

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

May 2, 2021

Issue 18

## An “Inspirational” Passage From Inspiration

By: Ronnie Scherffius

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

2 Timothy 3:16 is one of the more recognizable passages in the New Testament. It is “the” text most often cited to affirm the “inspiration” of the Bible.

The word *inspiration* in the common vernacular is defined as “the process that takes place when somebody sees or hears something that causes them to have exciting new ideas or makes them want to create something, especially art, music, or literature.” (Oxford Learners Dictionary) An artist may be “inspired” to paint after seeing a beautiful sunset. A songwriter may be inspired to write after a joyous or tragic event. Such a definition does not approach the Greek term translated in 2 Timothy 3:16. In fact, there is no single English word that properly conveys the meaning.

The Greek term translated “given by inspiration of God” (*theoneustos*) is a compound word from “*theos*” (God) and “*pneo*” (to breathe). Literally, the word means “God-breathed.” This word affirms that the Scriptures come from God not man (cf. Mt. 15:9; 2 Tim. 4:1-3; Titus 1:14; Eph. 4:14; et al). Jesus expressed it this way: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God**” (Mt. 4:4).

Jeremiah wrote, “Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, ***I have put my words in thy mouth***” (Jer. 1:9). Similarly, David wrote, “The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and ***his word was in my tongue***” (2 Sam. 23:2). Such is the nature of biblical inspiration; God put His words in the mouth of man through the agency of the Holy Spirit (cf. 2 Tim 2:10-13).

Generally, when teaching 2 Timothy 3:16, we focus on the phrase “given by inspiration of God” and emphasize the divine origins of Scripture. While this is not incorrect, the text is much more! In truth, 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 should be inspirational (i.e., motivate or cause us). The fact that all Scripture is from the mouth of God should “inspire us” to boldly proclaim that word. After all, this is the premise for Paul’s words to Timothy in the context.

2 Timothy 3 highlights the importance of the preaching of the word of God. Paul noted, “that in the last days perilous times shall come” (1). Men shall become “lovers of their own selves” (2) and of “pleasures” not “lovers of God” (4). He speaks of false teachers with much learning who lead others away from the truth because they do not have proper knowledge of the truth (6, 7). Timothy, however, knows fully the doctrine Paul preached (10). In fact, Timothy has known “the holy scriptures” from a young age having been instructed by his mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5). And, Paul emphasizes, that these “holy scriptures” are “God-breathed”, i.e., they are from God, not man. **Therefore**, Paul charges Timothy (4:1) to “Preach” that God-

breathed word and use it to “reprove, rebuke, and exhort” (4:2b) men to not turn from truth to error (3, 4).

The “God-breathed” (divinely inspired) Scriptures should “inspire” us (motivate or cause us) to boldly proclaim it to others. Does divine inspiration inspire you to obedience?

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### **Listen!**

Listen! That’s how Jesus starts His lesson in Mark 4:3. He has just stepped out onto a boat so that He could speak to the large crowd that had gathered to hear Him. This was a very special sermon. Jesus is going to give the secret to all of His parables by telling a unique parable about the farmer who goes out to sow on the various kinds of ground. When Jesus said “Listen!” He was talking to a specific kind of person.

He wasn’t interested in the one who would hear His words and then fall away later when called to stand up for their faith. He wasn’t looking for the one who would hear His words and then foolishly decide that this world had more to offer.

Jesus said “listen!” because He knew that some would hear His words and those words would change their lives. They would live out His teachings. They would become those lamps He would later discuss later in the chapter. Those who truly listened to this specific sermon and took it to heart would bear fruit. It’s humbling to think that some only believe they’ve listened to Jesus, but on the last day will find out that they only thought they listened (verse 25).

Are we listening to the Savior? One way Jesus tells us we can know if we and others are listening is by looking at the fruit being planted. This section of scripture is a great

reminder that there are many who will not hear the Lord and His life-changing and life-saving message, but there are also those out there in our communities who are willing and waiting for us to share Him with them.

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### **By Faith**

Faith is defined as the certainty of things hoped for, a proof of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). We believe that certain places or people exist although we’ve never been there or met that person. We rely on trustworthy information that has convinced us that those places or people are real. Our faith is developed from the true word of God (Romans 10:17) and through practice it continues to grow for the rest of our lives. (Luke 17:6) They say that “seeing is believing” and Thomas had to touch the nail scarred hands of Jesus before he would believe that the Christ was alive. Yet Jesus told him that we are blessed because we believe without having seen Him (John 20:29). It is by and through faith by which we access the wonderful gift of God’s grace and salvation, thus we are motivated to do good works and continue in them for a lifetime (Ephesians 2:8-10; Revelation 2:10). To fail to do so results in a useless faith (James 2:17-18) and without faith there is no way to please our Heavenly Father (Hebrews 11:6). Hebrews 10:38 says, “Now the just shall live by faith”, meaning faithfulness is a way of life. Continued trust and faith in God through Christ can and will keep us on the narrow road to our heavenly home.

Jay Launius -2021 Maud church of Christ

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of May 2, 2021

\*\*subject to change\*\*

### Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Kevin Sheeran  
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

### Lord's Supper & Offering:

Communion: Ron White  
Offering: Clifton Rutherford

### Prayer:

A.M. Opening: Lupe Escojido  
A.M. Closing: Bill York  
P. M. Opening: Rick Bass  
P. M. Closing: Isaac Jobes

### Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Kevin Sheeran  
Sun. P.M.: Doug Jobes  
Wed. P.M.: Rick Bass

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: James Cammock

Open/Close Building: Will Burleson

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**Sermons are available on our website**

**[www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org)**

**MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services  
can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search  
MidTown church of Christ Victoria.**

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## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Scott DeDear will be having neck surgery at Baylor in the near future. Addie Hammond, Rick Bass' niece, who's son died in a drowning last week. If you would like to send Addie a card, please email the church office at:

office.midtownchurch@gmail.com for her mailing address.

Happy Birthday: Jack Fielder, Allen Clifton (4); Ryan Stryker (5); Sherry Lynch (6)

Happy Anniversary: Steve & Letty Randle (May 5)

### *Upcoming Events:*

*Sunday, May 9th—Monthly youth devotional here at the building after evening worship services. Please bring money for pizza.*

*Sunday, June 6th—Monthly fellowship meal following morning worship service with an afternoon service following. Please bring a potluck meal.*

*Sunday, June 13th—Monthly youth devotional here at the building after evening worship services.*

*Friday, June 25th—Monthly family fellowship night. More details to come.*

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## KEEP IN PRAYER

### MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady  
Les Daltry  
Ken and Sandra Marie  
Wayne Martin  
Ann Pantel  
Veronica Serenil  
Clark Withers

### SHUT-INS:

Dee Gilpatrick  
Faye Henderson  
Charlie Mabe  
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

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## MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Elders:

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ronnie Scherffius  
Ron White

**Minister:** Ronnie Scherffius  
**Secretary:** Nina Siegel

### TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Class:	7:00 PM

### RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of April 25, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	66
A.M. Worship.....	86
Sunday Evening Worship.....	67
Monday Gospel Meeting.....	47
Tuesday Gospel Meeting.....	53
Wednesday Gospel Meeting.....	63
Offering : .....	\$4,613

### Reading for this week:

“At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.” 2 Tim. 4:16-17

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### SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli  
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore  
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

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