

Back to Basics Pt 5
“The Word of God in Your Life”
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

- **welcome/bulletin**
- **tonight’s meeting**
- **Goose Island** and baptism testimonies due to me Mon.
- **Candle**
- **Missions moment**

Today as we continue our series “Back to Basics” we are looking at the Word of God in your life (song)

- **Scripture Reading**

Acts 2:42

2 Tim. 3:16-4:5

- Share prophetic word before preaching?

Prayer

Intro

Power point of Pablo Casals

Pablo Casals was one of the world’s greatest cheloist who lived to be 96 years old. Guess what he was doing with he died? Practicing his scales. It just shows how we can never get away from the basics, no matter how long you have done something or how good you are at it.

As followers of Jesus, it is so important that never get away from the basics, and that is oh so true when it comes to the Bible, God’s Word. You cannot be a strong and growing Christian without the Word of God and today we are going to see why this is so true and how we can make the bible a part of our life.

(This is an amazing book These 66 books were written over a 1600 year span, by over 40 different people, from all different walks of life ... in 3 languages, on 3 continents on a variety of subjects and controversial topics, yet, an undeniable central message with amazingly fulfilled prophecy and no contradictions nor information of any historical inaccuracy. There must be a supernatural component to this book. And there is. And that central message is God’s plan of salvation in Jesus Christ and how we can have a personal relationship with Him.

(God so loved the world He gave: His Son. He so loved us that He also gave this book, that through this book we might know Him, give our lives to Him, and live in His will.

Look at what others have said about the bible:

Quotes from church fathers and others

TS In this message we are going to see some of the major ways the bible can benefit our lives and then practically how to make it a part of our lives. **I have 10 ways in which the bible is essential.**

The Bible is essential because it:

1. Is God's Word.

2 Tim 3:15-17

the **holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 **All Scripture is God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

This book is God's Word. It is God's love letter. It has stood the test of time and scrutiny. It has prophecies that have supernaturally fulfilled. It is historically and archeologically accurate. And most importantly, it has resulted in many lives being changed.

In our Divinci Code series I shared with you how the bible came about, the process God used to bring it about and proofs for it being God's Word, so we won't go into that today, but just to lay the foundation today that this book, from cover to cover, from Gen. to Rev. is the Word of God.

This word God-breathed is interesting. God breathed into the minds and hearts and pens of those who wrote the various books.

2 Peter 1:21 "carried along by the Holy Spirit"

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Matt 5:18

18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

2. Instructs us in how to be saved.

2 Tim 3:15-16

the **holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you **wise for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus.

How does this work?

Rom. 10:17 how can they believe unless they hear and how can they hear without someone sharing and when they share they share the Word and through the word we learn about who God is, our sin, Christ's death for our sin, and our need to receive Christ. The Holy Spirit uses this to birth faith in us because Ro. 10:17 says faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

When you share with someone, the more Scripture you can use the better because faith comes by hearing and the Word will not return void...

TS As we look at **v. 16** ... I want you to see this diagram and this just shows how awesomely complete the bible is and this diagram is going to illustrate our next 4 points:

Diagram of 2 Tim. 3:16

Notice how this verse talks about the completeness of God's Word: teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. I love how the word covers it all.

Illustrate this? Shows me the path to walk in; if I get off, it shows me that. How do I get back on? Shows me that. And how to continue? Tells me that, too.

Now as we go through this, I want you to think about all the things that people go to for life and help. Self help books, medication, counseling, books, and tapes ... and not that any of these things are necessarily wrong in and of themselves, but what are we told gives us all we need? The Word!!!! Point #3

3. Teaches us the way to live godly.

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for **teaching**, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

Teaching: And the bible teaches us about so much: character of God, God's plan, His will, it teaches us about relationships, marriage, sex, money, parenting, the church, ... anything that is needed for a godly and God pleasing life, it is all right here. Just think how different our society would be if people simply lived according to the 10 commandments. Wow.

So much of living for God involves decisions and need for direction and that is why

Ps. 119:105 says thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

Ps. 119:133 direct my footsteps according to thy word

TS Now, how do we know when we get off the path or out of God's will? Well, we wouldn't know if it were not for the word. So, #4:

4. Shows us where we get off the path.

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, **rebuking**, correcting and training in righteousness,

This word "rebuke" is used to show someone where they are off base ("to tell a fault to" – show someone their error). Where they get off the path. Without the word we wouldn't know what is right and wrong. Without the Word, a person could think that sex

before marriage is OK, that pornography is OK, that adultery is not wrong, homosexuality is OK The Bible makes it clear that these actions are sin.

Is it any surprise that so many today do not think these things are wrong, since we as a culture have so abandoned the authority of God's Word?

TS One more thing here. When God does show us through His word that we have gotten off the path, why does He do this? Because He is some kill joy and doesn't want us to have any fun and just wants to make our life miserable? (young people, listen closely). NO. But rather as the perfect and loving and caring heavenly father, He shows us these things because He knows that sin will ruin our lives and hurt us, (*Ex. Sarah Beth and a chainsaw*) so He shows us where we have gotten off the path so that we can get back on the path and experience the joy and freedom and victory and abundant life that He wants us to have. And that leads to the next point

5. Shows us how to get back on the path.

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, **correcting** and training in righteousness,

Oh the completeness of God's Word. How to live, where we get off, and how to get back on. Correcting: Like someone taking a test and seeing that they got the math problem wrong but then being shown how to do the problem so they understand and don't make that mistake again.

Let me give you an **example**: someone who is struggling with lustful thoughts; they learn from God's word that this is sin (**Mt. 5** to look on another with lustful thoughts), but then how do they get free from this? How can they have pure thoughts?

Ps. 119:9-11 how can a young man ... thy word have I hid in my heart replace the negative thoughts with scripture...experience the good fruit of a pure thought life.

Ex. Someone depressed ... forgiveness; someone in an addiction, learning about the power of the Holy Spirit...

TS and there is still more in our diagram:

6. Equips us for every good work.

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be **thoroughly equipped for every good work**.

This is that "training in righteousness and doing good works". Once we are back on the right track, we want to stay on it and the word helps us to stay on it. We are told in **Eph. 2:10** that we are God's workmanship ... Whatever you and I need to do works for God and serve God and do good works, we are told right here: financial, relational, missions, spiritual gifts ...

TS Now, as we read on in **2 Tim. 4** we learn a 7th way in which the bible is essential, and boy is this point true in our day and age:

7. Helps us stay doctrinally pure in an age of relativism.

2 Tim 4:2-4

2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with **sound doctrine**. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from **the truth** and turn aside to myths.

We are told here how important sound doctrine is and the truth, not someone's truth but the truth. And yet so many today are saying there is no objective, moral truth, but truth is only what is true for you. The Bible says there is truth, and

Jn. 14:6 Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

Ps. 119:160 says the sum of thy word is truth!

Jn. 8:32 the truth will set you free

And yet, in our culture we are really seeing v. 3 fulfilled:

(**Examples:** it has been in the news recently that a certain Christian denomination is allowing other words for the Trinity because they don't want to portray God as a male, so instead of father, son, and HS they are allowing churches to say "Mother, Child and Womb" or "Rock, Redeemer, Friend" ... another denomination is ordaining gay bishops....

I want to tell you folks, this is only going to increase: **Mt. 24** ... it is increasingly important that we be in this book and not swayed by the cultural trends of our day, even in what once were trusted denominations... if it says it here, we better stand on it, no matter what others say and do.

Quo: **Alan Bloom** in his book "The Closing of the American Mind" says that once you leave an objective standard of truth and move into moral relativism then anything goes in a culture and that is exactly what we are seeing in America today.

What is doctrine and how important is it? Doctrine is the truth of God's Word about a certain topic (i.e. deity of Christ, salvation by grace through faith, the Holy Spirit, character of God, creationism...

TS Now to get even more personal, the Bible is essential because it:

8. Gives us spiritual food for growth.

Heb 5:12-14

12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of **God's word** all over again. You need **milk**, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about

righteousness. 14 But **solid food** is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

1 Peter 2:2

2 Like newborn babies, crave pure **spiritual milk**, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,

Just like our bodies need good food and nutrition to grow, so does our spirit need good food and this book is the best food in the world for your spirit. There is a lot of talk today about health and nutrition, well, the most important thing for your overall spiritual health is a regular intake of God's Word.

Look at these verses. You need spiritual milk and you need spiritual meat. You and I need to grow into fully devoted followers of Jesus and one of the most important aspects of spiritual growth is getting a regular diet of God's Word. Most of us would not think about going without 3 meals a day and yet how many of us try to live spiritually without a good meal every day?

Jer. 15:16

Chall. Are you feasting on the Word daily? Do you take time regularly to be in the Word? Being here is great and hearing God's word preached and taught, but this is not enough. You must learn to be a self-feeder! If you give a man a fish you feed him for a meal, if you teach him how to fish you feed him for a lifetime.

TS and when you feast on the Word daily, you will experience this next point:

9. Helps us build a stable life.

Matt 7:24-25

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these **words of mine** and puts them into practice is like a wise man who **built his house on the rock**. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

I love this passage, what a great word picture. What an accurate description of life ... we all have a house so to speak... winds and storms will come (death of a loved one; loss of health, financial challenges, relational struggles....) the question is not will these things happen, but rather how will we do when they come? The person who builds his life on God's Word will be able to stay strong... doesn't mean easydoesn't mean there won't be tears and struggles and doubts at times, but the more you are grounded in the Word, the more stable your house/life will be.

Ex. Last week we heard from a man who had lost his 2 children and his wife but because he is grounded in God's Word and who God is, He is still standing strong.

Ex. Conversation with funeral home man..."do you notice a difference in people of faith?" Oh yes, there is usually peace and stability that others don't have.

TS Now, as you walk with God and progress in Him, you can expect opposition, because the bible says we are in a spiritual battle with satan and demonic powers, so this next point is very important:

10. Is a weapon for warfare.

Eph 6:17-18

17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

This verse comes from the section of God's Word where it says we are in a battle, not with flesh and blood but rather with demonic powers. Folks, let me tell you: with all the battles with flesh and blood today, whether in Iraq or Lebanon or Israel or wherever, those battles are real and there are daily casualties At the same time, there is another battle that is just as real and even more serious and the consequences are even greater because it is the battle between the power of Satan and the power of God for the eternal souls of people. And when are in that battle every day and we need to wake up to the reality of that battle and fight in the Spirit! With the weapons that God has given us, and one of those weapons listed in Eph. 6 is the Sword of the Spirit:

Prop: Sword

We are to use this sword (sword and Bible) **defensively** (when tempted, respond with scripture, just like Jesus did in **Mt. 4** when every time He was tempted He said "it is written"; when a thought comes into our mind that is not of God; we replace it with God's Word) and we use this sword **offensively**: to advance the kingdom of God through sharing the Word, praying the Word, and using the Word to make decisions!

(Eph. 6:10f turn with me please to Eph. 6 because I want you to see all the pieces of our armor and how each one relates to the Word ... belt of truth: truth of God's Word; breastplate of righteousness: we know this through the word; helmet of salvation: the Word tells us this; gospel: Bible gives us this; faith: comes by hearing ..

I think you can see pretty clearly how important the bible is to our lives. Therefore, we must be in it everyday. What I want to do now is give you some very practical suggestions in making the bible a part of your everyday life.

Making the Bible a Part of Your Life: *(graphic with someone reading the Bible)*

1. Spend daily time in the Word.

There is just no substitute for this. Whether it be 2 minutes or an hour. We all need to expose ourselves to the Word every day. Whether it is a quiet time or in the car or the bible on tape or with a verse on a card or a daily devotional or a sermon on tape.

I love variety so I think a variety of methods are healthy. Look at this diagram:

Hand illustration

Read it in different translations. Get a good bible program on your computer and do word searches and topical studies, etc. Read it systematically so you get the verses in their context. A little dangerous to do the close eyes and point method.

TS because of how important the thumb is in this diagram, I want to highlight meditation:

2. Meditate on the Word.

Ps. 1

Here is how you do this:

Example: John 3:16

As you do this, expect something to really speak to you.

Person. This week in my Quiet Time, I have been in Luke, this verse really hit me: “pretending to be sincere.” Don’t let me become professional as a pastor and loose real care and love for people....

3. Pray the Word.

This is called doctrinal prayer. If you have an area of struggle or area of desired growth (i.e. compassion, thought life), find a verse about this and pray it into your life. Here is where your sword can be used offensively.

Col. 3:12-14

Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-20 Paul’s prayers

4. Go to the Word for everyday decisions.

Whatever comes up in a given day or week, ask, “What Does the Bible say about this?” Before making a decision, ask, “What does the Word say?” And then do a study.

Ex. Women’s group on Mondays ... had someone email me this week about tattoos and body piercings. I love it when people ask these questions because it shows they are looking to God’s Word for the answer on various issues and things that come up. This is again why a good concordance or Bible program on your computer can be so useful: can type in a word or phrase and quickly get any passages on that.

Conclusion

What a wonderful blessing we have to hold in our hands the Word of God. This is the Word of Life. This is God’s love letter. This is the book of wisdom. BIBLE: basic instruction Life and eternity. Don’t let it collect dust on your shelf. Spend time in it and watch God work in your life.

Even if you are here and not saved, you are not a follower of Jesus, I encourage you to take my 30 day challenge.... Begin in the Gospel of John

Pray:

Willing to make a commitment to the Word of God today? You do this with the Lord right now.

Prophetic words?

End:

- meditation verses on a table as you leave
- **Col. 3:16**