

## God's Word is useful for Teaching (2 Timothy 3:14-17 and Deuteronomy 6:1-9)

07-Jan-2024

### **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

### **Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

#### **Love the LORD Your God**

**6** These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, <sup>2</sup> so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. <sup>3</sup> Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

## Sermon: God's Word is useful for "Teaching"

Please have your Bibles opened at **2 Timothy 3 – starting at verse 14 – then we'll look at Deuteronomy chapter 6.**

There's an **outline** – if you'd like to take some notes.

Let me **pray** first...

### Intro (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

If you go out to **Norah Head** or **Soldiers Beach** on a glorious summer's day and you watch the **waves ebb and flow** and see the **golden sand**.

Or if you go out west as far as **Dubbo** – or perhaps even as far as **Broken Hill** - and look up at a **clear night sky** – you'll see **thousands of stars**.

Or if you take a trip up to the **Blue Mountains** – and witness the **spectacular views** of mountain range upon mountain range.

Or if you take a trip to the **Great Barrier Reef** and witness the **spectacular ocean filled coral reefs**.

You'd be pretty silly to think that all of this was **an accident** – rather than realizing this is all **God's handiwork** – and you'd be pretty silly not to conclude that **God is the supreme architect** of all the beauty in creation.

What we see around us – should leave us in no doubt that there IS a God!

(pause)

**[Slide 1-Intro]**

But what we see around us in Creation – doesn't tell us everything about God – and it doesn't tell us much about us human beings either. And it doesn't tell us about the human condition.

To know these sorts of things we need the Scriptures

In our NT reading from **2 Timothy 3:14-17** – [if you could please turn there now]

We discover in v16 that ***ALL Scripture is God-breathed.***

So, what we read in the Bible is not human words – but God's Words given to humans to write down.

Last week from God's Word – we discovered that **we had inherited two problems** from the first two human beings – Adam and Eve.

Those two things we inherited were **SIN and DEATH**.

As we read God's Word - we discover that it is God's Word that **gives us the details behind God's Creation and God's creatures** – especially the human condition.

In fact, in **v15 of 2 Timothy 3** – the Apostle Paul tells us it's actually the Scriptures – **God's Word** - that makes us ***wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus***

In other words – it's **God's Word** that tell us the **bad news** of **SIN** and **DEATH** – and it's **God's Word** that tells us the **good news** that **God** provides salvation in His Son **JESUS** – that was the good news we learnt about last week.

It's **God's Word** that tells us that we can have our sins forgiven by **having FAITH** in **Jesus' death on the cross** – and that we can have eternal life in Heaven by **having FAITH** in **Jesus defeating death and rising again 3 days after His death.**

That's what the Apostle Paul means by us being *wise for salvation*.

Without God's Word – we wouldn't KNOW any of that.

So - today we begin a **4-part series** throughout January on the usefulness of God's Word.

**[Slide 2-V16]**

We're basing this series on our NT reading from 2 Timothy 3 where in **v16** it says:  
*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*

So, for the 4 Sundays in January - we're going to be looking at how **God's Word** is useful for:

1. Teaching
2. Rebuking
3. Correcting
4. Training in righteousness

So, today – then – **God's Word** is useful for **teaching**.

And to illustrate this we have an **OT reading** from Deuteronomy 6

[Please turn there now]

### Context For Teaching God's Word (Deuteronomy 5:1-6:3)

#### [Slide 3-Context]

The **context** of Deuteronomy chapter 6 – is that the **ancient Israelites** – having left the bondage and captivity of slavery in Egypt – **led by Moses** - have been **wandering around the wilderness for 40 years** on their way to the Promised Land that God has promised to them. It's around **about 1400BC**.

And in the previous chapter - Deuteronomy **chapter 5** – **God has given Moses and the Israelites the 10 commandments again** [previously given 40 years earlier in Exodus 20] – God has given these 10 commandments again - BEFORE they **enter the Promised Land**.

In fact, the word “Deuteronomy” literally means “***second law***” – so Deuteronomy is the **second giving of the Law** – so that the people are prepared to live an **obedient life in this new Promised Land** - **God is giving them** – a life pleasing to the Lord.

The whole point of God's Law given to the people – is so that the people have a **proper loving and obedient relationship with God**.

God's Law provides a framework – to **help people live a life where they make good ethical wise choices**; to **keep people safe**; to **help people prosper**; to **help**

people show compassion and justice; and allow people to grow spiritually as they worship God faithfully.

Here's how Moses puts it in chapter 5 – vv32-33

*<sup>32</sup> So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. <sup>33</sup> Walk in obedience to all that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.*

So, as we hit Deuteronomy chapter 6 – Moses explains to the people – from v1 – the **importance** of God's commands, decrees and laws that God has given Moses to pass on to the people – before they cross the River Jordan – and occupy the Promised Land.

Moses makes the point in vv2-3 – that there are **benefits** in obeying God's commands, decrees and laws – “*so that you may enjoy long life*” (v2) – and “*so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.*” (v3)

So, there's the idea - as the people enter the Promised Land – they are promised blessings for obedience.

## [Slide 4-Importance of Teaching God's Word]

### Importance of Teaching God's Word (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

But I'd like to focus on Moses' emphasis in this passage - on the importance of TEACHING God's Word...

And in vv4 to 9 – Moses makes three main points:

### [Slide 4a-Devotion]

1. 1<sup>st</sup> - God's Word teaches – **Exclusive Devotion to God** (vv4-5)

Verses 4-5 - ***<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is***

***<sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength*** – are known as the Shema [the Hebrew for “Hear” [Listen up!].

In this Shema - Moses stresses the fundamental principle of monotheism [the belief that there is ONLY ONE God]

The Shema teaches that **people** (and that includes us) **are to worship God as the only true God** – and we are NOT to worship any other gods – and we are NOT to worship anyone else or anything else as though it was a god or an idol. That's what the **first two commandments teach against!**

God is to be acknowledged as the **first priority in our lives!**

Why?

Because **He created everything** – because He is **unique** – **one of a kind** – and **holy** – because **He is all knowing** – **all powerful** and **everywhere** – and without Him – **we would not exist** – and could not function! And because – **that's what He tells us to do!**

The Shema also teaches - the exclusive devotion to God.

*We are to love God with all our heart, soul and strength.*

Loving God with all our - **HEART** - involves a **deep emotional devotion**. It means offering sincere affection, passion, and commitment to God. This emotional connection goes beyond mere rituals or outward expressions and reflects a genuine heartfelt love for God.

Loving God with all our – **SOUL** - involves a **spiritual commitment**. It involves **dedicating our innermost being, our spiritual essence, to God**. This commitment encompasses faith, trust, and a desire for a meaningful relationship with God!

Loving God with all our - **STRENGTH** - implies a commitment that involves physical and mental aspects. It includes using our physical abilities, resources, and our mental faculties to serve and worship God. This can involve actions, efforts, and the use of one's talents and capabilities for the glory of God.

### **[Slide 4b-Daily Living]**

2. 2<sup>nd</sup> - God's Word teaches – **God's Word is to be part of our daily living** (vv6-7)

Moses emphasizes the **importance of passing on God's commandments to future generations**. In verses 6-7, he instructs the people to keep God's words in their hearts and to diligently teach them to their children. The teaching is not just a formal or occasional activity but is meant to be **integrated into daily life**—

discussed at home, on the road, when lying down, and when getting up. **This continuous and comprehensive instruction underscores the need for a sustained commitment to passing down the values and commandments of God.**

It begs the question?

**Do we recognize the importance of passing on God's commandments to the next generation? Are we teaching our children and grandchildren – the 10 commandments?**

**Have we integrated God's Word into our daily lives?**

**Are we committed to passing down the values and commandments of God to the next generation?**

### **[Slide 4c-Symbolic Reminders]**

3. 3<sup>rd</sup> - God's Word teaches – **the use of symbolic reminders to ensure that God's words are ingrained in the hearts and minds of people (vv8-9)**

In verses 8-9, God – through Moses - instructs the people that the **use of symbolic reminders is a way to reinforce the importance of God's commandments.** He tells them to bind God's words as symbols on their hands and foreheads, and write them on their doorframes and gates. These physical reminders serve as constant visual cues, reinforcing the commitment to God's commandments and serving as a safeguard against forgetting or neglecting them.

Even today – some **Jews** – wear **phylacteries on their foreheads and arms** to remind themselves of God's Word. They also have **bible verses hanging their homes!**

We also have **symbolic reminders**:

- The **Bible** itself – which we can read and remind ourselves **what God commanded and what God said**
- We may have some **bible verses on our walls in our homes?**
- We have the **symbol of the Cross** – to remind us of **Jesus’ once and for all sacrifice for sins to be forgiven**
- We have the **symbol of the Empty Tomb** – to remind us that **Jesus rose from the dead** – and is **alive** – and offers all who believe in Him – **eternal life in Heaven**
- We have the **symbol of Baptism** – to signify the **washing away of our sins by Jesus**
- We have the **symbol of Bread and Wine** – when we celebrate the **Lord’s Supper** – the **bread** reminding us of **Jesus’ body broken for us on the cross** – and the **wine** reminding us of **Jesus’ blood poured out for us on the cross**
- Some people have a **“fish” symbol on their car window** – or - in their homes – to show **they are Christians** – and to remind them – that Jesus said – we are to be **“*fishing for men and women*”** – and **catch people to follow Jesus!**

All these symbols are fantastic **teaching aids** – to remind us of - **God’s Word** and to remind us **what God has done for us!**

Teaching God’s Word today

**[Slide 5-Teaching God’s Word Today!]**

Now Moses was speaking some **3400 years ago!**

But that same emphasis on the **importance of teaching God's Word** still applies today – for the same reasons it did in Moses' day.

- God still wants us - to teach - **exclusive devotion to God**
- God still wants us - to teach – **that His Word is to be part of our daily living**
- God still wants us - to teach – the **use of symbolic reminders to engrain His Word in the hearts and minds of people!**

So, what will this look like **practically** in our lives – and - in our Church – today?

Well, here's some **practical applications** - to think about:

- It will look like – **reading and meditating on God's Word** – the Bible – each day
  - If you haven't God a Bible – you **can buy one** – or I can give you a Bible for **free!**
  - If you're not much of a reader – you can **use a Bible App on your phone** or device – and it the **App will read the Bible to you!**
  - Or you could meet up with a friend and **read the Bible to each other** – and encourage each other
  - The Bible tells us all about - **God – His Son Jesus** – and about **human beings and the human condition** – and therefore tells us about ourselves
  - To be friends with someone – we have to invest time in them – and be interested in them and share our lives with them. It's the same with God –

**we need to invest time in our relationship with Him – for it to be a close relationship**

- It will look like – **having daily devotions** – quiet times with God
  - Again, **there are tools** to help us with this
    - Like Our Daily Bread
    - A Devotional Book or Devotional Bible [[Bookcase in the Hall](#)]
    - Or Apps on your phone or device
  
- It will look like – **joining a Growth Group Bible Study Group** here at Church.  
They are called **Growth Groups** – because as we study the Bible together – we grow in our knowledge of God – and His Son – we grow in our understanding of His Word – we grow spiritually – we grow in our friendships with the people in the group – and we share our experiences with one another – and share our struggles – our successes – our failures – and share how God is working in our lives – and of course we can teach each other as we go.  
If you're not involved in a Growth Group – I encourage you to join one. There is a **sign-up sheet in the foyer** – and there are **a number of groups available to suit your circumstances.**  
If none suit – we have an **online group** – or - we can **start a new group** that suits your circumstances – even have it at your place!  
We also have a **KYB (Know Your Bible) women's study group** too!

Our Growth Group/Bible Study Groups **return in the last week of January!**

- It will also look like - **teaching children** – in our NT passage – from 2 Timothy 3 v15 – the Apostle Paul reminds his protégé Timothy that **Timothy learnt from God’s Word when he was an infant!**

We know from 2 Timothy 1:5 – that Timothy actually - **gained his faith in Jesus from his grandmother, Lois and his mother, Eunice!**

And in our OT passage from Deuteronomy 6, **Moses told the Israelites to teach the children** - at home, when they walked along the road, when they went to bed and when they got up!

**Teaching children was paramount, so that the next generation also knew God’s Word.**

It wasn’t a **suggestion** from God – it was a **command!**

The question is – are we **teaching our children at home?**

And **what about the children at Church?** Is God calling you **to teach** at **Sunday Jaffa or Friday Jaffa** – and **you’re ignoring it?**

And **what about the children in our local schools?** Is God calling you **to teach Scripture in our schools** – and **you’re ignoring it?** **Training is available.** January would be a good time to start the training – so you’re ready for when the schools go back!

- And it looks like – **teaching others about God and His Son – from God’s Word.**  
Throughout the year we run – Christianity Explained Workshops and  
Membership Classes – where we learn from God’s Word – in such a way – that  
you will be able to teach others from God’s Word. Again, there are **sign-up**  
**sheets in the foyer!** Is God calling you to do this – and you’re ignoring Him!

## Conclusion

I mentioned last week – that our **New Year’s Resolution** should be to - ***Read God’s Word and do what it says!***

That’s not just my suggestion,

The **Apostle James** tells us this in **James 1:22-24** – which I’ll finish with this morning:

**[Slide 6-James 1:22-24]**

***22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror<sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.***

Let’s pray...

*Father God, we thank you for your Holy Word.*

*We especially thank you this morning that your Word is useful for teaching.*

*Help us to appreciate the importance of learning and teaching your word.*

*Help us to grow in our love and devotion to you – to your Son – and to your Word.*

*Grant us opportunities to teach your Word to others. In Jesus Name, we pray.*

*Amen.*