

GOD'S TRUTH – The Bible: The Seed of God's Truth

The Bible is more than a guidebook; it is a living authority, shaping our preaching and teaching and making application to everyday life. It is through the Scripture that God changes the hearts of the unconvinced and matures those already in Christ. Therefore the Bible, not pragmatism, personalities, marketing techniques, or programs, drives and develops ministry.

2 Timothy 3.16 – All Scripture is breathed out by God...

Read 2 Timothy 3.16-17

Context & Meaning

According to these verses the Bible (all Scripture) is inspired. It is 'breathed out by God.' But what might this mean or not mean? First of all, what it doesn't mean. When Scripture itself says that it is inspired it does not mean that is simply 'inspiring,' like a sunset or beautiful symphony might be inspiring. In this sense, inspiration, when applied to the Bible, is not referring to the effect the Bible has on something, rather it is talking about what is true of the thing in itself. But neither does inspiration mean that it is a wholly supernatural entity that bypasses the human element. In other words, the Bible is not something that simply floated down from heaven and was transcribed 'word-for-word.' The Bible, the inspired word of God, is much more rich than simply being inspiring or wholly other.

So what then does it mean to say that the Bible is 'breathed out by God?' It means that the Bible is God's word, it is his truth, his revelation of himself and of his salvation to humanity. But it is a revelation that he gives through his appointed people, i.e. prophets and apostles. God, in giving humanity his word, his revelation, chose to do so in such a way that He, by His Spirit, used differing personalities, styles, methods, and intentions. In this way, the Bible is the very word of God given to humanity through humanity. And according to this passage this inspired word of God, because it is inspired, is useful for 'teaching, for reproof, for correction,...for training in righteousness...(so that believers would) be equipped for every good work.'

Apply

When we say that the Bible is inspired, is breathed out by God, we mean that God's Spirit caused it to be written. He spoke through various unique authors in various unique ways. It is God's word, his revelation of himself and his salvation to humanity. And because it is God's word given by his Spirit it is powerful now to transform us, to change us into that which God purposes us to be. Seen in this light, the Bible is not simply an ancient, or inspirational, or an informational, or even a command-filled text. Rather it is the living seed of the good news of God's salvation in and through Jesus which bursts forth with truth, life, and transformation when it takes root in a person's heart.

For Reflection and Discussion: The Bible – The Seed of God’s Truth (*2 Timothy 3.16-17*)

1. What is our society’s view of truth? How does God’s truth relate to this notion of truth?
2. How is the Bible changing you at present?
3. What are some of the ways that you’ve gone about making the Bible an integral part of your life so that you are being taught by it and changed by it?
4. Is it difficult for you to ‘stick’ to reading and meditating on God’s Word consistently?
5. Is there a difference in reading God’s Word and listening to God’s Word? If so, what would the difference be?
6. How do you think Redeemer and its ministry have been shaped and are being shaped by God’s word? What about this particular community group – our life together and our witness to others?