



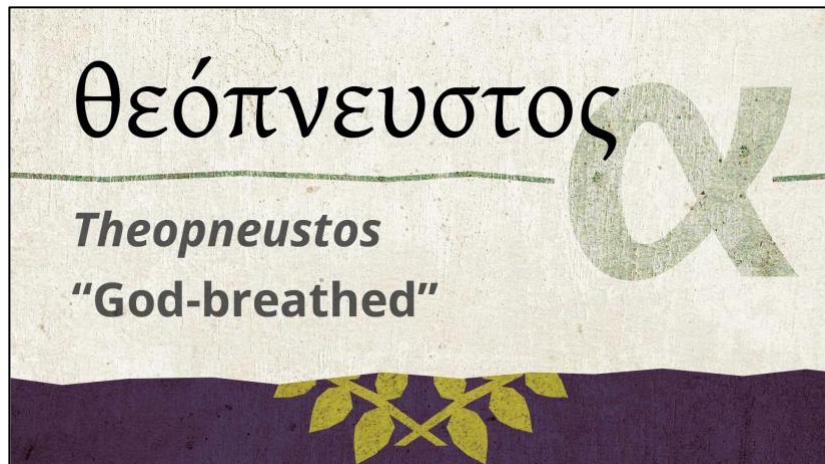
Northland Reformed

Monthly

Vol. 10 – October 2018

The Life-Changing Power of God’s Word – Part 2

Many books have been written and will continue to be written, so much so that Solomon tells us “Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh” (Ecclesiastes 12:12). But the Bible is different, it is unique. We may read other books, but the Bible is the



only book that reads us. The Bible tells us who God is and who we are in relation to him. The Bible reveals the secrets of our heart and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, changes us from the inside out. This is why Paul testifies that “the Holy Scriptures are able to make you wise for salvation” (2 Timothy 3:15).

In last month’s article we discovered that the Bible is given to us as means of making us “complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:17). This month we will discover why and how the Bible is able to do this great work in us. We will see that the Bible is able to change us because it is God’s powerful Word to us and that the Bible does change us because it is God’s profitable Word for us. As you think about these truths, it is my hope that you will come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of this powerful gift God has given you in his Word and seek to use it with profit in your life.

First, we must understand that the Bible is able to change us because it is *God’s powerful Word to us*. Although the Bible was physically written by men, it is not the word of man. Peter tells us that the authors of Scripture were “moved by the Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21) when they wrote. That is, they were moved by the power of the Holy

Spirit so that their experience, personality and writing style were prepared by God and used by him to communicate his message. The Bible, therefore, is “given by inspiration of God” (2 Timothy 3:16). The phrase “given by inspiration of God” is a translation of the Greek word *theopneustos*, which is a combination of two words, “God” (*theos*) and “to breath out” (*pneustos*). When you speak, air from your lungs is required to move your vocal cords and produce sound which is formed into words by your mouth. So, we might say that 2 Timothy 3:16 is teaching that every word in the Bible is directly from the mouth of God himself. To hear what the Bible says is to hear God as if the words were audibly spoken by him, that is, to literally hear God’s voice. This is why we call the Bible the “Holy Scriptures,” because the Bible is the Word “breathed out” by the Holy God.

Not only was God’s word inspired by the Holy Spirit at the time of writing, but it is also empowered by the Holy Spirit every time it is read privately and especially when it is preached publicly. God gives us a promise that his Word will never be without the power of his Holy Spirit, ensuring the effectual accomplishment of his purposes (Isaiah 55:11). In other words, God’s Word has power simply because it is God’s Word, and God is all-powerful.

Second, we must understand that the Bible does change us because it is *God’s profitable Word for us*. In the world of business, an investment is profitable when it makes a positive return on our money. However, some investments fail to provide the promised returns. But God’s Word never fails to return on our investment of reading and study. There is nothing more profitable that you can do in this life than study and meditate upon the Word of God!

We are told that the Bible is “profitable” and is all that we need to be “complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Now, this does not mean that the Bible is a textbook which covers all areas of life. You will not find in the Bible a blueprint for building a home, fixing a car, or running a farm. The Bible doesn’t teach algebra, geometry, or a hundred-and-one other disciplines. But the Bible is an entirely adequate textbook for living in a way that is pleasing to God, which is what is truly important in this life.

The Bible is, first and foremost, profitable because it points us to a person, our Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible is a history book which records the work of God’s redemption, from creation and the death of man because of sin, to the triumph over death by Christ’s payment for sin on the cross, to the final destruction of sin and death at Christ’s second coming. The Bible is focused on one main theme, the rescue

that God provides to his people from the misery and sin of this life. And this all comes through one person, the God-man, Jesus Christ. Thus, John the Apostle tells us that the Scriptures “are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:31).

However, while it is true that the Bible is history, it is not simply a history book. The Bible is a book that continues to shape history in the lives of individual men and women today. The Holy Spirit who brought us to faith in Christ through the Word of God is the same Holy Spirit who makes us faithful to Christ by that Word. The Bible points us to the powerful salvation of our King, but also tells us how to live as the profitable servants of our King. The Bible is written for our instruction and our imitation. We see this truth demonstrated by the Apostle Paul who shows that the Scriptures are “written for our learning” (Romans 15:4) and serve “as examples...written for our admonition.” (1 Corinthians 10:11). Everything in the Bible is given to us for our good—there is no useless material in the Bible.

The Bible is both *powerful* and *profitable* because it is God’s Word, inspired and empowered to work mightily in all that he sends it to do. Thus, for a Christian, the Bible will, without question, change the way you think, talk, and act. The Bible will change the way you live as a husband or wife, parent or child, employer or employee, teacher or student. But the Bible will not change you spiritually if you never study it, any more than a set of weights will change you physically if they are collecting dust in the garage. As Jay Adams rightly points out, “Our problem is not that we do not have what we need in the Bible, but that we do not have enough of the Bible in us, which is what we need!”

Therefore, take some time to evaluate your confidence in and use of the Word of God. In doing so, ask yourself these questions:

Do you have confidence in the power of God’s Word to change you?

Do you show that confidence in the power of God’s Word by regularly sitting under biblical preaching, regularly reading the Bible and seeking to apply what you have learned to every aspect of your life?

Rev. Christopher Campbell

Congregational News

Congratulations Ernie Termorshuizen

Ernie Termorshuizen has served twenty years as a firefighter on the Saint Joseph Fire Department. This month he was honored with a time of celebration as he leaves the department to pursue full-time work at TCD parts. Ernie expressed his thankfulness for the opportunity to be home more often with his family, a sentiment that his family shares as well!



Please take time to thank Ernie for his service to the community and to praise God that he was kept safe during his many years of dangerous work. Pray also for him and his family as they transition to this new stage of life.



October Schedule

REGULAR MEETINGS

- Sunday Worship | October 7, 14, 21, 28 | 9:30AM & 5:00PM
- Prayer Meeting | October 17 | 6:15PM | A meal will be served at 6:15 followed by prayer at 7PM
- Men's Morning Fellowship @ Cracker Barrell Tiffany Springs | October 13, 27 | 7:00AM
- Friday Night Fellowship | October 12, 26 | 6:30PM | We will meet for a meal and lesson

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Consistory Meeting | October 23 | 6:30PM
- KCARC Joint Service | October 28 | 6:00PM | Andrew Zeller (President of Sangre De Cristo Seminary in Colorado) will be preaching. Service will be held at Redeemer PCA – 9333 W 159th Street, Overland Park, KS 66221.



Scripture Memorization

“Your word I have hidden in my heart,
That I might not sin against You.” – Psalm 119:11

October 7	Psalm 32:8-9
October 14	Proverbs 31:30
October 21	Matthew 6:19-21
October 28	1 Corinthians 10:31