Revived Relationships Pt 1: Embracing the Sufficiency of Scripture in a Confused Age!
February 2, 2020

Text: 2 Tim 3:10-17 (Emphasis on vv 15-17)
We are living in a time of great confusion. We are in the age of plummeting marriage and birth rates, rabid feminism and it's new corollary, "Men Going Their Own Way or MGTOW, bold homosexuality, library drag queen story hours, men and boys playing women's sports, transgender bathrooms, and people marrying multiple people, animals, and even themselves. Our culture is in such rebellion against God and His creation order; it is inventing new ways to shake its collective fist at God.

Isaiah cried out:

***Isaiah 5:20* (KJV)** *Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

Indeed, like Daniel prayed:

> ***Daniel 9:5-8* (KJV)** *We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: **6** Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. **7** O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee. **8** O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.*

No longer are we shocked when babies are born out of wedlock, people get divorced, dress immodestly, or engage in perversion. In fact, it's expected. Like the people in Paul's Day, it's as if our culture has become desensitized to evil ("past feeling," Eph 4:19) with our consciences seared with a hot iron (1 Tim 4:2), and our minds given over by God to reprobation. (Rom 1:28)

But this should not be so! Scripture says our lives should be as becometh the Gospel of Christ (Php 1:27)! The Bible says,

***1 Corinthians 2:14-16* (KJV)** *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. **15** But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. **16** For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? <u>But we have the mind of Christ.</u>*

Indeed as we said last Sunday,

***Ephesians 4:17-23* (KJV)** *This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, **18** Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: **19** Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. **20** But ye have not so learned*

*Christ; **21** If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: **22** That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; **23** And be renewed in the spirit of your mind…*

Beloved, I submit that when it comes to the critical, foundational things that God has created for the building of His Kingdom and our good, things such as marriage, family, friendships, the church, etc., we need our minds continually renewed. How does this renewal happen? By the Spirit and via the Word of God!

***Colossians 3:16* (KJV)** *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

***Hebrews 4:12* (KJV)** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

***Psalms 119:9* (KJV)** *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

***Psalms 119:11* (KJV)** *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

Let us be reminded again that the Word of God is:

Inspired

- Literally "God-breathed." The word in Greek in 2 Tim 3:16 is *theopneustos*. God breathed out, by His Spirit who superintended the Bible authors, each and every Word of the Scriptures. These Words reflect His heart in all matters.
- ***2 Peter 1:20-21* (KJV)** *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. **21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*
- As one website wrote, "This view of the Scriptures is often referred to as "verbal plenary inspiration." That means the inspiration extends to the very words themselves (verbal)—not just concepts or ideas—and that the inspiration extends to all parts of Scripture and all subject matters of Scripture (plenary). Some people believe only parts of the Bible are inspired or only the thoughts or concepts that deal with religion are inspired, but these views of inspiration fall short of the Bible's claims about itself. Full verbal plenary inspiration is an essential characteristic of the Word of God." - GotQuestions.org

Inerrant

- The word inerrant means "without error" and speaks to the purity and truthfulness of Scripture.
- ***Psalms 119:160* (KJV)** *Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.*
- ***Psalms 119:151* (KJV)** *Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth.*
- ***John 17:17* (KJV)** *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

Infallible

- The word infallible means "incapable of error" and speaks to the trustworthiness of Scripture and the God who inspired it!
- ***Psalms 145:17* (KJV)** *The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.*
- ***Psalms 19:7-11* (KJV)** *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.* ***8*** *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.* ***9*** *The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.* ***10*** *More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.* ***11*** *Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*
- Therefore biblical infallibility can be defined as "the belief that what the Bible says regarding matters of faith and Christian practice is wholly useful and true. It is the "belief that the Bible is completely trustworthy as a guide to salvation and the life of faith and will not fail to accomplish its purpose." -Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms

Sufficient!

- NCFIC Declaration:

  We affirm that our all-wise God has revealed Himself and His will in a completed revelation—the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments—which is fully adequate in both content and clarity for everything pertaining to life (salvation) and godliness (sanctification), including the ordering of the church and the family (Deut. 30:11-14; 1 Cor. 11:1-12; 14:34; Gal. 1:8-9; Eph. 5:22-6:4; 1 Tim. 3:15; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 1:1-2; 2 Peter 1:3-4).

  We deny/reject that God's Word is inadequate for church and family life and that we need to adopt the traditions of men from philosophy, psychology, pragmatism, entertainment, corporate business models, or modern marketing techniques.

- The 1646 Westminster Confession of Faith says, *"The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men."*

Question: Why is this Important and what does all this have to do with Relationships?

Let us go back to our Text before we answer!

2 Timothy 3:15-17* (KJV)** *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.* ***16 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:* ***17*** *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

A few thoughts:

1. The Scriptures should be studied learned early in life! (v15)
2. The Scriptures are able to make us wise! (v15)
3. The Scriptures teach us the Gospel! (v15)
4. The Scriptures come from God! (v16)
5. The Scriptures are profitable…useful and advantageous! (v16)
6. The Scriptures teach the "teachings" or doctrines. From Scripture we learn the precepts of God and the great themes that drive His redemption narrative. (v16)
7. The Scriptures convict us. (reproof) It examines us. It shows us our living vs. God's prescription. (V16)
8. The Scriptures correct us. (v16) MacDonald writes, "Again, the word is profitable **for correction**. It not only points out what is wrong but sets forth the way in which it can be made right. For instance, the Scriptures not only say, "Let him who stole steal no longer," but add, "Rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give to him who has need." The first part of the verse might be considered as **reproof**, whereas the second part is **correction**."
9. The Scriptures instruct us in how to live in a godly "right" way. (vv16-17) The promise is if we hold to the Word of God, we can be more "complete" and "equipped" for every good work. (ESV)
10. **From these verses we can intimate that the Scriptures demand a decision! We must decide what view of Scripture we are going to hold. There are at least three:**

- That Scripture is Neither Authoritative NOR Binding (Binding meaning mandatory and must be obeyed). This view says the Bible is not alone in containing truth; Scripture therefore has no special authority to command or conform behavior. In this view, Scripture is seen more like a *conversation* and God more like a *motivational speaker. This person selects the verses that makes them feel good and rejects laws, precepts and most forms of accountability.*
- That Scripture is Authoritative, but NOT Binding (This view says Scripture IS God's Word, but is subject to culture, circumstances, and personal vision.) Here, Scripture is read more like *medication* and God seen as a *doctor*. This person strongly believes in the power of God to heal, deliver, and set free and stands vigorously on those things. They often love worship as well. But this person, as in the first view, struggles with (if not outright rejects) the Word if it is seen to "limit" them and what they want to accomplish in life. Often, other Scripture is used out of context to invalidate the verses they don't like.
- That Scripture is Authoritative AND Binding (Man does not have the authority to disobey God; all of Scripture is inspired by God!) The one who holds the third view sees Scripture not just as medication but as ***regulation***; in this worldview, God is more than a motivator or doctor. He is ***King and Judge!*** Therefore the King's Word regulates all of His creation: Home, Church, and State.

Now let us answer the earlier question!

1. This is important because of the transforming power of living according to the LORD's will! There is NO **HEALTH** apart from HIS **TRUTH**!
2. **Imagine** what could happen if we built our marriages, single lives, and friendships on the Word of Christ!
3. I use the "build" world purposely:

> ***Matthew 7:24-27 (KJV)*** *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:* ***25*** *And the*

rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. ***26*** *And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:* ***27*** *And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

4. The last view above (Scripture is both Authoritative and Binding) is the correct one in my opinion, and would radically change our lives if we believed it!
5. Again, Scripture shows us the **heart** of God. It positions us for peace and contentment. It isolates against error and is our sword to swing at the flesh, the world, and devil! (1 John 2:16; Eph 6:17)
6. Oh if our heart was simply to quickly and passionately **obey**! God wants this of His people…

   Deuteronomy 5:29 (KJV) *O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!*

7. The LORD knows Satan will always tempt us to disobey His Word:
   - ***Genesis 3:1 (KJV)*** *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*
   - ***Matthew 4:3-4 (KJV)*** *And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.* ***4*** *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

8. God also warns man against **tampering** with Scripture:
   - ***Deuteronomy 4:2 (KJV)*** *Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*
   - ***Deuteronomy 12:32 (KJV)*** *What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.*

9. If we decide to build our relationships on the Word, God promised **blessing!**
   - ***Joshua 1:8-9 (KJV)*** *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.* ***9*** *Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*
   - ***Luke 11:28 (KJV)*** *But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.*
   - ***James 1:25 (KJV)*** *But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

- ***Revelation 22:13-14* (KJV)** *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.* ***14*** *Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

10. Let us adjust our **attitudes** concerning Scripture to be in line with the psalmist:

- ***Psa 119:48*** *I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.*
- ***Psa 119:127*** *Therefore I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold.*
- ***Psa 119:72*** *The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.*
- ***Psa 119:111*** *Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart.*
- ***Psa 119:14*** *In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.*
- ***Psa 119:15*** *I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.*
- ***Psa 119:16*** *I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.*

Amen!

Homework: Reread *Imagine*.