

Reconnect: The Bible

Good morning church, and welcome again to church at the beach. So glad that we can gather together here at the beach, and Happy Mothers' Day to each of the mothers in the room. For the men and kids today – make sure you let mom know how special she is to you. Not just today though but every day.

Today we are continuing this study that we've been in since Easter called Reconnect: Back to the Basics. And just as a reminder for you – the basics that we've covered so far are

- The Gospel
- Generosity
- Prayer
- The Great Commission
- Community

Kids...can you guess what the last 'Basic' is that we're going to cover? What are we still missing? Right, the Bible. Just like we don't ever move past some of the other "basics" that we've talked about – we don't ever stop studying, understanding, and applying what this book says. All of it. Every word of it. Because the Bible reveals to us who God is, His very character, His purpose in the world; the person work and ways of Jesus. And it's no coincidence that we are bookending this Reconnect series with the gospel and the Bible.

Turn with me, if you have a Bible or device, turn with me to 2 Timothy 3:10-17

READ 2 Timothy 3:10-17

¹⁰ But you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance, ¹¹ along with the persecutions and sufferings that came to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured—and yet the Lord rescued me from them all. ¹² In fact, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³ Evil people and impostors will become worse, deceiving and being deceived.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you, ¹⁵ and you know that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God^[a] and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

PRAY

BACKGROUND

So 2 Timothy – for those of you that know me, you know I like nicknames. In fact I gave some brand new nicknames to my daughter Grace and one of her friends just this week. I love nicknames. We call Timothy T-Bone. And by we, I really mean me.

Paul's writing to this young pastor, T-Bone, his sone in the faith, and this is his 2nd letter. These are some of the last words that the Apostle Paul ever wrote. He's in prison, knows he's going to get martyred, but still has this incredible concern for the churches and the people that he had spent decades serving.

This 2nd letter that Paul writes to T-Bone, has a different ring to it that the first one. The first letter that he wrote, 1st Timothy (which we studied for a while at RCM), had a slightly different ring to it. The first one – reads almost like a practical pastoring syllabus that you'd give to a seminary student preparing for ministry. The 2nd one though, reads like a letter from a father to son; to a son that is tired, worn out, and might be ready just to give up. And Paul's writing him, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit – to finish the work God's called him to. And near the end of this letter, Paul calls T-Bone, and every Christian by extension – to cling to the Word, to trust the Word, to center everything about your life around this book, to treasure this book, to see the beauty of this book, and to follow it like a soldier.

These specific verses here, Paul's contrasting a group of false teachers with Timothy's ministry.

- They are corrupt, but you
- They deceive, but you
- They are worthless but you
- They are fools, but you

BUT YOU...

Re-Read V10-11

- Followed my example
 - Teaching
 - Conduct
 - Purpose
 - Faith
 - Patience
 - Love
 - Endurance
- Paul lived a life worth imitating. And when T-Bone was struggling to hang on, to finish the work that the Lord had called him to, Paul called T-Bone to follow his example.
 - I wonder – are you living a life worth imitating?
 - Parents – If your kids follow your example (teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance) – would they live a life that brings glory to God?
 - Grandparents...
 - Kids...if other kids at your school followed your example

- Hear me – this isn't "try really hard to be patient". No thanks. What this is, is allow the grace of God, the beauty of the Gospel, the greatness of Jesus to capture every square inch of our lives, minds and heart. To center every thing in our lives around this book, and the one to whom this book reveals (JESUS). And LIVE IT! Allow the Holy Spirit to lead us through this book, to live in a way that brings glory and honor and praise to King Jesus.

TROUBLES ARE ON THE WAY...

Re-Read V12-13

V12 – All really means ALL! If you are a Christian, and I don't presume that all of us here today are, but as a Christian → your desire, your goal, your CHIEF END is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

- To live a life that points others to the greatness of the Gospel.
- To live a Godly life
- To honor King Jesus in every situation, relationship, encounter, and thought
- HOW???

 - By allowing this book, the words of this book, the Savior that this book reveals to reach down deep into our souls.
 - To allow the words of this book to change us, to correct us, to affirm us

- BUT see the warning. If you desire to live a Godly life you will be persecuted.
 - People may call you closed minded
 - People may call you ignorant
 - You could lose a job, you could lose a friend, you could lose a promotion
 - The relative lack of persecution in America, is an anomaly in the history of God's people. Old and New Testament, and all of church history – God's people have experienced immense persecution.
 - And it's interesting if you hear the testimonies or read the testimonies from the persecuted church – they will almost certainly say that God uses their persecution to advance His purposes in the world.

BUT YOU...CONTINUE

Re-Read V14-15

The Word of God isn't something we master, it's something we continue in. We start, and won't ever stop until we breathe our last breath. We continue in it. As the Holy Spirit moves us, pushes us deeper, as we keep growing our faith in the One this book points us to. We continue. We don't ever stop. We continue.

Trusting that this book is enough. This book is powerful. It is able to give you wisdom for salvation through Jesus Christ. It's interesting to me that the longest chapter in the entire Bible is Psalm 119. You know what the topic of Psalm 119 is? The beauty and greatness of the Scriptures.

- You have given me hope through it

- You give me life in it
- Your decrees are wondrous
- Your word is completely pure
- Your commands make me wiser

TRUST THE BOOK...

Re-Read V16-17

Lastly, Paul would encourage T-bone, and you and me, to simply trust the book.

- Inspired – Literally breathed out by God. Every word.
- Profitable – Intended to be productive in the life of the Christian, the household of believers, and the larger family of the local church.
 - Teaching, Rebuking, Correcting, Training in righteousness
- If you are a Christian – you have tasted God’s love by turning from your sin and turning to Jesus – we are to devour this book as we seek to live lives that bring glory and honor to Jesus’ name.
- God speaks through this book. The Holy Spirit speaks through this book. We will never hear from God until and unless we immerse ourselves in this book. We must see its profitability for us today.

So that...the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- The implication here is the only way we can be complete and equipped is through the teaching of the book.
- The only way you and I will ever be even remotely ready for the Good Work that God is calling us to, is to immerse ourselves in the pages of this book!
- And the opposite is true, apart from the book we remain incomplete and unequipped.

Sometimes, I’m convinced, that while we know the right answer, and we’d answer rightly...often our lives (or the way we actually live) doesn’t match what we actually say we believe or we say we know. There’s a breakdown between what we know and how we live.

See, it’s one thing to say “the Bible is God’s Word. That God has chosen to reveal himself through this book. That God speaks through the pages of this book.” And then set it aside between Sundays, not really giving it much thought until the preaching time at church if/when we choose to worship with the church the following Sunday.

BUT...I want to challenge each of you this morning. From the kids to the oldest of our senior adults. If you know how to read, I want to challenge you.

We’ve taken a portion of a reading plan from a ministry up in Tennessee called Replicate Ministries. And we’ve taken a portion of it, and my challenge to each of us is to devote

ourselves to reading the Word of God together as a church. So for next week, there's a handful of chapters to read for next week. And if possible, read with a pen in you hand. A couple of things to look out fo as you read:

- What does this teach me about God
- What does this teach me about myself
- Is there a command to follow
- Is there a sin to avoid
- How does this point me to my need for Jesus

We'll throw this up on our website as well, and through the email that I've started sending out each week.

Then, twice throughout the week, Matt Groom or I will post a Facebook video – short devotional – about one of the chapters. Then, when we gather back together the following Sunday, the sermon will be centered around one of the Scriptures that we all have read. So this will be a total immersion into the Scriptures together, where we're asking every person to read and think through the