

Scripture Reference: 2 Timothy 3:13-17

Date: September 29, 2013

Title: "His Word is Reliable"

Focus: The adequacy of the Bible as a Guide to Truth (Biblical World View Series 10 of 10)

Intro:

1. It has happened again. Apple released their latest update, iOS 7. With it came an improvement in their maps/GPS app. Within days it led two people across the runway at Fairbanks, Alaska.

2. Situations like these illustrate the importance of having accurate and reliable directions when navigating. It is true when driving the streets or when navigating our way through life.

3. The books of 1/2 Timothy and Titus are written to two men who Paul cared for and wanted to encourage. They have a very fatherly tone to them as Paul seeks to help these men find their way in life and service to believers.

4. In this letter Paul warns Timothy to "*be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*" (2:1) because "*difficult times will come*" (3:1). By this point in the letter he warns him about "*evil men and impostors*" who are themselves deceived and determined to deceive.

5. Paul's solution for Timothy is to anchor himself to that which is true and reliable, God's Word.

6. Giving priority attention to the truthful and reliable Word of God has not ceased to be sound advice. If anything it has become more pertinent over time, because:

v. 13; There was Then and Still are Today People who Peddle Deception.

Some of these people mean well, but are deceived themselves. Having accepted a lie, they pass it along.

Others are just plain evil. They impersonate the hope that is only found with God. They know what they have is wrong and doesn't work, but they promote it anyway.

They embody the old saying, "misery loves company."

It is not enough to merely know they exist. They must be looked out for and protected against.

vv. 14-15; Even though Deception is Present, Prevalent, and Widely Accepted, it is Possible to Continue in Truth

Paul had hope for Timothy. Therefore he encouraged him to continue to persevere in the truth he had been exposed to since childhood. He is referring to the Old Testament.

Paul knew Timothy's only defense against deception was found in giving place to the truth that exists and is found with God.

Truth is the only counter to a lie, just as light is the only counter to darkness.

It is only in the absence of truth that a lie is possible. Paul wanted Timothy to make sure his life provided no place for a lie to take root.

That would only happen as he grounded himself in the sacred writing that had proven themselves over the course of his lifetime.

v. 16; Paul Understood the Bible is *the* Unique Source of Truth and Sound Teaching.

The Bible is not the work of men with great insight and astounding comprehension. It is not the work of inspired to create a work designed to meet the needs of people.

The Bible is God's breath uttered to men, who as instruments in His service recorded what God's heart wished to convey.

As a result, it is profitable. It proves itself reliable and workable for teaching, discipline, correction, and in how to live a life that is right before God.

The Bible is not of this world. It is a divine instrument of revelation. It makes known to humanity God and how a relationship with Him is possible.

v. 17; The Bible Provides The Means to Flourish in an Environment of Lies and Deception.

Those who submit to God as He speaks through His words will find that they are able to identify the deception and live abundantly despite the presence of lies, liars, and deception.

Because of God's effort to make truth known, it is possible to experience a different quality of life.

All mystery is removed with respect to living a life of truth and peace with God. It is found in The Bible.

Closing:

1. It is not a question of whether there are lies and deception. The only question is, "Where have I been lied to or deceived about something?"
2. Once a person knows truth, lies are identifiable.
3. The only source of truth is God and He has made Himself known through His Word
4. His *physical* word is Jesus. His *written* word is the Bible. His *continuing* word is His Holy Spirit.