



FBCD Women's Theology Study

Do You Believe? by Paul Tripp - Chapters 1 & 2 (Scripture)

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"The existence, inspiration, authority, and trustworthiness of Scripture is the doctrinal foundation upon which every other doctrine stands" (Tripp, 33).

THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE

"The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation." - Baptist Faith and Message 2000

EXISTENCE:

The Bible consists of 66 books written over the course of over 1500 years by at least 40 different authors on 3 different continents in 3 different languages.

"But God in his infinite wisdom knew that the general revelation of creation, which confronts us with his existence and glory, could not impart to us the kind of knowledge of him, the necessary knowledge of ourselves, an understanding of the meaning and purpose of life, and an awareness of the disaster of sin and of the falleness of the surrounding world that could rescue us from us, propel us to him for his saving grace, and provide us a plan for how we should then live as children of that same grace. And so he gave us the wonderful and amazing gift of his word" (Tripp, 33).

INSPIRATION:

"All Scripture, every book in the Old and New Testaments, penned by some forty authors and encompassing Biblical Literature, Narrative, History, Poetry, Wisdom, Prophecy, Gospels, Epistles, and Apocalypse, was written under and directed by the inspiration of God" (Tripp, 32).

"All Scripture is _____ by God" (2 Timothy 3:16 NASB).

"All Scripture is _____ by God" (2 Timothy 3:16 ESV).

AUTHORITY AND TRUSTWORTHINESS:

The authority and trustworthiness of Scripture are supported by fulfilled prophecy, historical records, personal testimony, Scripture's endurance, and archaeology.

Every sin begins with not submitting to God's authority. We doubt and/or twist God's words. "Did God actually say...?" (Genesis 3:1)

"If there is no inspired, authoritative, and trustworthy word of God, then I am left to myself to decide, by my own experience, personal insight, or collective research with others, what is true" (Tripp, 34).

SCRIPTURE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

What does the way we live our lives say about the place of God's Word in our lives?

How should God's Word affect our everyday lives?

God's Word...

...SAVES.

- God's Word is necessary for our justification and our sanctification.
- Justification: "From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings [God's Word], which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ" (2 Timothy 3:15).
- Sanctification: "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:17).
- "God used his word to save you, he is now using his word to continue to rescue you and grow you, and he will continue to save you through his word until that work is complete and you are on the other side" (Tripp, 44).

...POINTS.

- The Bible points us to "the centrality of his [God's] existence and his glory" (Tripp, 46).
- "...that those who live might no longer live for themselves" (2 Corinthians 5:15).
- "Self-glory is an argument for how much we need the word of God in our hearts and in our thoughts every single day of our lives. We need the word to point us once more to a glory greater than our own, the only glory that will ever satisfy our hearts" (Tripp, 45).

...TEACHES.

- Studying the Scriptures makes us knowledgeable and wise.
- “Oh how I love your law!
It is my meditation all the day.
Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me” (Psalm 119:97-98).
- “You cannot sit under the teaching of the word of God with an open and willing heart and remain the same” (Tripp, 47).
- “If you think you have mastered this book, it probably means you haven’t been mastered *by* it” (Tripp, 48).

...RESCUES.

- The Bible rescues us from ourselves and from dangerous temptations.
- “By story, Wisdom Literature, command, principle, and gospel encouragement it [the Bible] helps us to see the dark sinfulness of sin and the shining beauty of a life lived under the lordship of Jesus Christ” (Tripp, 49).

...WARNS.

- Because God loves us, his Word warns us of the fallen world’s dangers.
- “In each warning we are being loved by our Father in heaven. Each warning exhibits his patience, faithfulness, wisdom, and grace. Each warning reminds us of his care. Each warning teaches us again that he is ready and willing to forgive and restore. Each warning is a call to trust him and to follow him by faith. Each warning reminds us that our Father is infinitely smarter than us. He really does know better, and we should listen and obey” (Tripp, 50).

...PROTECTS.

- God’s Word gives us boundaries to protect us.
- “As any loving parent would, God the Father, in his word, sets boundaries of protection for us. He does not do that to rob us of our freedom and joy, but so that we would be freed from the bondage and sadness that always result when sinners choose their own way” (Tripp, 52).

...ENCOURAGES.

- God encourages us through his Word by giving us hope.
- We can be encouraged by his power and glory (Isaiah 40), by his sovereignty (Romans 8:28), and by his promises (Hebrews 13:5).

...MOTIVATES.

- God's Word contains promises that "encourage, strengthen, and instill hope, and because they do, they motivate us to resist giving up and to continue to do what he has called us to do" (Tripp, 54).
- "God's promises not only motivate you; they also build confidence and trust in God into your heart and guide you according to how God has called you to live" (Tripp, 54-55).

...CONFRONTS.

- God's Word confronts us with the truth.
- "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing" (James 1:22-25).

...CONVICTS.

- The Holy Spirit uses the Word to convict our hearts of all unrighteousness.
- "You cannot grieve what you have not seen, you cannot confess what you have not grieved, and you cannot repent of what you have not confessed" (Tripp, 57).
- "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts. And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" (Psalm 139:23-24)

...GUIDES.

- The Holy Spirit uses Scripture to light our paths.
- "Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).
- "When you get the word of God, you also get the God of the word, and that is a beautiful thing" (Tripp, 38).