word

Class Notes - Final Week 08-30-15

Class Memory Verse: Eph.4:29

STICK WITH THE SCRIPTURES

- ÿ Today's text - 2 Tim. 3:14-17 - is a passage we've seen previously. V.16 is the most recognizable verse ABOUT the Bible in the entire Bible!
- ÿ Once we know that ALL Scripture is given - literally "breathed out" - "by inspiration of God," nothing more needs to be said. Because the very definition of inspiration is: everything in the Bible comes from the mouth of God.
- ÿ Remember our acronym SCAN: Sufficiency; Clarity; Authority; Necessity. All must be true if v.16 is true - THE most important verse for developing a proper understanding of Scripture.
- ÿ v.16 is affirming that what Scripture says, God says!
- ÿ Reason #1 why we're considering today's text.
- ÿ Reason #2: our passage today focuses on the verb: CONTINUING - v.14.
- ÿ While Paul exhorts the young pastor to keep going, he shares a contrast:
- ÿ v. 11 Paul recalls the people who persecuted him;
- ÿ v. 13 he mentions the evil doers who go from bad to worse. Then...
- ÿ v. 14 the contrast: "But continue thou..."
- ÿ Paul's admonition to Timothy is simply "don't be like these persecutors, deceivers & deserters: keep growing, keep moving, keep firm in the faith!
- ÿ Why? Let's look at 4 reasons:
 1. OUR HISTORY - This point isn't equally applicable to every believer. Many, many converts have no Christian history to consider. But God allows someone in our personal history who He chose's to share the "good news."
 2. SCRIPTURE'S ABILITY - God's Word IS ABLE!
God called the universe into existence by His Word; Abraham was called; lost sinners are Saved, because God's Word IS ABLE!
 3. SCRIPTURE'S ORIGINALITY - (It's "Origin")
 - V.16 clearly states who the "origin" is, and where it's from.
 - Inspiration is an established fact-NOT a hoped for event;
 - Scripture carries divine authority because it comes from THE Divine.
 4. SCRIPTURE'S PRACTICALITY - Where the rubber meets the road!
V.16 also tells us that Scripture is profitable:
 - (1) For discipline, both instructional & corrective:
Doctrine tells us who God is & what He demands; who we are; why we're here; where we're going hereafter; about God ordained - not mans' ill-defined - love & marriage;
 - (2) Reproof - corrects but consoles; cuts but comforts

(3) Instruction (training) in righteousness - so that we who are living the “new life” can mature more quickly; minister effectively; live gloriously - all by continuing to train rightly.

SUMMARY - The Bible in “real time.”

- “Going” Christians need God’s Word - DAILY - to:
 - Build us up to endure life’s trials;
 - Acquire discernment for making difficult life decisions;
 - Gain spirit-directed self-control so that we can have victory over external circumstances;
 - Be truth lovers & truth tellers.
- Jesus says in John 17:17, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth.”
- Be ready to continue in the truth of God’s Word;
- Continue faithfully in the reading and hearing of God’s Word;
- Continue believing, feeling, doing everything affirmed in God’s Word.

And so...

Dear Class Members,

As we conclude this year’s summer electives, I want to thank all of you for your consist prayers on my behalf, faithful attendance each week, and respectful attention during our meetings. It’s been my privilege and blessing to lead our class as we considered the practical subject of “taking God at His Word.” For me, it’s been an invaluable study. But my fervent hope is that I’ve imparted to all of you a sizeable portion of what I’ve learned. By God’s “amazing grace” may we faithfully use the “building blocks” we’ve acquired in our service to THE King.

Love & blessings...

Larry Hemrick
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