

Series: Abide in Me – Part 5 of 12

Sub Series: The Bible Is God's Word of Truth – 5 of 5

What Does GOD SAY About His Word?

The Bible Itself

8th Sunday after Pentecost / 7th Sunday after Trinity – 2012

Sunday, July 22 → 8:00 & 10:45 ♦ Monday, July 23 → 7:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, here in the 21st Century, *when the Bible is attacked and discredited in many ways, LET US KNOW THE BIBLE IS TRUE!* So far our *confidence* in God's Word has been *strengthened* by ♦its prophecy (coming true) and ♦the four gospel accounts (being similar but not the same – see part 4 for more information)!

Today we turn to the Bible itself: The prophets and apostles are the writers, **but GOD is the author!** So what has GOD SAID by the Holy Spirit *through* men about His Word?

1. **Psalm 119:160 NAS:** The Psalmist prayed: **“The sum [literally the “head,” “top,” “chief”] of Thy word is truth, And every one of Thy righteous ordinances [rules, laws] is everlasting.”** In other words, *above all, the Scriptures are true;* furthermore, *the LORD does not change,* so His righteous laws will not change!
2. **Proverbs 30:5 NIV:** **“Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.”** The LSB (Lutheran Study Bible) comments: **“God's Word is the only tried, tested, and proven shelter from false wisdom...”**

(1045). Martin Chemnitz – a second-generation Lutheran theologian and reformer, known as the “second Martin” – wrote: “These mysteries of true wisdom, understanding, and knowledge are known from the Word and we believe nothing else about God than what He has revealed” (LTh1:92). *Let us grow in knowing God’s Word and trusting in Him!*

3. **Isaiah 40:8 NAS:** “The grass withers, the flower fades, **But the word of our God stands forever.**” Think about the value we tend to place on things today; *things that last longer have a higher value*, for example: ♦gold is valued above cardboard and ♦most houses are valued above most cars! Therefore, *understanding that God’s Word is eternal*, let us highly treasure It by ♦reading It, ♦believing It, ♦studying It, ♦living It, and ♦sharing It!
4. **Matthew 5:18 NIV:** Jesus said: “I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, **not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.**” Dr. Kretzmann wrote: “...Christ here affirms that the Law shall be retained also in the Church of the NT... So long as the earth shall stand, the sacredness of the Scripture of olden times shall remain...that not even...the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet, nor...the slight projecting point on some of its letters, shall fall to the ground” (26). Therefore, *all of God’s Word is important and beneficial*, so let us NOT compromise it – *by believing some parts and rejecting others!* Instead, let us ♦love, ♦believe, and ♦live every detail!
5. **John 17:17 NAU:** Jesus – *God the Son* – prayed these words to God the Father regarding His disciples:

“Sanctify them in the truth; **Your word is truth.**” To *sanctify them* means to *set them apart from the world* – that is, *the world that rejects Jesus as Savior and continues without repentance!* And through what means did Jesus ask His Father to grant His request? Through God’s Word, *the saving truth!*

6. **1 Thessalonians 2:13 NIV**: Paul commended the Christians living in Thessalonica: “...when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God...” How do Paul’s words differ from mine? Paul was moved by the Holy Spirit to write down God’s very Word; *Paul’s writings are Scripture, my writings are not Scripture!* Instead, ♦my writings, ♦my preaching, and ♦my teaching are my *best efforts* to *rightly explain the Holy Scriptures* so that, by God’s grace, *we may believe and be saved!*
7. **2 Timothy 3:13-16 NAS**: Paul instructed Timothy, a young pastor:
 - a. A sharp contrast between false teachers and Timothy, a true teacher: ¹³ “...evil men and impostors will proceed from **bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.** ¹⁴ You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*; ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom [*faith*] that leads to salvation through faith ~~which is~~ in Christ Jesus. // The sacred writings show us ♦the Creator, ♦our sin, ♦the Savior, ♦God’s work to unite us to our Savior, and ♦ so much more!

b. God's Word and Its benefits:

- i. ¹⁶ **All Scripture is inspired by God** – Peter explained it like this: “For ~~prophecy~~, the utterance of the prophet ²¹ never had its origin in the will of man [in other words, men did not decide what to say], **but men spoke from God** as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21 NIV).
- ii. **and profitable for teaching** [instructing] – as Timothy *learned* and *benefitted* from Scripture, so he was called to teach others!
- iii. **for reproof** [expressing disapproval] – when I use God's Word to help you see your sin, *please don't reject but repent!*
- iv. **for correction** [improvement] – repentance is sorrow for sin, which results in change, and forgiveness through Jesus!
- v. **for training in righteousness** – instruction in how to honor *our great God and Savior!*

Conclusion: John wrote these endearing words: “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children [the members of my congregations] are **walking in the truth**” (3 John 1:4 NIV). *That is also my joy as your pastor!*

Now, convinced that the Bible is God's Word of Truth, let us
♦love it, ♦understand it, ♦believe it, and ♦walk in it! *Amen!*