



Sermon, Sunday October 31, 2021

“Blessed is the Man”

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 3:15-17 ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Introduction: The Purpose of the Bible

In January 2011 I came to study at GTU in Berkeley, California after serving as an education pastor at a large church in Seoul, South Korea. GTU is a very well-respected school for spirituality-related study. It is also a school with a lot of interest in social justice issues and various programs related to LGBTQ.

In general, most South Korean seminaries have a conservative leaning, so studying at the progressive GTU helped me achieve academic balance. However, some of the American friends I met at GTU entered the seminary without ever reading the entire Bible, and there were others who came to the seminary not for pastoral motives, but to have an interest in the study of theology and to acquire humanities education. At the time, I had the experience of being shocked by the appearance of some of these seminary students.

In general, there may be differences in the interpretation and application of the Bible depending on the region, denomination, and theological color in which we live. Nevertheless, if we follow the tradition of the Reformation as Protestants and the religious legacy of Pastor John Wesley as Methodists, we cannot deny the position, value, and usefulness of the Bible as the Word of God.

During my pastoral ministry, I have had the experience of meeting people who do not know exactly what the purpose of writing the Bible is. I also see people who interpret the Bible according to their convenience regardless of God's will and beliefs. Furthermore, I have met people who attend church regularly but are not interested in reading, meditating, or studying the Bible. However, if we want to acknowledge and follow Jesus as our Savior, we must not neglect to read, meditate on, and study God's Word, the Bible. Because the best way for us to understand and realize God, who is invisible to our eyes, is in the Bible. That is why we call the Bible the revealed Word of God.

Today's text presents two reasons why we need to know the Bible. First, to know Jesus Christ and gain the salvation He has given us. (v.15) Second, through the growth of faith, we are equipped with the necessary things to do that the Lord wants us to do. (v.17)

Through today's text, let's look at the benefits of the Bible to us and what our attitude toward the Lord's Word should be.

Body: The Bible's Benefits to Us and Our Attitude toward the Lord's Word

1. The Value and Benefit of the Bible

Dear brothers and sisters, where do the values and benefits of the Bible come from? **2 Timothy 3:16** says, **“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”**



These verses clearly testify that all Scripture is inspired by God and is revealed by God to us. It also talks about four benefits the Bible gives us. So let's look at the four benefits the Bible gives us.

First, the Bible teaches us lessons. The teachings of the Bible do not mean mere worldly wisdom. The lessons of the Bible are lessons that only the Lord who created the heavens and the earth can give to its creatures. The best lesson from the Bible is that God gave His only begotten Son Jesus for us, and he grants salvation to those who believe in the name of Jesus.

Second, the Bible allows us to turn our wrongdoings through reproof. The Bible is grounded in truth and encourages us to reflect, repent, and convert. It also shows us how to live as God's holy people, not to live according to the lusts of the flesh. So, Jesus rebuked the devil, saying do not test God with the word, serve God only, as man cannot live by only bread.

Third, the Bible is useful for correcting us. There are many prophets sent by God into the world through the Bible. God wants His people to repent and be healed through them. And God uses those who have repented and been healed to accomplish His will.

Finally, the Bible contains useful information for training in righteousness. Righteousness here does not mean simple moral righteousness, but means living a life worthy of God as a Christian. In other words, it tells us what a life like a child of God is, a life that God is pleased with.

The Lord builds us all through the words of the Bible. Therefore, through the Bible, which is the word of revelation, human beings have wisdom for salvation, grow into people worthy of God's will, and fully perform good works that are pleasing to God. **What, then, should be our attitude toward the Bible?**

2. Our attitude toward the Bible

1) We must always strive to deliver the teachings of the Bible.

2 Timothy 4:2 says, “**Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.**” We should not hesitate to preach the teachings of the Bible at any time. So, the Apostle Paul preached the word of the Bible even in prison, and Jesus also testified of the word of God by being crucified. Therefore, we should be able to always strive to deliver what the Bible teaches us, too.

2) We must wait patiently for the fruits of the Bible to deliver them.

Our second attitude toward the Bible is to be patient. Even if there is no fruit right away, even if the fruit does not appear right in front of my eyes, do not give up and we should continue to preach the word of God.

3) We must deal wisely with the false teachings about the Bible.

Third, our attitude toward the Word of the Bible must be able to warn against false teachings about the Bible and to encourage those who are the right teachings about the Bible. Also, we must warn those who teach false teachings about the Bible. Furthermore, we must teach and help those who receive the wrong teachings to understand the Word.

4) Finally, we have to keep doing these things.

Look at 2 Timothy 4:3-4. “**For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.**”

As Christians, we must do our best for those who turn away from the truth because of the trials and difficulties that come from others.



Conclusion: Blessed Is the Man

Now let's summarize today's sermon. Psalm chapter 1 is the introduction to the entire book of Psalm. Also, Psalm chapter 1 clearly tells who the blessed are. The blessing of health, the blessing of wealth, and the blessing of our children are important to us, but the greatest blessing is to draw close to the Lord's Word and to read and meditate on the Lord's Word day and night.

We live in an age where material civilization is too advanced. Also, the Christian faith has become so accustomed to us that we often do not understand the value of the words of the Bible.

As you know, people are generous with their money, time, and passion for things they like or care about. **What does it mean to you, dear brothers and sisters, to read and meditate on the word of the Lord?**

The Bible, the word of the Lord, clearly testifies to us who Jesus is.

The Bible, the word of the Lord, testifies what Jesus accomplished when he came into the world.

The Bible, the word of the Lord, guides us on the path to eternal life.

The Bible, the Word of the Lord, guides us to live an abundant life in obedience to the Lord's will. Also, the Bible, the word of the Lord, guides us to live a life of power.

My dear brothers and sisters! Although the times we live in change, technology advances, customs, morals, and norms change, the word of the Lord does not change. The word of the Lord always gives people an abundant life. I hope that all of us will become the blessed people that the Bible testifies.

