

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	How to Have a Sure Word in Difficult Days
SERMON REFERENCE:	2 Timothy 3:12-17
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#2218

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) These are desperate days in which we live.
- b) There are many people who talk about spirituality but know very little about the Bible and reality.
 - i) These are dangerous days of apostasy.
- c) 2 Timothy 3:12
 - i) The word “will” speaks of a determination.
 - ii) The word “shall” speaks of the result.
 - iii) If we are determined to live godly in Christ Jesus, then we will be persecuted.
 - (1) If we are not being persecuted, then we are not really standing with Jesus.
- d) 2 Timothy 3:13-17
 - i) Paul says that it is going to get worse.
 - ii) We have been saturated with deception in these last days.
- e) Dr. Robert G. Lee said that the Bible is the following:
 - i) It is a book above and beyond all books.
 - ii) It is supernatural in origin.
 - iii) It is eternal in duration.
 - iv) It is inexpressible in value.
 - v) It is immeasurable in influence.
 - vi) It is infinite in scope.
 - vii) It is divine in authorship.
 - viii) It is human in penmanship.
 - ix) It is regenerative in power.
 - x) It is infallible in authority.
 - xi) It is universal in interest.
 - xii) It is personal in application.
 - xiii) It is inspired in totality.
- f) 2 Timothy 3:15-17
- g) In today’s message, we will look at what the Scripture does and why we have faith that the Bible is the Word of God.

2) WHAT THE SCRIPTURE DOES (2 TIMOTHY 3:15-17)

- a) The Bible is inspired.
 - i) 2 Timothy 3:16
 - (1) In this verse, the words “by inspiration of God” are translated by one Greek word which means that all Scripture is God-breathed.
 - (2) All Scripture is the breath of God; all Scripture is the Word of God.
 - (a) Matthew 4:4
 - ii) Divine inspiration is not partial inspiration.
 - (1) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.
 - (a) 2 Timothy 3:16
 - iii) Divine inspiration is not progressive inspiration.

- (1) Some will say that the Old Testament is not as inspired as the New Testament and that the Bible is more and more inspired as people get more and more light.
 - (a) We have progressive revelation but not progressive inspiration.
 - (b) The Old Testament is just as inspired as the New Testament.
 - (i) It is all inspired.
 - (ii) It is there by divine inspiration.
- iv) Divine inspiration is plenary inspiration.
 - (1) It is all inspired; it is fully inspired.
 - (2) Matthew 5:18
 - (3) Matthew 4:4
 - (4) Plenary inspiration is verbal inspiration.
 - (5) Some people say that the thoughts are inspired but not the words.
 - (a) But there can't be thoughts without words any more than there can be mathematics without numbers.
- b) The Scriptures are instructive.
 - i) 2 Timothy 3:16
 - (1) The Scriptures are profitable for doctrine.
 - (a) Doctrine means teaching.
 - (b) The Bible shows what is right.
 - (2) The Scriptures are profitable for reproof.
 - (a) They show what is not right.
 - (3) The Scriptures are profitable for correction.
 - (a) They show us how to get right.
 - (4) The Scriptures are profitable for instruction in righteousness.
 - (a) They show us how to stay right.
 - (i) We will not do this unless we stay in the Word of God.
- c) The Scriptures are instrumental.
 - i) They are instrumental in salvation.
 - (1) 2 Timothy 3:15
 - (2) If we want people to believe and be saved, then we have to give them something to believe.
 - (a) This is the Word of God.
 - (3) If we don't sow the Word, then we are not going to have a crop.
 - (a) People are not saved by our testimonies, ideas, or philosophies.
 - (i) 1 Peter 1:23
 - (b) It is the Word of God that we must share with people in order for them to be saved.
 - ii) They are instrumental in sanctification.
 - (1) 2 Timothy 3:17
 - (a) The Apostle Paul said that he gave these Scripture "that the man of God may be perfect."
 - (i) This doesn't mean sinless.
 - 1. There is not a person who is sinless.

- (b) The word “perfect” in this verse means “mature.”
 - (i) God wants us to grow up.
 - (2) We will never be strong, mature Christians until we get in the Word of God.
 - iii) They are instrumental for service.
 - (1) 2 Timothy 3:17
 - (a) This has the idea of a soldier’s equipment when he is going into battle.
 - (2) God does not send us into battle unarmed.
 - (a) He gives us the equipment for the battle, for service.
- 3) HOW WE HAVE FAITH IN THE WORD OF GOD (2 TIMOTHY 3:15)
- a) Our faith is rooted in evidence.
 - i) From a child, Timothy knew the Holy Scriptures.
 - (1) 2 Timothy 3:15
 - (2) As a child, he was told to believe the Bible.
 - (a) That is the way most of us came to believe the Bible.
 - (b) As we grow up and get out into the world, we find that we have to have more reasons.
 - ii) Our faith is not blind faith.
 - iii) All true faith is rooted in evidence.
 - iv) Blind faith is really not faith at all.
 - (1) What some people call a leap in the dark is not faith at all.
 - (a) It is superstition.
 - v) Real faith is rooted in evidence.
 - (1) It is a union of revelation and trust in that revelation.
 - vi) The following is some of the evidence that the Bible is the inspired Word of God:
 - (1) The historical evidence of the Bible
 - (a) The Bible gives us great stories of history.
 - (b) Sir William Ramsey, an eminent historian, went to the Middle East to prove that Luke (who wrote the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts) was wrong in his history.
 - (i) He made an intensive study.
 - (ii) He concluded that Luke was one of the world’s greatest historians.
 - (iii) He completely reversed himself and came over on the side of Christianity.
 - (iv) He stated that Luke’s history is unsurpassed in regard to its trustworthiness.
 - (c) Our faith is rooted in facts.
 - (2) The scientific evidence of the Bible
 - (a) In the Middle Ages, there was a great disaster that took place in Europe called The Plague.

- (i) Millions of people died.
- (ii) It was not the doctors that brought the plague under control but the church.
 - 1. They went to the Bible and found out what the Bible said in Leviticus 13:46.
 - a. That is what we call today “quarantining.”
- (b) One historian said that the laws against leprosy in Leviticus 13 may be regarded as the first model of sanitary legislation.
- (c) In Vienna in 1840, doctors were performing autopsies and then going straight to the examining rooms to exam patients without washing or scrubbing.
 - (i) One out of six patients were dying.
 - (ii) The doctors began to wash and scrub after each autopsy, and the statistics went from one in six to one in 84 patients dying.
 - (iii) One day, eleven out of twelve patients died, and they found that the doctors were not scrubbing between examinations.
 - 1. They began to require the doctors to wash and scrub between every examination.
 - (iv) Numbers 19:14-19 addresses this very thing.
- (3) The indestructibility of the Bible
 - (a) 1 Peter 1:25
 - (b) Men have paid for this book with their lives.
 - (i) We should not take it lightly.
 - (ii) We need to treasure the Bible.
 - 1. This is a blessed book.
 - (c) What other book has stood the test of the ages?
 - (d) Men have laughed at the Bible, mocked it, scorned it, and burned it.
- (4) The greatest proof of the inspiration of the Bible is its fulfilled prophecy.
 - (a) The enemies of Jesus Christ tell us that Jesus didn't really fulfill prophecy and that He and His followers only arranged it so that it would appear as though He fulfilled prophecy.
 - (b) Here are some of the prophecies in the Bible that have been fulfilled:
 - (i) Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
 - 1. Micah 5:2 states that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.
 - 2. Matthew 2:1 tells us that indeed He was born in Bethlehem.
 - (ii) The prophet Isaiah recorded precise details of Jesus' birth and life 700 years before Jesus was born.
 - 1. Isaiah 7
 - 2. Isaiah 9
 - 3. Isaiah 53
 - (iii) Psalm 22 describes the crucifixion of Jesus Christ by the piercing of His hands and His feet.

1. Crucifixion was not even a known form of capital punishment at that time.
 - a. The Romans brought in crucifixion.
 2. Stoning was the order of the day when Psalm 22 was written.
 - (iv) Jesus was crucified between two thieves, one on His right hand and one on His left to fulfill Isaiah 53:9-12.
 1. Matthew 27:38
 - a. This tells of the fulfilled prophecy of Isaiah 53:9-12.
 - (v) Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, which is exactly what Zechariah had said in Zechariah 11:12.
 1. Matthew 26:15
 - (vi) After the crucifixion, Jesus walked out of the grave on the third day.
 1. He would be seen by 500 witnesses.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:4-6
 - b. Most of these witnesses paid with their lives for their testimony.
 - i. A man may tell a lie to get out of trouble, but few men will tell a lie to get into trouble.
 - ii. Liars and martyrs are not made of the same stuff.
 - c. They stood up with the cost of their lives.
 - (vii) The Bible says that all of this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.
 1. Matthew 26:56
- b) Faith that is rooted in evidence goes beyond evidence.
- i) God will not prove anything to us; God gives us evidence.
 - (1) But there comes a time when we must go beyond evidence to faith.
 - ii) Jesus talked to the doubters of His day, and He gave one of the most unqualified promises in all of the Bible.
 - (1) John 7:16-17
 - (a) If we surrender our will, then God will reveal Himself to us.
 - iii) Faith is not an intellectual response to God; faith is a moral response to God.
 - (1) Jesus said that His sheep hear His voice.
 - (a) John 10:27
 - (2) If we want to know the truth, then God will speak to us out of the Scriptures.
 - (a) And we will have a result that is called faith.
 - iv) Faith is not primarily an intellectual thing; it is primarily a moral thing.
 - (1) Hebrews 3:12
 - (a) Not an empty head but an evil heart.
 - (b) We can believe if we will.
 - (2) God will reveal Himself to the one who wants to understand.
 - (a) When your eye is right, it responds to light.

- (b) When your ear is right, it responds to sound.
- (c) When your heart is right, it responds to God.
- (3) Faith is a moral response to God.
- v) God is not going to prove Himself to us, but He will give us enough evidence to believe.
 - (1) Then, God will give us the Holy Spirit so that we can believe.
- vi) Faith goes beyond evidence.
 - (1) It has to in order to be faith.
- c) Faith becomes its own best evidence.
 - i) We believe because we believe.
 - ii) Psalm 34:8
 - iii) A Christian with an experience is never at the mercy of someone with an argument.
 - iv) John 9:1-25
 - (1) Jesus healed a man who was born blind.
 - (2) The Pharisees questioned the man.
 - (a) They wanted him to explain it all.
 - (3) The man couldn't explain it all; but he said that one thing he knew was that he was once blind, and now he could see.
 - (a) A believing man now had the evidence on the inside.
- d) 1 John 2:20, 27

4) CONCLUSION

- a) There is no way to explain the Bible apart from divine inspiration.
- b) If you are a fearful saint in these desperate days in which we live, then get a strong grip on the Word of God.
- c) Parents need to start building Bible truth into their children.
 - i) They are not going to get it in school.
 - ii) They are not going to get it in Sunday school.
- d) 2 Timothy 3:13-14, 16-17
- e) If you are a Christian, then ask the Lord today to help you treasure the Bible, learn the Bible, obey the Bible, teach the Bible, and share the Bible.
- f) If you are not yet saved, won't you be saved today?
- g) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- h) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16