

# Towards a Theology of Scripture

## *II Timothy 3:15-17*

### Sermon

*Hobart, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

*Devonport, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

*Launceston, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

## Scripture Readings:

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING:**

#### **Isaiah 40:6-11**

<sup>6</sup> A voice said, “Shout!”

I asked, “What should I shout?”

“Shout that people are like the grass that dies away. Their beauty fades as quickly as the beauty of flowers in a field. <sup>7</sup> The grass withers, and the flowers fade beneath the breath of the LORD. And so it is with people. <sup>8</sup> The grass withers, and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.”

<sup>9</sup> Messenger of good news, shout to Zion from the mountaintops! Shout louder to Jerusalem—do not be afraid. Tell the towns of Judah, “Your God is coming!” <sup>10</sup> Yes, the Sovereign LORD is coming in all his glorious power. He will rule with awesome strength. See, he brings his reward with him as he comes. <sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>*Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Is 40:5). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

## **2 Timothy 3:13-4:4**

<sup>13</sup> But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will go on deceiving others, and they themselves will be deceived.

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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 straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup> It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.

**4** And so I solemnly urge you before God and before Christ Jesus—who will someday judge the living and the dead when he appears to set up his Kingdom: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word of God. Be persistent, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

<sup>3</sup> For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever they want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will reject the truth and follow strange myths.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>*Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (2 Ti 3:12). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

## INTRODUCTION:

### I. DESERT ISLAND

#### A. IF WE WERE GOING TO BE LIVING ON A DESERTED ISLAND FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND WE WERE ALLOWED TO TAKE ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF ITEMS WITH US

1. I would imagine most of us would take along a copy of the Bible
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## S.P.S:

#### A. TODAY WE ARE GOING TO START LOOKING AT WHY THE BIBLE IS SO IMPORTANT TO US

1. Why has it been so highly valued by all of us down through the years

#### B. WE WILL LOOK AT SOME BASIC QUESTIONS;

1. What is the Bible?
2. What is it about?
3. How are we intended to read and understand it?
4. What authority does it have for our lives?

#### C. PRAYER

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**BODY:**

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**D. WE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UP IN A CHURCH THAT HAS ALWAYS HELD AN EXTREMELY HIGH VIEW OF SCRIPTURE**

1. Many of us left churches that viewed the Bible with less seriousness than we did,
2. Whether we correctly understood their views or not, it seemed to many of us that they referred to and used it as it suited them
3. They didn't seem to take it seriously in matters of teaching or Christian living
  - a) Though perhaps they took it more seriously than we thought, but didn't view prophecy as HWA did, and didn't teach or observe the OC laws
  - b) But nevertheless, there did seem to be a lot of doubting and criticism of the Bible going on

**E. LET'S START BY TAKING A FEW MINUTES TO DISCUSS SOME BASIC QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR VIEW OF THE SCRIPTURES**

**A. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?**

- 1.

**B. WHAT IS THE BIBLE FOR?**

1. What is its value for our lives?
- 2.

**C. WHAT IS THE BIBLE NOT FOR?**

- 1.
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## II. II TIMOTHY 3:15-17

### **A. ONE OF A HANDFUL OF VERSES THAT DIRECTLY ADDRESSES THE AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE OF THE SCRIPTURES**

<sup>16</sup>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 straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.

1. What does it tell us about the Scriptures?

### **B. FIRST LET'S LOOK AT THE CONTEXT**

1. As we saw in Ulverstone a couple of years ago, Paul is writing to Timothy, the faithful young pastor that Paul has sent to Ephesus in order to help deal with the local church leaders who are leading the congregation astray

#### **2 Timothy 3:13-4:4**

<sup>13</sup>But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will go on deceiving others, and they themselves will be deceived.

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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 straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup>It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.

### **C. THE CONTEXT IS FALSE TEACHERS, MISLEADING PEOPLE ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATTERS**

1. It most likely involved legalism and wrong views of God, of salvation and the way of life Christians are called to live

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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.

2. Timothy knows the truth about these issues, but there has been a lot of false teaching within the congregation at Ephesus
  - a) So he needs to keep focusing on what he has been taught by trustworthy teachers, and importantly, to stick with and to teach the understanding that is found in the Scriptures
3. There are many things Timothy learned from the Scriptures
  - (1) Many people say and teach many things about and from the Bible
  - (2) Some are right and good, others are misleading, false, and distracting from their central purpose
  - (3) In the midst of wrong teachings, Paul is encouraging Timothy to stick with what the Bible is meant to teach and direct us in
4. Paul is showing that central role the Scriptures have played for Timothy, and play for us;
  - a) is to enable us to understand, that salvation comes by trusting in Jesus Christ
    - (1) Most distractions and deceptions come when people teach or become focused on their own interpretations and purposes for the Bible
    - (2) When they quote it to support their own pet ideas
      - (a) When they fail to read it with Jesus as the focus, and the only one who can interpret its meaning for us
      - (b) When they get caught up in matters of history, law, prophecy, health, and religious observances
    - (3) When they read it as a holy book on its own, as an end in itself

(4) When they forget that its purpose is to turn us to Jesus Christ, and bring us through him and the Spirit into a knowledge of God, and a relationship with him

#### **D. PAUL THEN GOES ON TO EXPAND ON THE ROLE OF THE SCRIPTURES**

##### **2 Timothy 3:15-17 NASV**

15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is <sup>2</sup>inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for <sup>3</sup>training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. <sup>3</sup>

#### **E. V 16 TELLS US A LOT ABOUT WHAT THE SCRIPTURES ARE INSPIRED FOR;**

1. Firstly all Scripture is inspired by God
  - a) It doesn't say how God inspired them, but it tells us that he did inspire all of scripture
  - b) The term literally means God breathed it out, as he did in creating the earth
    - (1) He is its source, its origin
    - (2) It belongs to him, it is his instrument and he directs it and uses it for his purposes
2. Secondly it tells us the purpose

#### **F. IT STARTS OFF WITH TEACHING**

1. It has been created so we can be **taught** about **salvation through faith in Christ**, so that we can be **guided, corrected and trained** in God's ways
2. For "**teaching**"

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<sup>a</sup> 2 Tim. 1:5

<sup>2</sup> Lit., *God-breathed*

<sup>3</sup> Lit., *training which is in*

<sup>b</sup> 2 Tim. 2:21; Heb. 13:21

<sup>3</sup> *New American Standard Bible*. 1986; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996 (electronic edition.) (2 Ti 3:17). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.



a) 'to cause to learn' or 'to cause to know.' In choosing a term for 'to teach' it is important to avoid an expression which will denote merely classroom activity.

(1) The Bible leads us in a life-long experience of learning about who God is;

(a) what he promises us;

(b) what he has done for us through Jesus,

(c) and how to live in relationship with him

3. For "**reproof**",

a) "to call to account, show one his fault"<sup>4</sup>

b) To convict or make plain that we have done wrong

4. For "**correction**"

a) Correcting, restoration<sup>5</sup>

b) restoration to an upright or right state<sup>6</sup>

c) helping us learn to be the way God made us to be, to be like Jesus

5. "**training**"; Gk; *paideian*

a) lit. "child-training")<sup>7</sup>,

b) παιδεία, ἡ, *the rearing of a child*,<sup>8</sup>

c) "upbringing, training, instruction"<sup>9</sup>

## **G. WHEN WE PUT THESE ALL TOGETHER WE SEE A PATH THAT THE SCRIPTURES LEAD US ALONG**

1. We all need to be taught, to be guided

a) To be shown what is right, and where we have gone wrong

b) We then need to be restored and put back on the right path

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<sup>4</sup> Enhanced Strong's Lexicon: 1651 elegcho { el-eng'-kho }

<sup>5</sup> A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature: ἐπανόρθωσις

<sup>6</sup> Enhanced Strong's Lexicon: 1882 epanorthosis { ep-an-or'-tho-sis }

<sup>7</sup> The Bible Knowledge Commentary, 2 Tim 3:16-17

<sup>8</sup> An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon: παιδεία

<sup>9</sup> A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature: παιδεία

- c) We then need to be shown, trained and brought up and led along in the way of our Father
- d) We need to be led away from the dangers and lies that we are told by false teachers
- e) So that as vs 17 is about to tell us;
  - (1) we can be equipped to know God's righteousness that comes only through Jesus and the Holy Spirit
  - (2) So that we can grow up, to become the adult sons and daughters of God he wants us to be

## H. V 17

<sup>17</sup> It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.

1. The Scripture is God's instrument
2. It is his tool that "prepares" and "equips" us to do what God has called us to be and to do
  - a) Which is to be restored and remade in his image, to receive, to live, share in and share the life of the Father, the Son and the Spirit
3. It is not there to be a book of history, geography, law, health, science, poetry or linguistic studies
  - a) It doesn't claim to be there to teach us those things
  - b) It does claim to be there to "fully equip and prepare us for every good thing God wants us to do"
4. NASV "**adequate**" or NLT "**prepared**" Gk = *artios*
  - a) "complete, capable, proficient", "fitted, complete", <sup>10</sup>
  - b) complete, perfect, 2a) having reference apparently to "special aptitude for given uses"<sup>11</sup>
  - c) being able to do what is needed
5. "**equipped**" = to be thoroughly prepared or furnished

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<sup>10</sup> A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature: ἄριστος

<sup>11</sup> Enhanced Strong's Lexicon: 739 artios { ar'-tee-os }

- a) If we are going sailing, we need to be equipped for going out on the water
- (1) We need a boat, lifejackets, hats, waterproof clothing, suitable footwear, ropes, sails, maps, compass, radio etc.
  - (2) We won't be equipped with snow skis, or hobnail boots, or a guide to desert survival, or a history of the secret rituals of the Masonic movement
  - (3) The boat won't do well if we try to toboggan in it down a mountain
- b) The Bible equips us for what we are called to do and to be
- (1) Read the whole passage from the Message Bible;

## **2 Timothy 3:10-17**

<sup>10-13</sup>You've been a good apprentice to me, a part of my teaching, my manner of life, direction, faith, steadiness, love, patience, troubles, sufferings—suffering along with me in all the grief I had to put up with in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. And you also well know that God rescued me! Anyone who wants to live all out for Christ is in for a lot of trouble; there's no getting around it. Unscrupulous con men will continue to exploit the faith. They're as deceived as the people they lead astray. As long as they are out there, things can only get worse.

<sup>14-17</sup>But don't let it faze you. Stick with what you learned and believed, sure of the integrity of your teachers—why, you took in the sacred Scriptures with your mother's milk! There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.

### **I. PAUL GOES ON TO FURTHER ENCOURAGE TIMOTHY TO PREACH THE WORD**

1. As he has been doing throughout the letter, to focus on good teaching, and bringing others to Christ

## **2 Timothy 4:1-5**

**4** And so I solemnly urge you before God and before Christ Jesus—who will someday judge the living and the dead when he appears to set up his Kingdom: <sup>2</sup>Preach the word of God. Be persistent, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

<sup>3</sup>For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever they want to hear. <sup>4</sup>They will reject the truth and follow strange myths.

<sup>5</sup>But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at bringing others to Christ. Complete the ministry God has given you.<sup>12</sup>

### **J. THIS IS THE PASSAGE MOST TURN TO IN REGARD TO THE NATURE AND ROLE OF SCRIPTURE**

1. It tells us a lot
  - a) It makes clear what Scripture is, and why God inspired it all
2. Its purpose is to;
  - a) To lead and guide, to train us so we can receive and live the salvation that comes by faith in Jesus
  - b) The Scriptures completely restore, prepare and equip us, and make us fully fitted to be the people God created us to be, and do all the good things he created us to do
3. But if you read it carefully, it is important to note that it doesn't say a lot of things many people take for granted about the Scriptures
  - a) We need to read the Bible as it is intended to be read
    - (1) To interpret and use it as it shows we should use it
    - (2) But not to assume things about it that are not claimed within it about its nature and role

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<sup>12</sup>*Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (2 Ti 4:1). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

- (a) Not to make it out be more or less than it is
  - (b) Not to use it for things it is not meant for
  - (c) Not to let other questionable uses take our focus away from its clearly defined purpose of leading us to salvation in Christ, and equipping us fully to live that salvation
4. Too many times down through history, and especially in our day, people try and read and use and abuse the Scriptures for purposes other than what they are meant for
- a) They end up acting like argumentative lawyers or religious hobbyists and arrogant and acting as if they are the only ones with the truth on a particular matter
    - (1) And making their pet topic out to be something vitally important that if we don't agree on, then we are not on the right track
    - (2) Judging and causing division
    - (3) Leading people away from salvation by faith through Jesus alone, and from being equipped to be the people God wants us to be
5. Before we conclude let's look at one passage in which Jesus' talks about the role of Scripture and its misuse

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### III. JESUS' WARNINGS

#### A. JOHN 5:39-43

<sup>39</sup>“You search the Scriptures because you believe they give you eternal life.

#### B. WHAT WAS THEIR PROBLEM?

1. How did they confuse and misuse the role of Scripture?
- a) They read and used them to try and become righteous without a relationship with God, and without Jesus

But the Scriptures point to me! <sup>40</sup>Yet you refuse to come to me so that I can give you this eternal life.

<sup>41</sup>“Your approval or disapproval means nothing to me, <sup>42</sup>because I know you don’t have God’s love within you.

2. What is the key problem?

a) Didn’t know who God was, didn’t have a relationship with him

3. They used the Scriptures as a rule book, a book of religious behaviour

a) They didn’t see it as God’s instrument leading them to him, through Jesus, leading them to a life of faith and love lived in partnership with God through the presence of His Spirit

<sup>43</sup> For I have come to you representing my Father, and you refuse to welcome me, even though you readily accept others who represent only themselves. <sup>44</sup> No wonder you can’t believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don’t care about the honor that comes from God alone.

<sup>45</sup>“Yet it is not I who will accuse you of this before the Father. Moses will accuse you! Yes, Moses, on whom you set your hopes. <sup>46</sup> But if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me because he wrote about me. <sup>47</sup> And since you don’t believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?”<sup>13</sup>

4. They were locked into the Scriptures on their own, because they believed the Scriptures gave them Eternal life.

a) Many of them knew the Scriptures of by heart

b) But they failed to recognize and follow where the heart of the Scriptures led; to Jesus, God’s living Word, God himself in the flesh

**C. IF WE ARE NOT USING AND READING THE SCRIPTURES TO LEARN ABOUT GOD AND HIS SON,**

1. We are not using or reading them rightly

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<sup>13</sup>*Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Jn 5:38). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

2. They say a lot about a lot of things; about history, places, food, animals, laws, government and even prophecy
  - a) But these are incidental, they are not what God inspired the Bible for primarily
3. Whenever Jesus or the NT writers quote from the Scriptures, they always use them to focus on who God is, who Jesus is
  - a) And the life they want to share with us
    - (1) We do not see them getting caught up with legalism; using the Scriptures as a manual or rule book that will solve all of our problems and those of the world if we follow the rules

### **Galatians 3:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> Well then, is there a conflict between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law could have given us new life, we could have been made right with God by obeying it. <sup>22</sup> But the Scriptures have declared that we are all prisoners of sin, so the only way to receive God's promise is to believe in Jesus Christ.<sup>14</sup>

### **D. THE BIBLE CONTAINS LAWS, HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY AND ALL SORTS OF STORIES, AND INFORMATION**

1. These things aren't the heart of the matter
    - a) They are part of the plot, part of the story, part of the scenery along the way
    - b) But they aren't the end of the story, the goal of the journey
    - c) Jesus is the way, the truth and the life they all lead us to
  2. The only role and value they have is to point us to him
    - a) When we use them apart from him, we end up focused on him, we risk becoming like those Jesus condemned
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<sup>14</sup>*Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Ga 3:20). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

## CONCLUSION:

### **E. HOLY BIBLE**

1. The Bible is Holy, because God inspired it to reveal himself to us
  - a) It is not Holy of itself, without God

### **F. WE DON'T STOP WITH THE SCRIPTURES ON THEIR OWN**

1. That is called Bibliolatry, making the Bible out to be Holy of itself
  - a) It isn't
2. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life

### **G. THE SCRIPTURE'S ROLE IS TO POINT TO JESUS, THE ONE WHO HAS ETERNAL LIFE TO GIVE**

1. As we have been reading in 2 Timothy 3:15-17

<sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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 straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup>It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.

### **H. PRAYER**

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## NOTES

### **Matthew 22:23-46**

<sup>23</sup> That same day some Sadducees stepped forward—a group of Jews who say there is no resurrection after death. They posed this question: <sup>24</sup> “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies without children, his brother should marry the widow and have a child who will be the brother’s heir.’” <sup>25</sup> Well, there were seven brothers. The oldest married and then died without children, so the second brother married the widow. <sup>26</sup> This brother also died without children, and the wife was married to the next brother, and so on until she had been the wife of each of them. <sup>27</sup> And then she also died. <sup>28</sup> So tell us, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For she was the wife of all seven of them!”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “Your problem is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God. <sup>30</sup> For when the dead rise, they won’t be married. They will be like the angels in heaven. <sup>31</sup> But now, as to whether there will be a resurrection of the dead—haven’t you ever read about this in the Scriptures? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said, <sup>32</sup> ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’” So he is the God of the living, not the dead.”

<sup>33</sup> When the crowds heard him, they were impressed with his teaching.

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they thought up a fresh question of their own to ask him. <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’” <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” <sup>40</sup> All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

<sup>41</sup> Then, surrounded by the Pharisees, Jesus asked them a question: <sup>42</sup> “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

They replied, “He is the son of David.”

<sup>43</sup> Jesus responded, “Then why does David, speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, call him Lord? For David said,

<sup>44</sup> ‘The LORD said to my Lord,

Sit in honor at my right hand

until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.’”

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\* *Matthew 22:24* Deut 25:5-6.

\* *Matthew 22:31* Greek in the Scriptures? God said.

\* *Matthew 22:32* Exod 3:6.

\* *Matthew 22:37* Deut 6:5.

\* *Matthew 22:39* Lev 19:18.

\* *Matthew 22:44* Ps 110:1.

<sup>45</sup> Since David called him Lord, how can he be his son at the same time?"

<sup>46</sup> No one could answer him. And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.<sup>15</sup>

OTHER GOSPEL STATEMENTS

### **Luke 24:41-48**

<sup>41</sup> Still they stood there doubting, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he ate it as they watched.

<sup>44</sup> Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me by Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must all come true." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand these many Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah must suffer and die and rise again from the dead on the third day. <sup>47</sup> With my authority, take this message of repentance to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to me.' <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of all these things.<sup>16</sup>

### **Hebrews 1:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. <sup>2</sup> But now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he made the universe and everything in it. <sup>3</sup> The Son reflects God's own glory, and everything about him represents God exactly.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Mt 22:22). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

<sup>16</sup> *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Lk 24:40). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

<sup>17</sup> *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Heb 1:1). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

<sup>18</sup> *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Lk 24:40). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

### **John 5:39**

<sup>39</sup>“You search the Scriptures because you believe they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! <sup>40</sup>Yet you refuse to come to me so that I can give you this eternal life.

<sup>41</sup>“Your approval or disapproval means nothing to me, <sup>42</sup>because I know you don’t have God’s love within you. <sup>43</sup>For I have come to you representing my Father, and you refuse to welcome me, even though you readily accept others who represent only themselves. <sup>44</sup>No wonder you can’t believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don’t care about the honor that comes from God alone.

<sup>45</sup>“Yet it is not I who will accuse you of this before the Father. Moses will accuse you! Yes, Moses, on whom you set your hopes. <sup>46</sup>But if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me because he wrote about me. <sup>47</sup>And since you don’t believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?”<sup>19</sup>

### **Romans 1:1-7**

**1** This letter is from Paul, Jesus Christ’s slave, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. <sup>2</sup>This Good News was promised long ago by God through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. <sup>3</sup>It is the Good News about his Son, Jesus, who came as a man, born into King David’s royal family line. <sup>4</sup>And Jesus Christ our Lord was shown to be the Son of God when God powerfully raised him from the dead by means of the Holy Spirit. \* <sup>5</sup>Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.

<sup>6</sup>You are among those who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup>dear friends in Rome. God loves you dearly, and he has called you to be his very own people.

May grace and peace be yours from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>20</sup>

### **Romans 1:17**

<sup>17</sup>This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”<sup>21</sup>

## **A. INTERPRETING THE STORY FROM THE STORIES ABOUT THE STORY;**

### **Romans 10:14-21**

<sup>13</sup>For “Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”\*

<sup>14</sup>But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? <sup>15</sup>And how

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<sup>19</sup>*Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Jn 5:38). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

\* *Romans 1:4* Or the Spirit of holiness.

<sup>20</sup>*Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Ro 1:1). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

\* *Romans 1:17* Hab 2:4.

<sup>21</sup>*Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Ro 1:16). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

\* *Romans 10:13* Joel 2:32.

will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”\*

<sup>16</sup> But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, “Lord, who has believed our message?”\* <sup>17</sup> Yet faith comes from listening to this message of good news—the Good News about Christ.

<sup>18</sup> But what about the Jews? Have they actually heard the message? Yes, they have:

“The message of God’s creation has gone out to everyone,  
and its words to all the world.”\*

<sup>19</sup> But did the people of Israel really understand? Yes, they did, for even in the time of Moses, God had said,  
“I will rouse your jealousy by blessing other nations.

I will make you angry by blessing the foolish Gentiles.”\*

<sup>20</sup> And later Isaiah spoke boldly for God:

“I was found by people  
who were not looking for me.  
I showed myself to those  
who were not asking for me.”\*

<sup>21</sup> But regarding Israel, God said,

“All day long I opened my arms to them,  
but they kept disobeying me and arguing with me.”\*<sup>22</sup>

## **Romans 15:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> We should please others. If we do what helps them, we will build them up in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> For even Christ didn’t please himself. As the Scriptures say, “Those who insult you are also insulting me.”\* <sup>4</sup> Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. They give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises.<sup>23</sup>

## **Galatians 3:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> How different from this way of faith is the way of law, which says, “If you wish to find life by obeying the law, you must obey all of its commands.”\* <sup>13</sup> But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”\* <sup>14</sup> Through the work of Christ Jesus, God has blessed the

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\* **Romans 10:15** Isa 52:7.

\* **Romans 10:16** Isa 53:1.

\* **Romans 10:18** Ps 19:4.

\* **Romans 10:19** Deut 32:21.

\* **Romans 10:20** Isa 65:1.

\* **Romans 10:21** Isa 65:2.

<sup>22</sup> *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Ro 10:12). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

\* **Romans 15:3** Ps 69:9.

<sup>23</sup> *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Ro 15:1). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

\* **Galatians 3:12** Lev 18:5.

\* **Galatians 3:13** Deut 21:23.

Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, and we Christians receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.<sup>24</sup>

### **Galatians 3:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> Well then, is there a conflict between God's law and God's promises? Absolutely not! If the law could have given us new life, we could have been made right with God by obeying it. <sup>22</sup> But the Scriptures have declared that we are all prisoners of sin, so the only way to receive God's promise is to believe in Jesus Christ.

<sup>23</sup> Until faith in Christ was shown to us as the way of becoming right with God, we were guarded by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until we could put our faith in the coming Savior.<sup>25</sup>

### **Hebrews 4:1-13**

**4** God's promise of entering his place of rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to get there. <sup>2</sup> For this Good News—that God has prepared a place of rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn't believe what God told them. <sup>3</sup> For only we who believe can enter his place of rest. As for those who didn't believe, God said,

“In my anger I made a vow:

“They will never enter my place of rest.”<sup>\*</sup>

even though his place of rest has been ready since he made the world. <sup>4</sup> We know it is ready because the Scriptures mention the seventh day, saying, “On the seventh day God rested from all his work.”<sup>\*</sup> <sup>5</sup> But in the other passage God said, “They will never enter my place of rest.”<sup>\*</sup> <sup>6</sup> So God's rest is there for people to enter. But those who formerly heard the Good News failed to enter because they disobeyed God. <sup>7</sup> So God set another time for entering his place of rest, and that time is today. God announced this through David a long time later in the words already quoted:

“Today you must listen to his voice.

Don't harden your hearts against him.”<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>8</sup> This new place of rest was not the land of Canaan, where Joshua led them. If it had been, God would not have spoken later about another day of rest. <sup>9</sup> So there is a special rest<sup>\*</sup> still waiting for the people of God. <sup>10</sup> For all who enter into God's rest will find rest from their labors, just as God rested after creating the world.

<sup>11</sup> Let us do our best to enter that place of rest. For anyone who disobeys God, as the people of Israel did, will fall.

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are. <sup>13</sup> Nothing in all creation can hide from him. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes. This is the God to whom we must explain all that we have done.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>24</sup>*Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Ga 3:11). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

<sup>25</sup>*Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Ga 3:20). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

<sup>\*</sup> **Hebrews 4:2** Some manuscripts read *they didn't share the faith of those who listened [to God]*.

<sup>\*</sup> **Hebrews 4:3** Ps 95:11.

<sup>\*</sup> **Hebrews 4:4** Gen 2:2.

<sup>\*</sup> **Hebrews 4:5** Ps 95:11.

<sup>\*</sup> **Hebrews 4:7** Ps 95:7-8.

<sup>\*</sup> **Hebrews 4:9** Or *Sabbath rest*.

<sup>26</sup>*Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Heb 4:1). Wheaton: Tyndale House.

## PART 2

### IV. MATTHEW 22:23-46

1. But today let's see how a number of other passages confirm what Paul said to Timothy about what the Scriptures are about
  - a) That show examples of how Jesus and the apostles used the Scriptures
    - (1) And at the same time observe what they don't use them for

#### **Matthew 22:23-46**

<sup>23</sup> That same day some Sadducees stepped forward—a group of Jews who say there is no resurrection after death. They posed this question: <sup>24</sup> “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies without children, his brother should marry the widow and have a child who will be the brother’s heir.’\* <sup>25</sup> Well, there were seven brothers. The oldest married and then died without children, so the second brother married the widow. <sup>26</sup> This brother also died without children, and the wife was married to the next brother, and so on until she had been the wife of each of them. <sup>27</sup> And then she also died. <sup>28</sup> So tell us, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For she was the wife of all seven of them!”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “Your problem is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God.

2. Jesus criticised the religious leaders for not understanding the Scriptures, what they were really saying, and for not being aware of God’s power
3. They treated the Scriptures as if they had the power to fix people’s lives on their own
  - a) They argued over petty points of law and prophecy, as if they were the means of solving their problems, of saving the nation and making people acceptable to God

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\* *Matthew 22:24* Deut 25:5-6.

4. But they failed to see that the Scriptures are not holy and powerful by themselves

a) That the whole point of Scripture is to point us to God, the one who truly has power

(1) Power to save, power to restore and equip his people to be truly his children

<sup>30</sup> For when the dead rise, they won't be married. They will be like the angels in heaven. <sup>31</sup> But now, as to whether there will be a resurrection of the dead—haven't you ever read about this in the Scriptures? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said, \* <sup>32</sup> 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.\* So he is the God of the living, not the dead."

<sup>33</sup> When the crowds heard him, they were impressed with his teaching.

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they thought up a fresh question of their own to ask him. <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?"

**B. THE PHARISEES ARE ALSO FIXATED ON THE SCRIPTURES AS LAWS AND RULES**

1. And on our obedience to them, rather than on a relationship with God himself that the Scriptures are there to direct us to

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, " 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.\*' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.\*' <sup>40</sup> All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

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\* *Matthew 22:31* Greek in the Scriptures? God said.

\* *Matthew 22:32* Exod 3:6.

\* *Matthew 22:37* Deut 6:5.

\* *Matthew 22:39* Lev 19:18.

2. Jesus makes plain that the heart and core of the Scriptures, including the temporary law given to Israel, is to lead us to a loving relationship with God, that will then lead us to a loving relationship with our fellow humans
  - a) This is the whole story and purpose of the Bible
  - b) It doesn't have a life and power on its own
    - (1) It is not an end in itself, but a mean to an end
  - c) And that end, or purpose is to lead us to God through Jesus, so we can know him, and share his life
3. Jesus quotes several scriptures, and he uses them always as God inspired them all to be used;
  - a) To lead people to God

<sup>41</sup> Then, surrounded by the Pharisees, Jesus asked them a question: <sup>42</sup> "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?"

They replied, "He is the son of David."

<sup>43</sup> Jesus responded, "Then why does David, speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, call him Lord? For David said,

<sup>44</sup> 'The LORD said to my Lord, Sit in honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.'\*

<sup>45</sup> Since David called him Lord, how can he be his son at the same time?"

<sup>46</sup> No one could answer him. And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.<sup>27</sup>

### **C. DO WE SEE HOW JESUS USED THE SCRIPTURES?**

1. He used them to reveal and teach people about God's plan of salvation through him
2. To deal with questions about what salvation is, about who the Messiah is

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\* *Matthew 22:44* Ps 110:1.

<sup>27</sup> *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. 1997, c1996 (electronic ed.) (Mt 22:22). Wheaton: Tyndale House.



- a) He shows how many of these Scriptures could not be understood without his coming, and without his interpreting and making sense of them
- 3. Too many times we tend to try and read and use and abuse the Scriptures for purposes other than what they are meant for
  - a) We need to be careful of doing that ourselves
    - (1) And careful we don't let others mislead us when they do it

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## **2 Timothy 3:13-4:4**

<sup>13</sup> But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will go on deceiving others, and they themselves will be deceived.

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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 straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup> It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.

### **A. THIS IS THE PASSAGE MOST TURN TO IN REGARD TO THE NATURE AND ROLE OF SCRIPTURE**

1. It tells us a lot
2. It makes clear what Scripture is, and why God inspired it all
  - a) To lead and guide, to train us so we can receive and live the salvation that comes by faith in Jesus
  - b) The Scriptures completely restore, prepare and equip us, and make us fully fitted to be the people God created us to be, and do all the good things he created us to do

3. But if you read it carefully, it is important to note that it doesn't say a lot of things many people take for granted about the Scriptures

a) We need to read the Bible as it is intended to be read

(1) To interpret and use it as it shows we should use it

(2) But not to assume things about it that are not claimed within it about its nature and role

(a) Not to make it out be more or less than it is

(b) Not to use it for things it is not meant for

(c) Not to let other questionable uses take our focus away from its clearly defined purpose of leading us to salvation in Christ, and equipping us fully to live that salvation

