

The Power of the Word

2 Timothy 3:10-4:5

Main Idea

God's word is the authority and life of the church.

Overview

The Word is the Authority of the Church

- Hebrews 1:1-4 – God speaks through his Living Word Jesus, and we see Jesus in the written Word, the Bible
- 2 Timothy 3:14-17 – God's word originates with God and therefore has the authority of God

The Word is the Life of the Church

- Romans 10:17 – Faith, which is true life, comes from hearing God's word
- John 1:1-4; 17:17 – Conformity to the image of Jesus, which is life, comes from the word
- See also Genesis 1 (God's word creates life) and Ezekiel 37 (God's word gives life to dry bones)

The Word Should be Preached to the Church

- 2 Timothy 4:1-5 – If the word is the authority and life of the church, it therefore must be preached to the church

The Word Should be Listened To & Obeyed

- Matthew 7:24-27 – Only when we obey the word have we truly listened to the word
- Romans 12:9-21 – This gives a picture of what it looks like to obey the word of God in the community of God, the church

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Think about the many ways we use words every day. Why are words necessary in our daily lives?*

1. Read Hebrews 1.1-4 & 2 Timothy 3.14-17. How did God used to speak? How does He speak now? Describe the nature of Scripture.
2. Review the ways that Christ understood the Scriptures as authoritative in the Sermon on the Mount or any other teaching from the Bible.
3. If Scripture is authoritative for the church share some things that are then NOT authoritative. (Note: not saying they are unnecessary)
4. Read Romans 10:14-17, John 1:1-4, John 17:17. How does life come to the church? Reference the many ways God used His Word to give life and sustenance to His people.
5. In what ways has the Word given you life. (This may be a good opportunity to hear testimonies from the group or hear how the Word changed/encouraged a more healthy lifestyle/perspective)
6. Read 2 Tim. 4.1-5. Note the flow from the Scriptures as God breathed to this passage and how Paul amps up what he is about to say and then consider the importance of preaching the Word in the life of the church. In what ways has the preaching ministry of the church served to grow Restoration Church? You individually? The lost?
7. Why would we say preaching the Word is foundational to the health of a church?
8. How can you grow as a listener of the word preached and taught?

9. Read Romans 12.9-21. How are these things built on a community of believers listening and obeying the word preached?
10. How is the Word shaping you throughout the week? How are you encouraging others in your life with the Word? (Consider both lost and saved)

Accountability Question: *In what ways have you been neglecting the word through the corporate preaching or individual investment?*

In what ways have you grown in your understanding of the Word?