

The Ingredients: Theological Formation - 2 Timothy 3:10-17
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

The greatest possible shame for our lives would be to spend our lives with sincere and passionate beliefs in our God only to discover at the end of life that the God we claimed to worship was not the true and living God, a god who could not save us in the end, to discover we believe in a false and non-existent god. Yet, this is the life path for myriads of people on this blue ball. To make it worse, many of them claim some kind of belief in Jesus, yet have detached their beliefs from the Jesus revealed in Scripture. Theology really does matter, as does our theological formation. To be a disciple is to become a person who increasingly loves God with all of his or her heart, mind, soul, and strength. So catch this, it is actually impossible to love God with our whole heart if we are not also working to love God with our mind. In other words, we need to be a student of God, growing in our understanding of who He is, His nature, and His purpose and work in creation.

Now, some of us are theology nerds, and I applaud that. God has blessed His church with people who love theological depth and precision. But I do hear from time to time about people (none and Genesis mind you) declaring that theology is boring, that they just want practical life application teaching. But here is the problem. It is entirely possible to “practical teaching” people right to the doors of hell. We were created to know God, the True God, in all His glory and beauty. Furthermore, the Scriptures are clear that the only way to actually know the True and Living God is through the person of Jesus Christ. To love God with our minds is the pursuit of the knowledge of God, the work of Jesus, and the Gospel. Sincerity and intensity of belief is meaningless if we do not worship the God who has revealed Himself. Theology truly does matter in our discipleship journey. This also means that theological formation is important in the job Christ has given our church as we make disciples.

Yet, the goal is not just information. It is true that many people doing deep theological study end up being Christian knobs, arrogant self-righteous people who think they are smarter than anyone else. But believe me, if we become proud for our theology then we aren’t doing theology correctly. True theological study has a simple goal, to know God. We need to think of knowing God in two dimensions. First, we need to gain proper knowledge of God. The key spiritual danger embedded in us as a result of the Fall is the tendency to shape God to fit my desires and ideas. We create a god in our own image. We have to be reminded that our ideas of God are not what makes God God. So we must turn to the Scriptures while gaining some help from church history to make sure our knowledge of God is correct. But this leads us to the second dimension of “knowing” and that is the knowing of relationship. Having knowledge about God is not sufficient if we are not pursuing a deepening relationship with Him. God has invited us to this sort of relationship. The transcendent and holy God has brought Himself close so that we may truly know Him, intimately while we also stand in awe of Him. True theology should always lead to doxology (worship) and adoration.

In our text this week the Apostle Paul is writing to his protégée in the faith, a young pastor named Timothy. Timothy is serving as the teaching Elder for the church in Ephesus, and church Paul planted. Like all Christians in all times, there are crazy ideas about God and cultural pressures on the church that put pressure on the beliefs held by the church. In the midst of this, Paul reminds Timothy of his discipleship, and how from the time of his birth his mother and grandmother invested the Scriptures and the true faith into his life. Then Paul, the great theologian took this young man under his wing to mentor and disciple Timothy in ministry. Paul built on the foundation laid by his mom and grandma teaching Timothy the Scriptures and reminding Him that knowledge of God will not come from the

cultural beliefs but from the Bible, God's inspired and breathed out Word. Timothy must continue in His pursuit of God by continuing to grow in His understanding of the Bible. If we were to keep reading into chapter 4 we would see why Paul is giving this challenge. Like all people, the Ephesians are prone to find teachers and preachers who will tell them what they want to hear, validate their lifestyle choices, and proclaim a god that gives them what they want. Into this space Timothy is to preach the Word, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus as the only hope, while rebuking false teachings and lifestyles clearly. Timothy is to preach theology, and call the Ephesian church to true belief in God so that they can know Him. Theology matters, and this theology is what will keep this and all churches from drifting. But it is also this theological formation that will leave them with their jaws dropped in worshipful awe of their God and His Son Jesus, who alone can save.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Psalm 105	Psalm 106	Psalm 107	Psalm 108	Psalm 109	Psalm 110	Psalm 111

Reading from this past week: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Luke 9:35-10:8

Family Worship

Song - *Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

<https://youtu.be/h-xQDm-KZw8?si=EyzCgIpToxe5i0AZ>

Gospel Project

Unit: The Church is Opposed

Story: Peter learned that Jesus is for all

Big Picture Question: What is the church?

Answer: The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

Scripture: Acts 10

New City Catechism

Question 16: What is sin?

Answer: Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, not being or doing what he requires in his law.

Verse: 1 John 3:4

Scripture

2 Timothy 3:10-17

- What are two words that come to mind when you think about the study of theology?
- What dangers exist for us as disciples and for Jesus' church if we ignore theological study and precision?
- What are some of the ways our church works to invest theological truths revealed in Scripture for our discipleship? What about for children and youth?
- What are some steps you can take to pursue loving God with all your mind? If you are a parent, what are some steps you can take to invest the Scriptures and theology into the minds of your kids?

Prayer

*Pray that God would give us a passion for true theology and that our study of theology would always lead to worship.

*Pray for the Genesis Marriage Retreat this weekend.