

LIVING VALUES: The Foundation of our Ministry

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Value on something? It's worth (=what are you willing to pay?) -OUR Church Values = Living Values = worth
1) What is God's **Mission** for the WELL? – What we will be doing everyday in obedience to the Lord and His Word? **Loving God others as we make disciples of all people.**

What is God's **Vision** for the WELL? **How** do we accomplish the mission of loving God & others locally??
We See... Thirsty Souls Restored, lives changed, and joyful people worshipping Christ. = this is what we are about; this is what drives us. Gets us excited! We love others best and glorify God most as we strive to feed their thirsty souls w/life-giving water of Jesus.

How do we accomplish the vision of seeing thirsty souls restored, lives changed, joyful people worshipping??
-What are the core and continuing **Values** that define and undergird our ministries, and will be the Ministry Foundation through which every ministry decision (philosophically, strategically, and financially) is sifted? **5 Values:** By God's grace and through the power of His Spirit, **we will:**

- **Preach the Word of God as true, authoritative, and applicable to all areas of life and faith**
- Devote ourselves to **Prayer** to undergird every decision in church life.
- Be a healthy **Family**, welcoming, diverse, authentic, and forgiving, while striving to love well and help one another flourish in the gospel.
- Be a church of servant-leaders, rendering faithful **Service** to those within and outside the church as we steward all of God's gifts in our lives.
- Pursue **Unity** as a church family to accomplish God's purposes in our community, loving each other in a broken & hurting world. *These are our core values at the WELL: Bible, prayer, family, service, & unity

Value #1. We will preach, teach & devotionally disciple in the Word of God – The Bible.

Main Point: As a Believer in Christ, your spiritual growth and ability to rightly glorify God is tied to your daily time in God's Word. **Hangry? If you don't make time to eat, can't function. Word = our sp. food.**

WHY? ... Vs. 17: so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.

*Only two eternal things on this earth: People (souls) and God's WORD

-Is. 40:8 "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

-Mt. 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

= Your daily time in God's WORD is an **Eternal Investment**

-Mt 6:20-21 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

=This is what MATTERS to God (spiritual) not earthly things. What you invest your life in =pay dividends.

What do we believe about the Bible?

The Holy Bible is true, authoritative, and sufficient to lead every part of humanity, the Church, and the world toward eternal good. The Bible leads us to know God and how to love, worship, and serve Him. We hold that the Bible is inerrant in the original autographs, without any mixture of error.

2 Timothy 3:10-17

¹⁰ Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, ¹⁰perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! ¹² Indeed, all who want to live in a godly way in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³ But evil people and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is ¹⁶inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for ¹⁶rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.

So Paul is putting life and history in perspective: The world we live in is only getting worse, rejecting God more and making the truth of the Bible out to be evil, and Christians who follow Bible – Intolerant bigots
Vs. 13 But evil people and impostors will proceed *from bad to worse*, deceiving and being deceived. =NOW
-Is. 5:20-21 “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light/light for darkness”

But Paul is reminding and encouraging Timothy to stay established in God’s Word & His Promises which are eternal – and lead to wisdom and salvation: How do we cling to God’s Faithfulness in Word?

This is the process by how we accept truth (establish our worldview):

A. We hear the Truth and we process it

Vs. 14 You, however, continue in the things you **have learned**

Rom. 10:17 “So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word ^{of} Christ”

-Are you being disciplined to continue to GROW in your knowledge of Jesus through the Word?

Eph. 1:16-19 “I do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the ^{of} knowledge of Him.** ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart ^{of} may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the ^{of} saints,¹⁹ and what is the ^{of} boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe.” Are you still learning?

*Husbands: **Lover, Learner, Leader** – you want a good marriage: **Become a student of your wife:**

-Pray that God would give you a hunger to know His Word & learn to know Him better, to worship Him more

B. We have to accept the Truth and believe it (to believe is to trust = faith)

Vs. 14 - You, however, continue in the things you **have learned and become convinced of**, - How?

= because we TEST it. We put our beliefs to the test! Is this true or not? Is God who He says He is or not? Is the Bible true or not? Is the resurrection of Jesus real, or not? Does God love me or not? Can I trust His promises or not? **Indiana Jones to get to the grail had to step out by faith – rock ledge caught him.**

- **Sky diving = moment of truth when you pull the chute; When you jump into your daddy’s arms**

C. We evaluate the lives of those who claim to believe and live it out

Vs 14 -**knowing from whom you have learned them**, (Paul – Spirit of God) = for us: Your parents, pastor, sund. Sch. Teacher, sm. Grp, disc. Leader – people are watching your lives. **Do you live out what you claim to believe?**

VS 15 and that from childhood you **have known** the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

A. The Bible exists to Reveal God to us - O.T. God of revelation & **N.T. Jesus=the visible image of God**

Vs. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God (God-breathed) = God showing us WHO HE is = FROM God

-2 Pt. 2:21 “For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” -Jn 16:13 “Spirit will guide you into ALL truth”

B. The Bible exists to encourage us as we learn about God’s nature (Who He is) & How He transforms lives in redemptive history

Vs. 16. Bible = **beneficial for teaching**, (this is what is truth, what right, what is good, what is eternal)

-We see God’s work and redemption and rescue and calling – in the lives of those the Bible records:

Historical narrative of **testimonies** – of the most wayward, backward, broken, & messed up people in history
-Rom. 15:4 “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

-1 Cor. 10:11 “Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

- We are called to learn about God, - and He is best revealed to us through Jesus (His nature & Work)

-We are called to learn how to become more like Jesus – as we see it lived out in others’ faithfulness to Lord

C. The Bible exists to show us SIN in our lives Vs. 16 or rebuke, (calling you out; **tires need alignment**)

D. The Bible exists to for correction – **This is HOW we please God ...for correction**, (this is how we do it instead) Eph. 5:10 “Find out what pleases the Lord” - Heb. 11:6 “w/o faith it’s impossible to plz Him”

E. The Bible exists as our training manual on how to be holy & grow into Christlikeness

for training in righteousness; (this is how we grow into deepening discipleship; into sp. maturity)

Vs. ¹⁷ so that the man *or woman* of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we must answer.”

Psalm 19:7-14 The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

⁸ The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

¹⁰ They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

¹¹ By them your servant is warned, in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins, may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. ¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

APPLICATION:

- We are going to be a church that preaches God's Word faithfully – each week. If you want a feel good message, seeker-sensitive, or sermonettes, or a skinny jeans wearing preacher, -I luv u/ you are in wrong ch.)
- Do you have a good study Bible ? (MacArthur, ESV Men's Study Bible (Father's day),
- Will you make time every day to spend time in God's Word. Book of John. (Bible Reading Plan)
- Will you become a “DOER of the and not just a hearer only” Jas 1:22
- Will you share God's Word with your family as you grow in your faith? Disciple others in His Word?

Community Group Discussion Questions

1. Were you surprised to learn our Church-wide VALUES? Did you already know them?
2. Why would the elders consider these five Values as “Living Values”?
3. What was your experience growing up and being taught God's Word?
4. When did your heart really open to being hungry to learn and know God's Word? – Or has it yet??
5. How many Bible verses do you truly know by heart? Read Ps. 119:11 Can you recite one to the group?
6. Why is the phrase “God-breathed” significant in this passage?
7. What does the WELL's statement of Belief about Inerrancy in the Bible signify to you?
8. Do you think the inerrancy of God's Word in the *original* documents (letters/autograph's) is worth fighting for in an age when the world rejects it? What would it mean **IF** the Bible contains error?