

Hope Community Church

Week 1 - Statement of Faith: The Word of God

The Word Of God

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We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31,32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV)

²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. 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.

? Why is it important that scripture is “God-breathed” or “spoke from God?”

? Why do you think the author thought it important to specify “in righteousness” when talking about the usefulness of scripture in verse 16?

? Who and what is the teaching, rebuking, correcting and training for in the 2 Timothy passage? Why is this an important note?

John 20:30-31 (NIV)

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

? Considering this passage and 2 Timothy 3:16-17, how can scripture be used well and used poorly, or misused?

? How can you avoid misusing scripture?

Scripture Disciplines

Psalm 1 (NIV)

¹ Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ² but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. ³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. ⁴ Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. ⁶ For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Psalm 1 highlights scripture as sustaining and fruitful. Below is a tool to help believer's keep the Word of God close to them. (<https://www.navigators.org/resource/the-word-hand/>)

? Which disciplines do you practice now? Which disciplines would you like your small group to encourage you to do more of?



Proverbs 30:5-6 (NIV)

⁵“Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. ⁶Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.

? Why is it important that the word of God override people's personal preferences for their behavior and beliefs?

In John 6 some of the Jews that were previously following Jesus, stop doing so because they didn't understand and were unable to accept his teaching. John 6:52b "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" In other passages, when the Pharisees brought questions to Jesus, it was often to challenge him and assert their already-established values and when they didn't agree with a teaching, they abandoned the engagement and rejected Jesus as wrong.

We can take Peter's example when engaging with scripture we don't understand or find difficult to process – he continued to follow Jesus and sought understanding stating, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:68b-69

? What should we do with the teachings that we don't like or agree with?

Application Questions

? What are some new ways that you'd like to use to engage with the Word of God?

? Are you submitting each area of your life to scriptural authority? If not, how might your small group encourage you to do so?