

Theology: What the Bible says about the things that matter most

Message #4 (7/7/13): Bible (How does God reveal Himself?)

Questions:

1. What from Sunday's sermon was most helpful or insightful?
2. Have someone read 2 Timothy 3:14-4:4. What first impressions do you have? What jumps out or is striking to you?
3. Pastor Paul says his favorite way to think of and describe the Bible is "God's self-revelation." What do you think of that description of the Bible? What is your favorite description of the Bible?

4. Have someone read SOMA's doctrinal point on the Bible:

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

Does this describe your understanding of the Bible? Is this a new or different understanding of the Bible than what you grew up with?

5. Do you think you would pay more attention if God spoke to you from heaven or through the voice of a living prophet than if he spoke to you from the written words of Scripture? Would you believe or obey such words more readily than you do Scripture? Do you think your present level of response to the written words of Scripture is an appropriate one? What positive steps can you take to make your attitude toward Scripture more like the kind of attitude God wants you to have?
6. Pastor Paul indicated that the doctrine of the Inspiration ("God-breathed" 2 Timothy 3:16) of the Bible leads to three essential qualities: (1) That it is true, (2) that it is complete (sufficient), and (3) that it is authoritative.
 - a. Regarding its truthfulness (Inerrancy)
 - 1) Do you know of any Scripture texts that seem to contain errors? What are they? Have you tried to resolve the difficulties in those texts? If you have not found a solution to some text, what further steps might you try?
 - 2) If you are convinced that the Bible teaches the doctrine of inerrancy, how do you feel about it? Are you glad that such a teaching is there, or do you feel it to be something of a burden which you would rather not have to defend?
 - b. Regarding its completeness (sufficiency):
 - 1) In the process of growing in the Christian life and deepening your relationship with God, approximately how much emphasis have you placed on reading the Bible itself and how much on reading other Christian books? In seeking to

know God's will for your daily life, what is the relative emphasis you have put on reading Scripture itself and on reading other Christian books?

c. Regarding its authority:

- 1) How should an understanding of the Bible as God's very words affect the way you devote yourself to knowing and obeying it? Why do you think there is often a disparity between what Christians believe about the Bible and their willingness to study and submit to it?
7. What is one issue that the Bible speaks clearly on? What is one issue that the Bible does not speak clearly on? How does this affect the emphasis you should place on these issues?
8. Share an example (recent or past) of how the Bible was your "daily bread" (how you experienced it the way Jesus described in Matthew 4:4).
9. Are you participating in memorizing the Fighter Verses? Why or why not?
10. Use Psalm 119:105 as a prayer for God to make this true in your life in new and fresh ways:

Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.