

We Believe
All Scripture is Inspired By God
2 Timothy 3:16-17

“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.”

Today we start a brand new series called “We Believe.” What we believe and why we believe it defines us morally as an individual and as a nation. The word believe means “to except that something is true especially without proof.” What we believe is deeply personal and if we believe it strongly enough we will defend it to the end. For the last several weeks I took you through our core values in the sermon series called “This Is us.” Core values are not born out of a good idea but rather a strong belief in what we believe is truth and once our core beliefs are established, our core values follow suit. This is why it’s so important to have right beliefs. Today begins the journey of putting into focus what we believe. Are you ready?

We believe all Scripture is inspired by God.

- Listen again in Paul’s letter to Timothy. ***“All Scripture is God breathed.”*** When you say the word scripture or Bible it gets a lot of different reactions from a lot of different people all over the world. Everyone has an opinion and this is why it’s important to understand the Why of your beliefs.
- The Webster dictionary defines the word “unique” in this way. “One and only, single, sole. Different from all others, having no like or equal.” So based on that definition let’s look at how unique the Bible actually is.
 1. The Bible is the only book that was written over about a 1500-year span.
 2. It was written by more than 40 authors from every walk of life, including kings, military leaders, peasants, philosophers, fisherman, tax collectors, poets, musicians, statesman, scholars, and Shepard’s. For example: Moses was a political leader and judge. David was a king, poet, musician, shepherd, and warrior. Amos was a herdsman, Joshua, a military general, Nehemiah, A cupbearer to a pagan king, Luke was a physician and a historian, Peter was a fisherman, Matthew was a tax collector, and Paul was a rabbi.

3. It was written in different places: by Moses in the wilderness, Jeremiah in the dungeon, Paul inside prison walls, Luke while traveling, and John while in exile on the island of Patmos.
 4. The Bible was also written on three different continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe.
Bible was written in three different languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek.
 5. The Bible addresses hundreds of controversial subjects such as: marriage, divorce and remarriage, homosexuality, adultery, obedience to authority, truth telling and lying, character development, parenting, the nature and revelation of God. Yet from Genesis through revelation these writers address them with an amazing degree of harmony.
- To say the least, the Bible is a very unique book, and I've only begun to scratch the surface of that uniqueness. But being unique alone does not constitute this holy book as being the word of God. We must go deeper than that.
 - When you are traveling down the road and you see lights behind you flashing red and blue we pull over to the side of the road because we know that we have been speeding. We pull over not because we want to but because we recognize the authority that those lights represent. The word of God carries the same authority to those who are willing to read it's pages and submit to its authority.
 - Authority is important when creating the rule of law and order. The rule of law is only as good as the authority giver. There are three basic kinds of religious authority: **(1) human reason (2) the church (3) Gods Word.**
 - Let's look at human reason. Human reason has produced an amazing array of breathtaking achievements, particularly in The scientific fields. We need human reason to get through our day and handle our affairs in a logical fashion. It's called rationality. It's not a send a function on this level. But we must be careful to not drift into A slippery slope called rationalism. Rationalism is the belief that the highest authority is human reason and it also believes that human genius will unlock all the secrets of the universe and lead to perfect life, peace, health, wealth, and continuing prosperity. In other words, everything rises and falls with human reasoning.
 - Actually, those who take rationalism as their final authority usually end up making their own reason their final authority.

- The second common belief is that the church is the ultimate authority. Some people believe that Christ gave his authority to Peter and that Peter laid hands on the bishops that he ordained, giving them authority to lay hands on their successors and so on. On this ground, certain churches hold themselves higher as the only authorized representatives of Christ, and their leaders are supposed to have special authority to judge truth. This line of thinking gives the church a special kind of priority over the Bible.
- The truth of the matter is, after his resurrection, Christ and the Holy Spirit brought the church into being. Then, the Holy Spirit inspired the writers who gave us the New Testament books. All of our hearts yearn and thirst for an authority higher than an earthly church organization.
- The third alternative is to trust implicitly in the authority of the Word of God. Now, just as Christ is the living word, so the Bible is the written word. In the absence of the personal presence of Jesus from the time of his ascension until his second coming, the Bible is the authoritative speaking of God, which the Holy Spirit is pleased to use to direct people to Christ.
- ***Romans 10: 8 “The Word is near; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: that if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, anyone who trust in him will never be put to shame. For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile. The same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”***
- The apostle Paul is saying that without proclaiming the good news of the Bible people do not find their way to God. The Bible is in fact our roadmap leading us to the love of our heavenly father. **Without the word of God, we are only chasing our tails, relying upon limited human reasoning and asking the church to fight our battles for us.**
- I thank God Almighty for the infallible Word of God that is incapable of error and therefore not capable of misleading, deceiving, or disappointing us.
- I beg of you today as your pastor and fellow believer to saturate yourself with this God breathed, Holy Spirit empowered, living and active Word of

God. Let it be your food that gives you strength, let it be the water that causes you never to thirst again and let it be the hope of your life and the counsel of your life. From this day forward we believe.