

2 Timothy: By the Book - "Ancient Words?"

July 1, 2007

Introduction:

- Cravings (my wife being pregnant, WC, TB, Starbucks)
- a craving and desire for God's Word
- hasn't always been there

The one thing: Love God's Word because it changes you!

- Do we crave and desire God's Word?

1 Peter 2:2 NASV, "...like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,"

3 types of readers "medicine men" a healthy dose of medicine may taste bad, may be hard to swallow, but it's good for you. "Shredded Wheat" readers, they work their way through it, but it's dry, like eating a bail of hay. "Strawberries and Cream" readers can't get enough of it and have such a strong desire to read it.

And we ask this question: Why? Why read it? For some it might be; "Why read it when I go to church every week? I've got the preacher telling me more than I can handle any ways."

Top 5 Reasons we don't read the Word:

- #1 - Time
- #2 - It makes my brain hurt
- #3 - What bible?
- #4 - I'm afraid
- #5 - I don't believe it's God's Word

3 Reasons we should!

Grow
Strengthen
Equip

The one thing: Love God's Word because it changes you!

2 Timothy 3:14-17 NLT

14) But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you.

“But you” - contrast what was taking place in Ephesus, what Tim spoke about last week

“remain faithful” - stick with what you know to be true

“Some people are rivers: they know where they want to go, and they confine themselves to the banks that lead to that goal. But some people are swamps: they spread over everything; their minds are so open they cannot hold a conviction; they are everything and nothing....Paul could say, “This one thing I do.” They can say, “These forty things I dabble in.” Paul left a mark; they leave a blur.” - E. Stanley Jones, Missionary and Theologian

2 Tim. 1:5 - Grandma Lois & Momma Eunice

- How important was it for little Timmy’s mom and grandma to share Jesus, to share their faith, to talk about it all the time, to lead little Timmy in the truth.

- How important is it today, to teach our children to love God’s Word, so that when they are faced with the ideas coming from the culture and the world, they are ready. When that teacher or professor begins their tirade against God, creation, morals, whatever...they will recall what they were taught by people who loved them, people they could trust.

15) You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.

“holy Scriptures” - (heira grammata - used only here). Paul could be referring to the Old Testament writings (Genesis to Malachi) or to the OT and some gospel writings that had begun to circulate. There are reasons that scholars believe it to be the OT...which is cool. Why?

It’s not OT vs. NT - All scripture leads people to the cross...to Jesus

There is a change that takes place...Timothy has been given the wisdom to receive the salvation...he has accepted it through Jesus.

The false teachers of Ephesus, thought they were wise...that it was their intellect or their knowledge that would lead them somewhere...but true wisdom...is trusting Jesus to save.

It’s true today...lump all the “good” ideas of the world today about how to live life, all the religious convictions around the world that force you to work your way to heaven, all the philosophical, intellectual, sociological...bologna against the life giving, life changing faith in Jesus.

I'm not going to trust the teacher or professor implicitly, that TV program, that news article, that blog...I'm going to look back on those who love me and what they taught.

“Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.” Proverbs 22:6

It's not about discipline and punishment, grounding, getting mad, arguing your case...it's about teaching them the truth about Jesus, creating in them a love for God's word because it is life-changing.

16) All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

“All Scripture” - the OT and the gospels and letters that were authoritative to the churches

- 2 Peter 3:15-16 NLT, ***“And remember, the Lord’s patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him - speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction.”***

“inspired by God” - God breathed (theopneustos [theo-new-stos] What happens when God breathes? Genesis 2:7) The scriptures are the very words of God.
 - so much scholarship, that talks about the Bible and it's integrity.
 - How it was written and preserved
 - Evidence in archeology
 - Two authors (Lee Strobel / Josh McDowell)

What I love about the scriptures is that they are practical, they are useful, they are as written in some translations... “profitable”, not in a monetary sense, but in a life changing way.

Paul gives us four ways the scriptures, God's Word is useful:

- #1 - Teaches us - truth
- #2 - Rebukes us - Tells us what we are doing wrong
- #3 - Corrects us - Helps us correct what we are doing
- #4 - Trains us - to keep from making the same mistakes again

“This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book.” - I DON'T KNOW!

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17) God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

“The Bible was written not to satisfy your curiosity but to help you conform to Christ's image. Not to make you a smarter sinner but to make you like the Savior. Not to fill your head with a collection of biblical facts but to transform your life.”

- Howard Hendricks, “Living by the Book”

- The reason to join a small group, to be a part of the Men's Study, to participate in Women's study or a Sunday morning Bible Fellowship isn't to help you get smarter...it's to help your life change...to equip you to serve Christ.

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If you limit the time you spend in God's Word to what takes place in this building, you are either going to be here way to much...or you will be spiritually malnourished.

One of the things the church is weak on is teaching it's people to study God's Word on their own.

Job #1 - Get your materials: Bible, notebook/journal, helps

HOWARD HENDRICKS, “LIVING BY THE BOOK”

Job #2 - Get started (again, it's not sink or swim...start slowly)

Read
Record
Reflect

What would we look like, if we began to dig into the life changing scriptures? We don't want to do it because we feel guilty (guilt is a horrible motivator). We need to do it because our world needs it. Our families need it. Our kids need to see us loving God's Word. Our church and community need us equipped, thoroughly equipped to help them see Jesus.

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