

Scripture Memory Passage - 1 Chronicles 16:28-29

Several years back, while we were living in Bend, a 2-story home under construction collapsed. There was a solid foundation laid for the house, the walls were framed up and had plenty of nails in the studs, yet the house still collapsed? Why? What was the cause for a framed house turning immediately into a very expensive pile of scrap lumber? The strength of the foundation wasn't transferred to the building being built on it. In this case, the framers kept building higher on the foundation, but they neglected to put any plywood on the walls, which essentially transfers the sheer strength of the foundation to the rest of the structure. The foundation was solid and strong, but the building wasn't actually connected in a vital way to the foundation. And so, the building became twisted, and crashed to the ground. Church, we have a solid foundation in the Word of God. **The church reflecting the holy nature of God is the church grounded in the holy Word of God.** God has always had a Word-grounded gospel ministry in mind for the church. This is how the gospel is communicated, and this is how God is most glorified.

This morning we're going to look at **John 17:17**, which is in the middle of Jesus' "high priestly prayer." In this prayer he prays for himself, his disciples, and then he also prays for those that would believe in him through the testimony of his disciples. He asks the Father to glorify him so that he might glorify the Father. Then he prays for his disciples, that they would be kept in the Father's name, unified, full of joy, and kept from the evil one. Then, in **v.17**, Jesus also prays for his disciples, "*Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*" As we look at our third Core Value this morning - Grounding in God's Word - this verse is going to be our home base and focus.

Scripture Passage: John 17:17

God's Word is Truth

1. I want to look at the end of the verse this morning before we look at the beginning of it, because it is the truth in the last part that serves as the basis for the first part.
2. "*Your word is truth.*" - Remember now, this is Jesus praying to his Father, and it is the Father's word that is truth.

1. God's Word - this is God's revelation of himself to his creation. It's what theologians call "special revelation", in contrast to "general revelation." General revelation is that which is revealed to everybody, through common grace like medicine and sunshine and oxygen to breathe. But general revelation is limited; we can know things about God, but we can't know God's plan of redemption by studying creation. Only by God's special revelation, God's revealed Word to us, do we know of God's saving work. (**Psalm 19**)

1. The Bible is the Word of God.

1. The authors of the Bible were aware that they were writing God's holy Word. **2 Peter 3:15-16** "*And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.*" **1 Timothy 5:18** "For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer deserves his wages.'" Cited from **Deut. 25:4** and **Luke 10:7**

2. **2 Timothy 3:16** "*All Scripture is breathed out by God...*"

2. The Bible is not a book primarily about man, but a book about God. How do the first four words of your Bible read? "*In the beginning, God...*" That should tell you something about the Bible. It isn't the collected sayings and writings merely of men, but divine revelation from and of God.

2. is truth - This is subtle, but hugely important. Jesus didn't say that God's Word was "true", but "truth", and this makes a world of difference. **Kids, this is why it's important you pay attention to your schooling, so you can learn the difference between an adjective and a noun.**

1. If he had said God's Word was true, this would be making a comparison. It would be communicating that there is another objective standard of truth, and that the Bible is true when compared to that standard. But that isn't at all what Jesus says. He says instead that God's Word is truth. This means that Jesus understood God's Word to be the standard to evaluate other claims to truth. Wayne Grudem says, "We are to think of the Bible as the ultimate standard of truth, the reference point by which every other claim to truthfulness is to be measured. Those assertions that conform with Scripture are "true" while those that do not conform with Scripture are not true."

2. Let's stop and talk about how helpful this doctrine is. It's helpful because it means that we have the measuring tape to see if things add up. Say, for instance, your boss asked you to be less than honest about something said in a meeting, or your accountant encouraged you to do something with your financial reporting that was highly questionable. A natural response might be to obey our boss because we fear losing our job, or there is a promise of persecution unless we bend. We might heed the unwise counsel of an accountant because, after all, they're the expert. Someone untrained in applying Scripture to things like this might even pull out verses that speak about obeying authorities and submitting to them. But God's Word clearly says that his is the final authority, and we should only obey human authorities to the extent that they don't contradict God's authority or break God's laws. Maybe you're wondering what to do in regards to the presidential election. You won't find the Bible telling you to vote for a candidate by name or party, but you will find great wisdom in regards to character and conduct and values that will help you think in a Christian way about your vote. Where do you find wisdom? God's Word! This is extremely helpful. God's Word is sufficient to answer questions about how we are to think or act. But, this is also a challenging doctrine. Why is it challenging? Because many Christians don't know their Bibles well enough for their Bibles to be a real help in these situations. They can recount some of the Bible stories from the Sunday morning felt-board as a child, maybe they even have a few key Bible verses committed to memory, but how well do they really know the Bible? I'm not talking Bible trivia, but rubber-meets-the-road knowledge. This is getting at what it means to be Grounded in God's Word. Not just familiar with the Bible, blowing the dust off it when we need a little injection of inspiration, but that decisions, attitudes, responses, plans, evaluations - all of these are founded upon God's Word. This means daily intake of the Bible and meditation on it. If you do struggle to handle Scripture well, don't simply default to the familiar. Hone this skill by practice and use.

Transition: Now let's look at the first part of the verse. God's Word is truth, and it is the basis for God's work of sanctifying the believer. God's Word is truth, so God's Word is powerful to sanctify.

God's Word Sanctifies

1. **John 17:17** *"Sanctify them in the truth."* This word sanctify carries the idea of holiness. Set apart for a holy purpose, or make holy. Remember a couple weeks ago looking at Core Value 1 - Working for God's Glory, and we looked at **Isaiah 6:3**. There God is described by the seraphim as *"holy, holy, holy..."* God is holy, his Word is his revelation of his holy character and works, and it is instrumental in forming his people into his image and likeness so that we can work for his glory. Believers are sanctified in the truth, that is, by the means of God's Word.
2. Sanctification - the believer is in process of becoming more and more in practice what God has declared him to be in status (righteous, holy). It is as Scripture is understood and applied to daily life that it has the effect of fashioning us more and more into God's character.
 1. **Romans 12:2** *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."*
 2. **Hebrews 4:12** *"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*
 1. It can only sanctify what is exposed to it. Our life won't be changed if we never expose our life to the Word of God. Through personal reading and devotion, through the preaching of God's Word on Sunday, the help with application of it in Community Groups, God's Word exposes, encourages, transforms and renews.
 3. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."*
3. In our individualistic and pluralistic society, the Bible has taken a back seat to feeling, to relativism, and to limited human reason gained from a limited human understanding. If we are to be a community transformed by the power of the gospel for the glory of God, we must find our grounding in God's Word.
 1. Practically, for us as a church, this means that God's Word will be our counsel and directive. This means that we'll continue to place great emphasis and focus on the Bible. We'll continue preaching from it, we'll counsel each other from it, we'll encourage study of it, and we'll value an understanding and ability to apply it. But this isn't only for the church corporately, but also for every believer individually. What place does God's Word have in your life and your decisions? Do you have a daily meeting time with the Lord, focusing on his Word?

Conclusion: From our Statement of Faith - "We hold to the verbal, plenary inspiration of Scripture and believe that all Scripture, rightly interpreted, points to the gospel of Jesus Christ, through which man can be saved by grace through faith. It is through obedience to God's will revealed in Scripture that we can live lives that bring him glory and result in our greatest joy." Pillar Bible Fellowship, we value God's Word, and we know that God has given his Word so that we might know how to think and act to bring him glory and result in our joy. Read his Word, speak his Word in your home, write in on the walls of your homes, hide it in your hearts, and live it in your lives. The church reflecting the holy nature of God is the church grounded in the holy Word of God

Family



Table Talk

October 16, 2016

Family Discussion

1. Each day you have choices to make: Choices to obey, love, share, listen, forgive, work hard, be honest, or be patient and kind. These are not always easy choices to make. What influences you the most to make these choices?
2. What about when you don't know what to do in a situation- where do you look to get wisdom and direction? If it is to your parents that you look, where do they get their wisdom and direction?
3. Read in John 17 the words of Jesus regarding God's Word. What does Jesus say God's Word is? Who was Jesus praying for?
4. As Christians, we are being changed each day to be more and more like Jesus. We call this process sanctification. But just as Jesus prayed, we are to be sanctified in the truth- that is through God's Word! We cannot be more like Jesus if we do not read and know His Word. We cannot be wise if we do not know wisdom. Read the Scriptures listed for #2. Be reminded and encouraged at the value of God's Word. Be sure to take in God's Word every day, grounding your life in truth!

GOD'S TRUTH

The church reflecting the holy nature of God is the church grounded in the holy Word of God!

Key Verse

"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth"
John 17:17

TABLE READING

Lead your kids into God's Word...

3. JOHN 17:17
4. 1 TIMOTHY 3:16-17; PSALM 19:7-14; PSALM 119: 9-16; HEBREWS 4:12; ROMANS 12:2



SCRIPTURE MEMORY:
1 CHRONICLES 16:28-29

"AND THESE WORDS THAT I COMMAND YOU TODAY SHALL BE ON YOUR HEART. YOU SHALL TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND SHALL TALK OF THEM WHEN YOU SIT IN YOUR HOUSE, AND WHEN YOU WALK BY THE WAY, AND WHEN YOU LIE DOWN, AND WHEN YOU RISE. YOU SHALL BIND THEM AS A SIGN ON YOUR HAND, AND THEY SHALL BE AS FRONTLETS BETWEEN YOUR EYES. YOU SHALL WRITE THEM ON THE DOORPOSTS OF YOUR HOUSE AND ON YOUR