

Main Emphasis Idea:

How has the church seen scripture and used scripture throughout its history. We will look at 7 ways over the next 6 weeks. Daily bread, instruction of morals and existence, the secular undoing, meditatio (renewal of the mind), study and memory, and spirit empowerment.

2 Timothy 3: 14-17

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Questions That Need Answers:

1. How can we define Good and Evil?
 2. How does scripture work as a blueprint for existence?
 3. How do we see our sources?
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INTRO

- All scripture is breathed out by God... it is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and..... for training in righteousness.
 - What is right? What is good? What is evil? What is neutral? Why am I here? What is good to me? what is good for me? is that really bad?
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THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND...

- What we are in today, is something we have not actually seen in most of human history... its the ability to define everything yourself and then bring that into culture.
- You see in most of history, a king a religion, a leader, a group of leaders, define who we are, who we will be, and how we will live out our lives. But not today... in the economy of me, I define this.
- Now although this is new to such a large group... its actually the original temptation that humanity faced in history.

Genesis 3: 1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it

your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

- This scripture should hit home, because we are smack dab in the middle of this verse... defining what is good and evil, and the world right now is offering the same thing... secularism has released you not only to rediscover good and evil, but to determine what is good and evil for yourself. What is more wild is that we each get to do it even if its different from each other.
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What are the battles we are facing TODAY?

Battle 1 Truth as relative vs objective

- Here is the truth... reality has already been set. What gender you are, what sex is and who you can have it with, what money can do to the soul, the innocence of children, the value of each human, and so on and so on. Reality has already been set, the problem is not that reality is changing and so we should just grow up and change with it, its actually that we are in a battle to fight that this reality that God created at the end of the day, when life ends for each of us will be objectively true.

“Truth is not only violated by falsehood; it may be equally outraged by silence.”

- **G. K. Chesterton**

- I have had to realize this in my own life and my ministry, ***"whatever truths I shy away from, I give permission for people to live lies."***

Battle 2. What Feels Good vs What is Good

- There can be no bigger threat to the formation of your soul towards christ, then your feelings.

“Feelings are good servants but bad masters.”

- **Dallas Willard**

- Our call is to process our faith and existence and then direct our emotions towards God and towards good. But what is happening today, is the change of that, we are actually relying on our emotions to help direct us correctly towards God and towards good.

- This is not found in scripture, rather found in secularism...

“Have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become.”

- **Steve Jobs**

“Become who you are.”

- **Friedrich Nietzsche**

- This is what we are being fed.. that if you follow your "heart" or what is really being said is "emotions" you will be happy, and I'm sorry thats just not true. I don't think Peter wanted to die by burning alive on an upside down cross, I don't think Paul wanted to be stoned, beat, arrested, and eventually beheaded, I don't think early christians enjoyed being eaten by dogs in front of Romans... Sometimes we get to live out dreams, but by following Christ, we will always get to live out our purpose.
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3. Battle we are facing is immersion vs image bearing

Colossians 3: 5-10

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

- Our desire to be apart, to belong, to be seen, to be heard, to feel heard, often fights against our ability to actually effect those around us.
- The call wasn't to be culturally relevant, is what to pray and do the words of... your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

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- **So if these are our battles, how do we fight, how do learn, and most importantly... how do we actually understand good, evil, and existence.**

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16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- For Christianity, we define what existence is meant to be from the living word of God, it is not simply words, it is apart of the process of renewing the soul.
 - When we read these words, when we ruminate with them, when we study them, when we mediate on them, we are reframing everything... morals, sexuality, ethics, relationships, and most importantly existence.
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Time to understand...

1. We need to understand that Paul tells us that scripture is for training in righteousness. Which if we take what we know about righteousness as a church we understand this...

"Scripture is not teaching us how to become something else, its training us to become who God created us to be."

- In these texts are written the moral code, the reason why you were created, not something thats meant to shame you for you are, but to challenge and call you into who God always intended for you to be.

• **Three things I want you to think about this week, when it comes to how you approach scripture**

- 1. When was the last time scripture... changed your mind.**
 - 2. When was the last time the world broke out in chaos and you increased your intake of the word for answers**
 - 3. How often do cherry pick for solutions or pride, when it comes to scripture.**
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THE CHALLENGE

• I want to challenge you with this, will you be an image bearer to our city, your family, your community, and those around you... or will we simply fit nicely into culture and be seen just as everyone else.

RULE OF LIFE - PRACTICE 1

DAILY BREAD-

The practice of returning to Scripture each day to receive God's sustaining word which will, over time, shape our loves and guide our lives.

- This practice will live inside of our scripture emphasis, as one of our daily practices that we will participate in as a church community.
 - Should I just go for it? Yes and no...
 - If you haven't done something like this before, don't be afraid to start slow, and don't feel discouraged when you miss. remember this is a "practice" and that means its going to take time. The hope is that by the time we install our next practice, this will become a daily ritual for you.
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