

Pastor's Ponderings

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"The Word of God: Inerrant, Infallible, Inspired"

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"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

"Work hard so God can approve you. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT)

A familiar bumper sticker of some 15 - 20 years ago went like this: **God said it. I believe it. That settles it!** A good friend of mine took issue with that bumper sticker in one of his sermons. Tim said, "The bumper sticker is OK the way it is, but it is truer if we leave the middle part out." Then he paused to let what he said sink in for a few seconds and repeated, "Just leave the middle out if you really want to get it right."

The bumper sticker would then read: **God said it. That settles it!** Tim went on to explain, "Whether or not you believe God's Word to be truth is irrelevant...It is still God's Word and it is still truth whether you choose to believe it or not."

I thank God for those words that day in that sermon. They have served as an anchor for my study, teaching, and preaching of scripture ever since. There is no mixture of error or fault in God's Word. It is entirely inspired of, by, and through the Holy Spirit of God. God's Word says, "...it is impossible for God to lie..." Hebrews 6:18 (NASB). God's Word is truth.

It seems like it is becoming more and more fashionable, by some, to challenge the authority and validity of God's Word. Definitely not all, but many scholars of all

disciplines distort, refute, and even deny the authority and validity of God's Word. We shouldn't be too surprised. Paul warned the church at Colosse almost 2000 years ago, "*Don't let anyone lead you astray with empty philosophy and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the evil powers of this world, and not from Christ.*" Col. 2:8 (NLT). Paul knew then and we should know now that all kinds of people, from all walks of life, with all kinds of worldly credentials, will challenge God's Word. Just remember, God's Word is truth.

It is vitally important to have complete faith in the accuracy and inspiration of God's Word. Without total trust in God's Word you and I wouldn't be able to trust the truth of the Gospel message. The truth is Christ died for us. God raised him from the dead. He is alive. God's Word is truth.

You may run across some verse in God's Word that may seem confusing. It may seem hard to understand. It may even seem harder to apply to your life, especially in a world and culture so far from really appreciating the Word of God for what it is; God's letter of love to you. God's Word is the self revelation of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer (God) to the created, lost, and reliant (you and me). God's Word is truth.

Whether you want to hear it or not, admit it or not, believe it or not, God's Word is truth. When you don't agree with God's Word, it is not the Word that is in error. Hebrews 4:12 says, "*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*" (KJV). God knows what's going on in the hearts and minds of people. God's Word has power to convince and convict. God's Word is truth.

God's Word is inerrant, infallible, and inspired. Believe it. Use it. Live it. Share it. That's what God told Paul to tell Timothy and you and me. **God said it. That settles it!**