

## **2 Timothy 3:10 – 4:5**

**But you have faithfully followed my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfast endurance, <sup>11</sup> my persecutions, my sufferings—the kind that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, the kind of persecutions I endured—and the Lord rescued me from all of them. <sup>12</sup> Indeed, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while evil people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> As for you, continue in the things you have learned and about which you have become convinced. You know from whom you learned them <sup>15</sup> and that 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, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be complete, well equipped for every good work.**

**I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word. Be ready whether it is convenient or not. Correct, rebuke, and encourage, with all patience and teaching. <sup>3</sup> For there will come a time when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, because they have itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in line with their own desires. <sup>4</sup> They will also turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, keep a clear head in every situation. Bear hardship. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry.**

Dear children of God by grace alone through faith in Christ Jesus,

**“All Scripture is God-breathed!”** “**God-breathed**” is very literal translation of the Greek word which is a combination of the word for God and the word for breath or spirit. We are thankful the EHV translates this word “**God-breathed**” rather than following the King James Version that translates this “inspired.” While we get our teaching of “Inspiration” from this word and it isn’t a wrong translation, the phrase “**God breathed**” is so much more helpful for our understanding of how we got the Bible and why it is so important. It helps us appreciate how God breathed into the writers of the Scriptures the very words and thoughts he wanted them to write. 2 Peter 1:21 says, “**In fact, no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but men spoke from God[a] as they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit.**”

**“All Scripture is God breathed.”** The word “**all**” is all inclusive. There are some who say the Bible contains God’s Word. This implies that part of the Bible is God’s Word and part of it is just the words of people in the form of myths and legends. Some so called Bible scholars claim they have the deeper knowledge that allows them to separate the parts that come from God and the parts that are human in origin. They look at God’s Word as something we need to figure out by using our own knowledge and wisdom. The Apostle Paul wanted his young pastor friend Timothy to believe with all his heart that all Scripture is God breathed and doesn’t need our interpretation or power. He wanted him to continue in these God breathed Scriptures and fearlessly proclaim these Holy Scriptures to others. Paul also wants us to know:

### **Sermon Theme: All Scripture Is God-Breathed!**

- 1. What a blessing that all of Scripture is God-Breathed**
- 2. What a blessing to proclaim that God-breathed Scripture to others**

**“As for you, continue in the things you have learned and about which you have become convinced. You know from whom you learned them and that from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”** Timothy began his journey in the Scriptures from infancy. The Greek word used here for **“infancy”** is a word that most often talks about a newborn baby. It is the Greek word used to describe the baby John leaping in womb of his mother Elizabeth, the baby Jesus lying in a manger, and the little children that were brought to Jesus. Early in this letter Paul wrote, **“I remember your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am convinced that it also lives in you.” (2 Timothy 1:5)** His mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois held him in their arms and spoke the Scriptures to him, the Holy Scriptures that are God breathed.

The greatest privilege a mother or father can have is to bring their little child in their arms to know about Jesus through the blessing of Holy Baptism and the blessing of the Holy Scriptures. Jesus said we should baptize all nations in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and then teach them everything he has commanded us. The Lord told his Old Testament people to take the Words he had given through Moses and **“Teach them diligently to your children, and speak about them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” (Deuteronomy 6:7)**

If you have never had an opportunity to observe small children hearing and the Bible, you should come to our Sunday School and watch the little children learn the basic truths of God’s Word. As a parent you can read one of the simple versions of the Bible as you use simple language and simple pictures to teach God’s Word even to small children. It is so amazing that even small children can grow in their knowledge of God’s Word. Timothy learned the Scriptures as a child and Paul wanted him to stay in those Scriptures. We never graduate from hearing and learning God’s Word. We build on that foundation that we have from when we are young. Even when we reach the ages of 60 or 70 or even 100 we are still constantly learning and the thing we can never stop learning about are the things that come in the Bible. When I visit our oldest shut in who is over 100 years old. She many times tells me to not talk too much about things, she wants to hear a sermon from God’s word and receive Lord’s Supper. That is exactly what Paul is reminding us to do.

Why do we want to study this God breathed Word of God? It is through these Holy Scriptures that we see God. We learn from these Scriptures how much God cares about us and loves us. As Paul told Timothy, we have known the **“Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”** It is through these words of the Bible that we find the answers to the most important questions of life such as to where we came from, why we are here and what is going to happen to us when we die. In the Bible we discover how the world began not through a process of evolution but through God’s creation. Here we gain the understanding of what sin is, and how it came into the world, and how it ruins our lives and makes us unacceptable to God. It is in this book we learn how God rescues us by giving us the gift of his Son. We can spend our whole lives learning about John 3:16 and never exhaust the comfort of knowing, **“God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”** Through the Bible we are drawn close to Jesus. We never grow weary of the words he speaks to us, or his blood that was shed for us.

**“All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, well equipped for every good work..”** Notice this important little word **“All!”** Our God has chosen to reveal himself to us in real words that were breathed into people and guided by the Holy Spirit. These writers used their words and their style of writing and even gathered information from different sources as Luke tells us in the beginning of his

gospel. Then God breathed into these people the very thoughts and words they were to write. They were carried along by the Holy Spirit. There are certainly things about God that remain hidden and secret to us. We may not have all the details on exactly how he carried along the writers or what was the exact process for God breathing into these writers, but we know it is 100% true and important. Everything God reveals to us in his Word was God breathed. With this important little word “**All**” we can understand why the Revelation ends by warning us not to add or subtract anything from the words of the prophecy of this book.

These God-breathed Scriptures are “**useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness.**” We are born into this world motivated by our perceived ability to manufacture the righteousness necessary for God to love us and bless us and take us to heaven. These God-breathed Holy Scriptures clearly point out the exact opposite. They knock us down. They tell us the truth of how far our righteousness falls fails God and falls short of his glory. They even reveal to us in Isaiah 64 that our righteous acts are like filthy rags. The Scriptures show us that even our best moments of life, those shining moments, when we seem to excel in being better than most people our righteousness is tainted with sin.

It is only in the Bible that we learn how we are saved by God’s grace with a righteousness outside of ourselves that comes through Jesus Christ. The Holy Scriptures lead us to say with the prophet Isaiah, “**I will rejoice greatly in the Lord. My soul will celebrate because of my God, for he has clothed me in garments of salvation. With a robe of righteousness he covered me.**” (Isaiah 61:10)

## 2. What a blessing it is proclaim the God-breathed Scriptures to others

Paul did not want Timothy to keep these Scriptures to himself. He actually puts him under an oath and pleads with him to preach the Word boldly and confidently. “**I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word. Be ready whether it is convenient or not.**” The Greek word for preaching has the thought of announcing something, heralding it, proclaiming it. This is to be done whether it is easy and convenient or hard and difficult. That means the Lord will give you and me the right times and places when we can proclaim the truths of his God-breathed Holy Word to others whether it is our children or grandchildren or friends and just people we happen to meet one day in our community.

Why is it so important to preach God’s Word? The time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching. “**For there will come a time when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, because they have itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in line with their own desires. They will also turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths..**” As we look at how the Bible is being used today, we can safely say that people are preaching what the “**itching ears**” want to hear. The Bible is being watered down or misused to support all kinds of wrong teachings. People want to appease the masses rather than preach the inspired Word of God. Too many people are filtering out the parts of God’s Word that direct us to Christ alone as the source of our salvation or are leaving out the parts about God’s condemning Law which God wants us to use to point out our sins. The Bible has turned for many into a myth, rather than God’s Word. If that is all the Bible is to people, we can see why so many people are basing their lives on their own opinions and emotions rather than on the inspired Word of God.

God has given us the greatest tool of all. He has given us his Bible which is 100% God-breathed which means it is without error and is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe. May we always make this powerful Word of God our foundation on which we build and may it be the tool that we use to share the truths of God’s salvation to the many itching ears and lost souls of this world. Amen.