

## Why We Preach From The Bible – Various Scriptures

Introduce; So good to be with you; I've been looking forward to this ever since we planned it, and consider it a privilege to be here

I'm also thankful for Jeremy, our Campus Pastor, and his team – who makes all this happen; And last, I'm glad you've chosen to worship with us

- I've also been looking forward to this, b/c I want to talk to you about something that's foundational to all that we do here at Harvest; Namely, preach from the Bible Which means that we open up to a passage in this book each and every week – to see what it says, and how it applies to our lives; That's preaching from the Bible

And this week is no different; In fact, I want to look at 3 different passages this morning, starting with 2 Pet 1:19-21

I could have titled the message, “Why I Preach From The Bible” – but it's not just me; Those who lead our various ministries do the same Throughout the week in our Small Groups, and Bible Studies, and Discipleship Classes, and Student Min's, and Children's Min's – we preach and teach from the Bible

- Which to a *casual* observer, begs the question why? Of all the knowledge, and all the religions, and all the philosophies, and all the books in this world – what makes *this* one so special? Why invest so much time and effort into understanding *it*? And doing what *it* says?

Legitimate questions; Questions you may even ask *yourself* on occasion And there are good answers; Starting with this

### 1. It's God's Word (2 Pet 1:19-21)

We preach and teach from the Bible b/c first of all, it's God's Word; 2 Pet 1:16-21 The Apostle Peter is writing here, and after saying that he would make *every effort* to teach us and remind us about the life that God desires for us – he tells us why [16] *For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty* [Peter and the other Apostles spent a considerable amount of time with Jesus]. [17] *For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him [or spoken to him] by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,”* [18] *we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.*

He's talking about the Mount of Transfiguration when Peter, James, and John saw *his face* [shine] *like the sun*, and *his clothes* [become] *white as light* (Mt 17:2) And heard God the Father's identification and commendation – *This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased* Far from cleverly devised myths, they were eyewitnesses Peter is saying Which means the things they were declaring about Jesus, are true and valuable

- But v19, he stuns us by saying that there's something even better, even more valuable [19] *And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed* [more sure than our own eyes], *to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts* [i.e. until the prophecies

are fulfilled both *in* you and *around* you; including the prophecies of Christ's return]

We have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, more sure than our own eyewitness account Peter says – [20] *knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture* [the Bible, the sacred writings from God] *comes from someone's own interpretation.* [21] *For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Why do we preach from the Bible? B/c it's God's Word

*No prophecy* [in the Bible, v21] *was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

That is, in writing the words of *Scripture*, the Bible – they were writing the very words of God, that the Holy Spirit laid on their heart

Which makes the Bible *God's Word*, b/c he's the source

- And then there's **2 Tim 3:16**, written by the Apostle Paul, which says – All Scripture [all the Bible] *is breathed out by God* IOW it came from *him*, via the thoughts/personalities of *men*, who recorded it on paper Which once again makes this book not just man's word, but *God's Word* \*\*\*\*\*

None of which proves the point; Especially for a skeptic; *Anyone* can say that their thing is from God; But when you combine it with all the other evidence . . .

It's pretty compelling; Evidence like fulfilled prophecies

The Bible is God's Word . . .

- **Because its prophecies are fulfilled**

Conservatively speaking, there are 65 prophecies about the *Messiah* in the OT, the promised deliverer – that are fulfilled by Jesus in the New

Prophecies that were written between 500-1500 years before he was even born

Prophecies like Is 9 and 11 – which say that the Messiah would be a descendant of David, born to rule; And Micah 5:2 that says he would be born in Bethlehem

And Is 7:14 that says he would be born of a virgin

And Is 53 that says he would be crushed for our iniquities

And Ps 22 & Zech 12 that say he would be forsaken by God and crucified

And the list goes on; Which you can find by the way, on our website, under the *Current Issues* page; It's a list of the main Messianic prophecies concerning Jesus

- But those aren't the only ones There are others dealing with cities, the rise and fall of specific nations, and the plight of various people groups; All prophesied well before their time, and all fulfilled

No wonder Peter said in v19 that *we have something more fully confirmed*

Something *better* on which to rest our faith; Namely, the *prophetic word*, the Bible

Containing hundreds of fulfilled prophecies

It's something no other book can even come close to, and leads us to believe that in fact it *is* God's word; Deserving our attention and affection and devotion \*\*\*\*\*

Second, it's God's Word, and we preach from it . . .

- **Because its message is consistent**

If I told you to go out and compile a book, written by 40 different people from 3 different countries and cultures and languages . . .  
Including people from widely differing walks of life – like fisherman, priests, shepherds, kings, tentmakers, tax collectors, scribes, and prophets . . .  
And oh ya, they had to have lived over a span of 1600 years . . .  
And agree on *all* the difficult ethical, spiritual, and social issues of life without any collusion or collaboration . . .

If I told you to do that, and that your book had to have a common spiritual thread of supernatural intervention woven through all its writings . . .  
A thread that pointed to a common deliverer and an identical future . . .  
If I asked you to put that together, you couldn't do it; But that's the Bible

The fact that the Bible has unity and consistency, despite its diversity . . .  
Despite its obvious differences in authorship, content, style, and perspective – its message is consistent  
Another reason for trusting that it's God's Word, and basing your life on it

Third, it's God's Word . . .

- **Because its writers were persecuted**

Like the apostles and those close to them who wrote the NT, and personally witnessed the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus  
Believing and preaching and writing that he was God in the flesh, the Savior of the world, and Lord of all  
For which, they were persecuted and *killed*, without recanting or denying a single word

Which tells us that what they said is true – that the Bible really is God's written Word  
B/c *nobody* willingly dies for something they *know* to be false  
Plenty of people die for causes they *believe* to be true – like suicide bombers . . .  
But nobody intentionally dies for something they *know* to be false

And if the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ was fabricated by the NT writers, then they willingly died for something they *knew* to be false  
Which makes no sense at all unless they were completely delusional  
Which is obviously *not* the case, as shown by the clarity and consistency and moral fabric of their writing

So the only reasonable conclusion, is that they gave their lives for something they *knew* to be *true*; Another indicator that the Bible really is God's Word . . .  
And worthy of our attention

4<sup>th</sup>, the Bible is God's Word and we preach from it . . .

- **Because its effect is powerful**

Nothing else would have caused thousands of devout religious Jews, including staunch Pharisee priests who were firmly entrenched in their Judaism . . .  
To abandon their closely held beliefs, and embrace Jesus as Lord of their lives

Nothing else would have spread under such intense persecution by *peaceful* means  
Violent means maybe, but not peaceful

And nothing else would have changed the heart and mind of doubters like Thomas, or enemies like Paul – except the very words of God as found in the Bible  
Its effect is powerful; And its writers were persecuted; And its message is consistent; And its prophecies are fulfilled (**Summary**)

All of which means, you can choose to *reject* the Bible as God's Word – but not on the basis of the evidence  
That's the first reason we preach and teach from the Bible

## 2. It's Life-changing (Ps 19:7-11)

Ps 19:7-11; This is a pillar passage on the life-changing effect of God's Word, where

David, the writer of the Psalm, says in v7 . . .

[7] *The law of the LORD* [i.e. God's word as found in the Scripture, the Bible] *is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD* [another word for what we find in the Bible] *is sure, making wise the simple; [8] the precepts of the LORD* [another word] *are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; [9] the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. [10] More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. [11] Moreover, by them* [by the words of God as found in the Bible] *is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*

One of the reasons we preach from the Bible, is that it changes our lives; And does so in at least 5 different ways; First of all, by . . .

- **Reviving our soul**

That's v7a – *The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul*

Perfect in that it never fails to have its desired effect, if we embrace it and live it  
Whether you're down and out, yearning for more, or rebellious to the core – the words of *God's Word* can revive your soul and change your life  
Especially since they're able to penetrate deep, and discern your thoughts and intentions

2<sup>nd</sup>, it's life-changing by . . .

- **Opening our eyes**

V7b says – *the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple*

And v8b – *the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes* (glasses)

Living life without the Bible, is like watching a 3D movie without the glasses – it doesn't look right; things are out of focus; and there's no enjoyment

But the longer you look at life through the lens of God's *Word*, the clearer it becomes  
Opening your eyes to *see* the big picture, and gain *God's* perspective, and soak up all that God has for you

3<sup>rd</sup>, God's Word as found in the Bible changes our life by . . .

- **Bringing us joy**

That's v8a – *the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart*

Show me a heart full of God's Word, and I'll show you a life full of joy

You can't help it; That's what it does – even when its truths are hard to hear

In the long run, the words from God's heart, bring joy to yours; That's life-changing

4<sup>th</sup>, the truths of God's Word changes our lives, by . . .

- **Keeping us pure**

V11 says – *by them* [i.e. by the rules of the Lord] *is your servant warned*  
Or as **Psalms 119:9** says it – *How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.*  
And v11 says (**Psalms 119:11**) – *I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

The truths in God's Word, are a deterrent to keep you from sinning\*\*\*\*\*  
Kind of like the yellow lines on the road of life – stay between them, and you'll stay pure; But cross them, and you'll get into all kinds of trouble

5<sup>th</sup>, we preach from the Bible b/c it changes our lives, by . . .

- **Spurring us on**

11b – *in keeping them* [in keeping God's rules, and commandments, and precepts] *there is great reward*; IOW obedience to God's Word brings blessing  
Obedience brings blessing; And blessing spurs us on to even more obedience  
So that the life we live is no longer a duty of drudgery, but a duty of delight; Our greatest joy; Spurring us on to greater and greater heights  
To more and more love and good deeds (**Summary**)

Preaching from the Bible is not about acquiring knowledge for knowledge sake – that just makes you a smart sinner  
Rather, it's about knowing God, and living his way  
In *that* there's great reward, and great change

We preach from the Bible b/c it's God's Word, it's life-changing, and . . .

### **3. It's Useful (2 Tim 3:16-17)**

2 Tim 3:16-17; [16] *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

When Paul says that all Scripture is *profitable*, he's not just saying that it's *kind of* useful, but entirely *sufficient*

That's not only the nuance of the Greek *word* for profitable here . . .

But it's also the implication of the context, when he says that the end result of

Scripture's profitability, is that we can be equipped for *every* good work

If something is profitable for *every* good work, then it's entirely useful and sufficient

That's why we preach from the Bible, and the Bible alone – it's useful and sufficient

Useful and sufficient first of all . . .

- **For teaching**

Just like a chemistry textbook is useful and sufficient for teaching us about chemistry . . .

The Bible is useful and sufficient for teaching us about life and godliness

And just like the principles of chemistry are best learned when applied in the *lab* . . .

So too, the truths of God's Word are best learned when applied in *life* – *applied* in life

2<sup>nd</sup>, the Bible's useful . . .

- **For confronting sin**

That's the word *reproof*; It's profitable for *reproof* – for strongly rebuking, reprimanding, or scolding someone

There's nothing better than the very words of God as found in the Bible, for exposing and confronting the sin of someone who doesn't want to hear it  
No other book, no other philosophy, no other method even comes close

3<sup>rd</sup>, it's useful . . .

- **For correcting errors**

Not all sin is due to willful rebellion, requiring confrontational reproof

Some is due to not knowing any better, and simply requires a knowledge or awareness of the truth to convince us of our error

The evidence for which is all around you

In people who *were* living and thinking one way, but changed to live another, when the truth of God's Word exposed the *error* of their thinking . . .

And convinced them to correct it

And if you find yourself in the same boat, if your beliefs or practices don't line up with the Bible – stop believing them and doing them; It's that simple; Correct the error

4<sup>th</sup>, we preach from the Bible b/c it's useful . . .

- **For training in righteousness**

It's the instruction and guidance that we find in the Bible, that tells us how to be like Jesus

That tells us how to grow in godliness and holiness and Christ-like character

Not for the sake of gaining or keeping our *salvation* . . .

But for the sake of glorifying the one who *already* saved us; And promises to keep us

It's useful for training in righteousness

And last, it's useful . . .

- **For equipping**

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable . . . [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work*

You can't see it in English, but Paul uses two forms of the same Greek word for *equipped* here, back to back

Intending to convey that the Bible is useful and sufficient, for *super-equipping* us to accomplish every good work

To do *all* that God would have us do (**Summary**)

- *That's* why we preach from the Bible here at Harvest Bible Chapel; *That's* why we invest so much time and energy into understanding it and doing what it says

*That's* why we conform our lives to it

B/c it's God's Word, it's life-changing, and it's useful

Pray – Lord, thank you for your Word; For how it's living, active, soul-piercing, and discerning of our thoughts and intentions; Give us a greater and greater hunger for it, and the discipline to study it diligently