

Sermon Text Discussion 10/15/2017

II Timothy 3:14 – 17: Scripture Alone (Drew Hunter)

Overview

This month marks the 500 year anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation; the nailing by Luther of his 95 theses statements to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg. Gospel doctrine had been blurred by the leaders of the Church and men such as Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, and Tyndale were working to recover the true gospel message that God accepts us by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

Sola Scriptura, or Scripture Alone, was the reformers means of noting the authoritative position of God's written Word, the Bible. Four insights to consider as we study the importance to Scripture are:

- The Centrality of Scripture
- The Nature of Scripture
- The Heart of Scripture
- The Value of Scripture

Quotations

"Gospel doctrine creates a gospel culture. A doctrine of grace creates a culture of grace." Ray Ortlund, Jr.

"I defy the pope and all his laws. And if God spares my life, before many years pass, I will cause a boy that drives a plough to know more of the Scriptures than you do." William Tyndale

"Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason, I do not accept the authority of popes and council for they have contradicted each other. My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen." Martin Luther

Understanding & Application

- 1) William Tyndale was put to death for his belief in the centrality of Scripture. Who comes to mind as someone willingly defending the Bible in our culture today? What actions do/should people see in you of the importance you put on Scripture?
- 2) Read II Timothy 3:15. Paul only had the Old Testament at the time yet seems to indicate that it, the Old Testament, points to salvation that comes through Christ Jesus. How do you explain this?
- 3) What might we be tempted to put on 'equal footing' with the Bible as it relates to authority? Can you give an example when you trusted another 'authority' instead of trusting God's Word?
- 4) How does believing 'Scripture Alone' make us countercultural? What specific cultural examples and personal experiences can you share? Do you think standing on the authority of Scripture will become more or less countercultural in coming years?
- 5) What are practical steps you can take to elevate the importance of Scripture in the following areas:
 - a. Your personal quiet time
 - b. With those close to us
 - c. As you mentor and disciple others
 - d. At home
 - e. In the workplace