

The Word and the World
2 Timothy 3

- BRITT – The word of God...
- UPDATE: The Hope Center
- Today – 2 Tim 3 – (heritage)

Intro

- Read 2 Timothy 3
- Pray
 - Conflicting voices.
 - Pray for Reality Carp...
- Deep down everyone is looking for a story to live by, a foundation to stand on, and a voice to give perspective on their lives...
 - Only God's word...
 - 2 Tim 3 - one of the most important passages about the meaning and power of Scripture.
- Here's what we're going to see...
 - There's crisis in the world.
 - There's clarity in the Word.
 - The breakdown is pretty simple. But the difference could change your life.

Crisis in the World (vs. 1-9)

- Paul is writing to Timothy in Ephesus – And listen to what's going on there... (example)
 - A culture in crisis
 - Chronological snobbery
 - Ephesus
 - Urban center in the ancient world.
 - Capital of the Roman province of Asia (modern day Turkey)
 - 250k people, only Rome and Alexandria were larger
 - Cosmopolitan and multi-ethnic / pagan and pluralistic.
 - Culturally, Ephesus was known for three things: sex, money, and magic
 - Sex
 - Sex Goddess Artemis aka Diana
 - Temple 60 feet tall, 4x the size of the Parthenon in Athens
 - One of the 7 wonders of the world
 - The image Artemis was on their coins, they had a month of the year was named after her, Olympic style games were held in her honor, she was considered the guardian and protector of the city.
 - Ephesus was a city shaped by the worship of a sex goddess.
 - Money
 - Port city
 - Hub of commerce and trade
 - Wealthy

- Magic
 - Magic capital of the world
 - Magicians, sorcerers, incantations. - it's like a Harry Potter convention.
 - Zoom in...
 - Vs. 7 – “always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth”
 - RIFF
 - Vs. 8 – “...oppose the truth...”
 - Vs. 9 – “Their folly will be plain to all”
 - Riot in Ephesus (Act 19) – Demetrius – Riot – Great is Artemis – didn't know why there
 - But it's not just those “out there”
 - Vs. 5 – “appearance of godliness”
- America
 - A culture in crisis
 - Political tension. Cultural confusion. International turmoil.
 - Abuse of authority, sexual harassment, police brutality, racism.
 - We too: “always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth”
 - More podcasts, shows.
 - Not just denying the truth... denying the concept of truth.
 - “Their folly will be plain to all” – self-contradiction
 - Statements
 - No right and wrong. Everyone chooses / Then... moral outrage...
 - Tolerance! Intolerant to Christians....
 - “There is no absolute truth” – that's absolutely true...?
 - Grocery store
 - Test.
 - OBAMA BATHROOM MANDATE (self > science)
 - Secular narrative -- Sovereign word
- There's crisis in the world...

Clarity in the Word (vs. 10-17)

- **“You, however...”**
 - Supposed to be different. Exile. (woman visited our church)
 - Set apart by the word...
 - We have to be able to answer two key questions:
 - What is Scripture?
 - What is Scripture for?
- **What is Scripture?**
 - Vs. 16 –
 - God-Breathed (*Theopneustos*). Breath. Voice. Word of God.
 - The Word of God
 - What do we mean when we say the bible is the word of God?
 - Inspired, but not like you just watched latest Marry Poppins movie... fly w/ umbrella
 - When Scripture speaks, God speaks.
 - ? – KK – THUNDER - ?

- “If only I could hear from God?” God *has* spoken.
 - If God would only speak & tell me why he created the world / God *has* spoken / Acts 17
 - If God would only speak and tell me what he’s like / God *has* spoken / Exod 34:6
 - If God would only speak and tell me what he thinks of me / God *has* spoken / Ps 139
 - God has spoken, and that changes everything. It means
 - When Scripture tells us to do something, it’s not a suggestion is a command
 - When Scripture says God’s going to do something, it’s not a goal it’s a guarantee
 - When Scripture says something is forbidden, it’s not prohibition of fun, it’s a warning of destruction.
 - Rejecting Scripture is rejecting God. Submitting Scripture is submitting to God
 - Scripture is...God’s word...written through the words of people (2 Peter 1:21)
 - Dual Authorship.
 - **2 Pet 1:21**
 - **“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.”**
 - How can God write perfect words through imperfect people?
 - Because God can draw straight line with crooked sticks.
 - ? - God has spoken...
 - He initiates...
 - Scripture is the Word of God...that rules over our doctrine and practice.
 - God reigns through his word.
 - That why Scripture is the authority for all we believe and do. (It’s *God’s* word)
 - “Authority” isn’t a popular idea today, but we all appeal to authority
 - What settles a matter?
 - (google, alexa, science, feelings)
 - “All” (its’ easy to claim the authority of Scripture... and then pick and choose)
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - STAND OVER... STAND UNDER...
 - **Augustine**
 - **“If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don’t like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.”**
- **What is Scripture for?**
 - *Not* just information (big head, shriveled hearts)– transformation... PURPOSE...
 - **Points us to Jesus...**
 - “vs. 15 – “the sacred writings which are able to **make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus**”
 - Sacred writings = OT
 - Story: Culminates in Christ.
 - Luke 24 – He could’ve said, “look at me”
 - The written word leads us to the incarnate word.
 - Scripture is not an end itself. It’s leading us to the Son.
 - Not justification by quiet time or salvation by reading thru the Bible in a year
 - GOSPEL BOOK
 - God initiates...

- The word became flesh... lived, died, resurrection...
- Declare the truths of the gospel over you...
- Scriptures tells us that in Christ, you are...
- Some of you have had harsh words spoken over you... (unwanted. Rejected. Alone)
- God's word speaks louder over you than any other words.
 - The word of God points us to the son of God so we can live for the glory of God.
- **Sanctifies us over time**
 - Vs. 14 – “continue in what you learned” Progression: learn, believe, continue.
 - Timothy. Community. Grandmother.
 - Endurance... Suffering... Persecution...
 - ? – Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly - ?
- **Equips us for ministry**
 - Vs. 16 ...
 - Imagine going to a worksite without any tools

What's in your Pulpit?

- Here's what we've seen:
 - There's crisis in the world
 - There's clarity in the word
 - Reality Carpinteria: What's your foundation?
 - Individual
 - Church
- Individual
 - Matt 4:4 - You need God's word as much as you need food.
 - Some of you are questioning God's word (Gen 3 - did God really say that?)
 - Some of you are neglecting God's word
- Church
 - Temptations today...
 - Adapt the word
 - Soften the word
 - Dress up the word
 - Come up with something new
 - The gospel doesn't need to be updated... proclaimed. Word... softened. Preached.
 - With Britt on Sabbatical, what a great opportunity for you...
 - The danger is to take the most important yet basic things for granted.
 - 2 Tim 4:2 – Preach the Word
 - Trends...
 - Driven by convictions (not pragmatism)
- What if we rediscovered the power of God's word today?
 - 2 KINGS 22 – Israel was in crisis. JOSIAH – SUMMARIZE
 - What if we re-discovered the power of God's word.
 - What if Carpinteria, SB, Ventura, LA, Stockton, SF, Boston, London, Honolulu

- Can you imagine revival and renewal...
 - It's possible, by the power of the word.
- Pray

GIDEON'S BIBLE

- The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.
- Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.
- Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy.
- It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.
- It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter.
- Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.
- CHRIST is its grand subject, our good the design, and the glory of God its end.
- It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.
- Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure.
- It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever.
- It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

- The root of sin is not trusting God's word. "Did God really say that?" (Gen 3)
- Trust God's word.

- John 6:66

