



Sermon Discussion Guide

Preaching Passage: 2 Timothy 3:14-17
Sermon Series: Foundations
Sermon Title: Our Values – Biblical Truth
Date: February 3, 2019
Preacher: Bart Box

Biblical Truth: *God's Word is true, and in His Word we find life. We desire to hear from God's Word each week, allowing that Word to lift up our hearts in praise and to shape our lives in obedience. We want the reading and preaching of the Bible to reverberate in our lives, creating a Christ-honoring walk and witness.*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) One present-day author and pastor (Mark Dever) has a couple of books subtitled *Promises Made* and *Promises Kept*, the former an overview of the Old Testament and the latter a survey of the New Testament. In a sense, the Bible is a promise book because God is a promising God. To begin our time together, let's name some of the promises God has made and which He'll surely fulfill.
 - a. [Q] As a follow-up to those promises, do you struggle to believe those promises?
 - b. [Q] How do the promises of God differ from the 1000s of other promises you hear on a daily and weekly basis?
- 2) A major point of the sermon focused on the close connection between God and His Word. Spend some time connecting some of your favorite verses to the character and nature of God (i.e. "I love Romans 8:1 because it shows me a gracious God.").
- 3) At several points in the sermon, Bart referred to trust, rest, and confidence in the Word of God. That's not surprising since from the beginning the Evil One has been sowing distrust in God's Word.
 - a. [Q] What are some ways we can grow in our confidence in God's Word?
 - b. [Q] Or, to put it differently, how can we battle distrust in God's Word?
- 4) Probably few of us are satisfied with our biblical intake, and we can chalk that up to all sorts of reasons. Take some time to discuss the reasons we give for overlooking Bible reading in our daily disciplines (e.g. busyness), and, having done that, encourage each other as a group in ways you've seen those obstacles overcome. Try to give specific helps and strategies for increased Bible intake (e.g. listening to the Bible in the car).

- 5) A considerable part of our time each week is spent listening to the sermon. In light of that...
 - a. **[Q]** How can you prepare your heart to listen each week?
 - b. **[Q]** What strategies can we employ to listen in the best way possible (i.e. talk about how you listen, what you listen for, etc.).
 - c. **[Q]** How do keep what you've heard fresh and available in the week that follows?

- 6) The public reading of Scripture was Isaiah 55, and Bart referenced that text as well during the sermon. Read again Isaiah 55:10-13.
 - a. **[Q]** When God promises that His Word will be effective, what does that look like? (Hint: see vv. 12-13)
 - b. **[Q]** Do the images in vv. 12-13 remind you of any other texts in the Bible? In particular, what about thorns and thistles? Think about the connection between the thorns and thistles of the Fall and the power of the Word in undoing that frustration. How can the Word lead to life and flourishing?

- 7) **[Q]** Of the five final points made in the sermon (listed below), which one of them challenged you the most? Why?
 - a. We should give ourselves to biblical intake.
 - b. We should give ourselves to biblical worship services.
 - c. We should give ourselves to biblical evangelism.
 - d. We should give ourselves to biblical counsel.
 - e. We should give ourselves to biblical hope.

- 8) With the time you have remaining, spend time praying for a deeper desire and hunger for God's Word.