

Summer Volunteer Mentorship – Session 1 – Authority of Scripture

We believe in the verbal and plenary inspiration of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. The Bible is inerrant, infallible, sufficient and entirely trustworthy as originally given. The Bible is the very Word of God and is the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

– BCM Int'l Statement of Faith

The Bible gives the foundation and establishes authority for what we teach and believe about who God is – yes, we can learn things about God from nature and from interactions with others, among other experiences, but ultimately we must have a 'straight line' to gauge the accuracy of these insights.

Only from Scripture can we know the depths and wonder of God's great plan for mankind's redemption, the gospel. We may see our need for a 'way to God' apart from it but cannot know of Christ, the cross, and the resurrection through nature or self-reflection.

What we believe about the Bible is not only vitally important to what we think about God; but a healthy regard for it, a hearty understanding of it, and proper use of it strengthens and empowers our ministry as the Lord speaks and works through his Word in our hands and mouths.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 together.

Q. According to Paul, what are some of the purposes of Scripture in the life of a Christian?

Q. How might it accomplish each of those things in our lives?

Q. Why does it have the authority (or power) to do them?

Read Psalm 119:89-112 (or another section from Psalm 119, if you have a favourite!)

List the terms and images that the writer uses to describe God's word (the Law).

Think through what some of these descriptions mean. How are they still true for us today? (e.g., *how does it make us wise? How does it provide 'light for our path'? How does it protect us from evil?*)

For Application/Reflection

Q. Why is it important that we have a fixed authority for our teaching specifically and ministry in general?

Q. How might confidence in Scripture as the Word of God both humble us and give us confidence as we serve this summer?

Q. Culture disagrees with the teaching of Scripture in many areas (*sexuality, gender, aim of life, materialism, identity, and so on*). How does a high view of Scripture (as in the doctrinal statement above) help us to navigate these differing views, and to respond wisely and compassionately to those who disagree with us?

2 Timothy 3:14-17 – “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 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 might be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Psalm 119:89-112

“Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.
If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.
I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.
I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts.
The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider your testimonies.
I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

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.
I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.
I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.
I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.
I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me.
How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.
Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules.
I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word!
Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your rules.
I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.
The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.
Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart.
I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.”