

Sunday 12th July 2020 10 am

God's word

Online service sheet during the coronavirus.

Reading Psalm 40

Reading 2 Timothy 3:16,17, (Also 1 Cor 3:10-15)

Sermon Title:

Listen to today's sermon by clicking on the link at www.knbc.org.The audio file is [20_07_12.mp3](#) in the sermons directory

Close -----

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2Ti 3:16,17**Welcome**Welcome to you again to KNBC. We hope soon to be meeting together at the Chapel, so do keep an eye on www.knbc.org for more info.. on this. This morning we are looking at 2 Timothy 3:16,17, (Also 1 Cor 3:10-15). Pray

- Remember when you were young, at the beach you built sand castles (of course you did) only to discover you had built it too close to the water's edge and hadn't considered that the tide was coming in. Soon it was overrun vanishing back into the sand. You got over it, it wasn't so serious in the big scheme of life.
- The BBC reported earlier this year of two luxury lakeside apartment complexes in southern India that were demolished. Residents of the high-risers in the state of Kerala watched as their homes and investments imploded in seconds. The Supreme Court ordered the demolition last year, after a committee found that they were built in breach of rules. It was demolished because it was not to plan.

That is more serious. - The bible says the Christian's life's work is like a building, saying: *“be careful how you build, make sure you build well”*.

If you are a follower of Jesus this morning your work and service will one day be tested. How much have you done for Him? And has what you have

done, been done according to God's word? God's plan. If it has it will last and you will be welcomed into heaven “well done good and faithful servant”. If it hasn't then it will not last - and you will be ashamed.

So how do you build well? By building to plan, according to the blue print, according to God's word. 1) You need a plan – 2) you need to know the plan – 3) and you need to act on that plan!**The Bible text this morning is 2 Tim 3:16 All the 3:16's in the NT. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,” and why? so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**It is a verse with a clear end aim v17 **so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**There must always be an end aim. The words I speak this morning have an end aim. This is not ‘a talk’. This is not ‘a lecture’, I'm not just ‘sharing’ as people sometimes say. No, a sermon is to produce change, it is to effect a change! And that is because the purpose of God's Word is to affect a change in the listener, so that you will be **thoroughly equipped for every good work.”****It is about acting on God's word, - it is about letting God's word act on you.**“Do you let God's word act on you? Is it resulting in **every good work**?”

A Christian's life is about love & good works. Love showing in good works

So to our text**All Scripture is God-breathed**God speaks in two main ways, in a general way giving testimony to his power and greatness to us all through the world he has made. **“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.** Ps 19:1,2

He also speaks of his moral nature through the conscience that we all have imbedded inside us. These are called ‘general revelation’.

But there is also ‘special revelation’ Here is the clarity, the detail, we see this in the written word - and shown especially in Christ - the living word.

This morning we are looking at this special revelation i.e. the word of God

All Scripture is God-breathed - God breathed. Scripture means writings but these are different from any other for they are God breathed writings, living!

When scripture is mentioned in the NT, it is referring to the OT writings.

However, as time went on the writings of the Apostles such as Peter, James

and John became known as scripture and were put alongside the OT in authority. For example just a little earlier Paul said in 1 Timothy 5: "For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," (OT) and "The worker deserves his wages."" (NT) 1Ti 5:18

Here you see the OT and NT together in one sentence and described as 'the Scripture' notice he says "the Scripture" singular. Or 'all scripture'

There is a unity, in the various books there is a unity, a unity which Jesus says cannot be broken. A unity between the Old and NT, as Peter reminds us "I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Saviour through your apostles." (2Pe 3:2)

And unity in the NT writings as well - as the Apostle Peter goes on to say "our dear brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, ...His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction." (2Pe 3:15-16)

Four words

✚ This Scripture is we are told **useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,** So here we have the authority of it, - and the sufficiency of it.

It is **useful for** or **profitable**, for what? Let us now look at these four things:

1. **teaching**, that is to inform the mind - that we may know something. This is doctrine, didactics. Here we learn the truths of God.

■ Here is the blue print, the plan, God's purpose in all its thoroughness

✚ The one who gave us reason - is the one who gives us revelation.

2. **rebuking**, then there is **rebuking, or reproof**, in other words providing the proof or proving something so you and I can straighten up our understanding on a subject. Being newly convinced of a truth I can rectify mistakes in my thinking.

■ R.A Lister, *Apprentice's job - the side bay for engine rectification*

■ Putting all the clocks at home on the same right time.

"putting things right" as the phrase goes something not to plan or drawing.

So to with my thinking, changing what I used to think, setting my mind straight. Do not be fixed in your views but change them as the light comes.

3. **Correcting** this is practical, it is moving onto the right course. Changing how I live in the light of this new understanding of things. Doing things differently now I know what it is. Heading in the right direction.

■ The rudder on a super tanker steers the huge ship round to a new direction (turning cir. 1.5m). Taxi (a 6d) Are you a Taxi or a tanker?

Pull yourself round - try to be like the taxi - not the tanker!

4. **training in righteousness,** training or instruction, as in education. Here is the ongoing nurturing of my life, how I live, the choices I make.

The cultivation of mind and morals. Here the full use of scripture with all its commands, examples, reproofs and warnings are brought to bear in the important task of training my body and soul. Here is the ongoing hard work of correcting mistakes, curbing my passions and making me like Jesus Chr.

And why all this? so that the man of God may be **thoroughly** x2 equipped for every good work." 2Ti 3:16,17 That is the man or woman of God, one who has the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth will use the word of truth to effect change.

✚ God's work is to be done in God's way.

We are told they are **useful** - so let's put them to use. The best way to show this is through examples, so let's use three examples to help us understand.

3 ex to bring it home: Praise to God, People of God, Giving to God 1 - Praise to God

What is the teaching on praise?, how do I need to straighten up my thinking on the subject? **where** do I need correcting in attitude or approach to the subject, how can I change so as to live righteously in this area?

Praise is opening my mouth in speaking God's worth out audibly. It is part of our corporate worship when we are together.

These are quick overviews: Praise is there 348 in the Bible, from beginning to end. Although you see it in the time of the patriarchs with Abraham's servant it starts really with the exodus. The moment they are rescued from slavery and sing the song of Moses there's praise, having the true God as their God - and he as his people - we see they speak out in praise.

The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. Ex 15:2

Moses says to God's newly rescued people **When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.** De 8:10

Again: **He is your praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.** De 10:21

Then there are the psalms which are full of praise and help us with the words if we don't have them already. So what of the NT

Peter says that Christians are **a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.** 1Pe 2:9

And now Christ has done everything on the cross what can we bring? **Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name.** Heb 13:15

So do you understand the need to open your mouth in praise? No? why not?

Is it because you don't know the Lord's grace in your life? Then it is to the cross you go. Go to Christ for Grace, the gift to the Repentant. GOSPEL

Or is it because you see faith as a private affair – as some see it?

How many Christians around the world live in countries where to open your mouth in public profession is likely to bring heavy persecution down on you

However, we are allowed to meet, we are allowed to speak, every Christian can speak out in praise to God, there's no law against it, but still some don't.

And note it is corporate, something we do together.....

The church at Corinth Paul said: *prayed* and *praised* in their corporate worship. Do you take part at KNBC? If not why not?

Is it because you are shy? Or never make the effort? Will you correct your thinking and change and bring it in line with the scripture?

David said **Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,** Ps89:15 he had learned x2 to acclaim God **"I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, as you know, O LORD. I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly."** Ps 40:9-10

Here is an area where the Scriptures should effect change. May Jesus never say to you as one of his people **was no-one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"** Lu 17:18

2 – The Holy People of God

The special nature of the people of God, the true Israel - and the true church.

After God made the nations of the world (Gen 10) and scattering those nations (Gen 11) we read God said to Abraham: **"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you";** Ge 12:2

After they had gone to Egypt and become slaves God wonderfully rescued them and set them free to be his people saying: **"Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a holy nation."** Ex 19:5,6

This nation, a holy nation was to be distinct: **For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.** Dt 7:6

A Holy people are a separated people. In Isaiah we read: **"Touch no unclean thing! Come out from it and be pure"** Isa 52:11 Ezekiel says the same.

Turn to Paul writing to the church at Corinth, a church easily seduced to be worldly in its thinking and its conduct: **"Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."**

2Co 6:17

And right at the end in Revelation in talking about the wickedness of the world John **heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins,** Re 18:4 - and adds a sober warning that to take on her ways is to share in her judgments.

Why is this? Peter tells the Christians that they are **a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God,** 1Pe 2:9

So there is a specialness about God's holy people.

- To the early church, One leader Cyprian teaches "that the believer ought not to live like the non-believers around them"
- Tertullian said the Christians were different in the area of: Sexual purity, Honesty in business, the value of all human life young and old men and women and the family, and to Non-violence.

So is there something that needs to be corrected in your thinking?

Do you have a low view of the church and not see how distinct it is to be compared to those around, those outside?

Do you like to include, be 'inclusive' and think "*all are in*"

✚ The church is for everyone, - but it is not everyone. x2

The way in is through a very narrow gate – and most don't make it.

Jesus draws the line, the cross draws the line. God makes promises, an agreement, a covenant to those inside that he doesn't to those outside

✚ His promises of blessing do not apply to everyone.

Do you say to those outside something like “don’t worry God is with you”

That destroys the Gospel, that is the Devil’s language.

We are one nation out of the nations – the body of Christ on earth.

Do not either have a low view of the specialness of your church family.

- There have been those with us in the past who say all the right things but whenever there is a clash between the call of their natural family and the church family the other social event or whatever it is - always comes first - and the church family a poor second.

✚ Lastly the area of giving

3 – Giving to God

The baseline truth is: **The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.**

Hence the principle of returning to God what is His as part of our worship.

It’s there right at the beginning with the offering of Abel who **brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering,** Ge 4:4

So when God gives us food or anything else we give the first portion back to him So God said to Moses: **"Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest.** Le 23:10

The first part, here’s the ‘God first’ principle **"Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God.** Ex 23:19

Can you see that as a sign of our gratitude to God we return to him the first part. It is a tangible expression of our worship and love for God.

✚ So giving is part of our worship to God

As with Abel God is pleased when he sees the loving attitude behind it. He sees our attitude. God who said his people were robbing him. How? By holding back, or only giving the left overs, He said **Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse,** Mal 3:10 and he would pour out his blessings so much so we could hardly cope! *God is so generous to me, how can I not be generous to Him?*

In the OT to support the priests a tithe or 10% was given. **"‘A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.** Le 27:30

But not only were there tithes but also offerings. *Tithes and offerings.* The offering for sin has been made by Christ on behalf of his people to buy us back from the slavery of sin and to bind us to himself. So what can we now bring? - a ‘thank you’ offering, in the OT it was known as the Fellowship offering. Given out of love - not compulsion.

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2Co 9:7

In other words we decide, not corporate policy **Each man**

Not like the tin shakers, are you caught out? Do you respond on the spur of the moment, just put something in to bring you some peace? No we decide who to and when to give. Not oh well I had better, and **not reluctantly**

Giving part of our regular act of Sunday worship **On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up,** 1 cor 16:2 **saving it up**

Thought through, planned and prayed over = means it is acceptable to God

- No last minute rummaging around finding change = No gift at all

Have you saved up the Sunday offerings? Have you put it aside week by week? As a reflection of your love to the Lord?

How is it going with the good work of giving?

Let’s pull all this together

The point of these three examples is to see how the scripture should effect me, modify my attitude, and spur me to **every good work.**

Do you read the bible? Let the truth of it soak in, what does it mean for you? Do you see the truth of it? consider what God is saying, think about it, meditate on it. Remember it, ask the Lord **“Prayer in secret brings power in public”** *Be transformed by the renewing of your mind!*

What do you need to change in your thinking? Like the tanker or the taxi let His word turn you around, let it do its work - **like yeast in the dough working all the way through** let it work its way into how you are.

- Attack my pride, better listener, doing more ironing at home, learn patience concern to visit local people etc.

God’s grace is sufficient that when we come desiring Holiness by His Spirit God’s word effect change in us that is pleasing to Him.

so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2Ti 3:16,17 ___END