

## **“You can trust the Bible!”** 2 Tim 2:14-17

#2 of 4 in a series, “It’s true!” about essentials of the Christian faith

### **1) The Bible is God-breathed!** 3:14-16a

Recorded by about 40 writers, in 3 languages and over 1600 years, but each book and passage is inspired by God as timeless truth for all. (2 Pe 1:21)  
The Bible makes you *wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ*.  
The Bible’s one message: we need to be saved, and Jesus is the only Savior!  
Religions created by men require earning blessings by doing good works.  
But Christianity is a relationship (not a religion!) in which God saves us by His work of grace thru His Son, who took the punishment we deserve.  
Fulfilled prophecy is one of the many reasons to trust the Bible is inspired.

### **2) The Bible is useful!** 3:16b—17

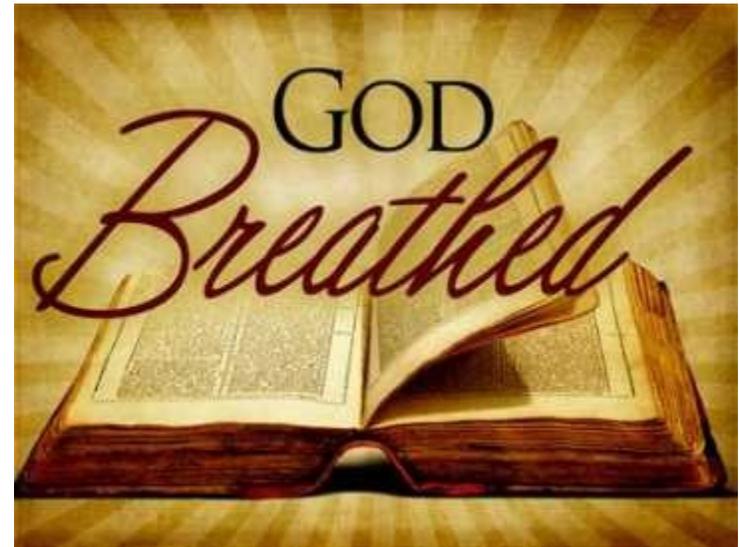
It is profitable (as many translations put it) to teach, challenge, & train.  
Covenant churches affirm, ‘The Holy Scriptures are the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct.’  
Where’re you seeking truth to equip yourself, if not through Scripture?

### **3) An application of the Scriptures in our times**

*Do not merely listen to the Word.... Do what it says.* -James 1:22  
*Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.* -Hebrews 13:4  
The definition of marriage is a biblical, not a political or cultural matter.  
God consistently defines it as heterosexual, with specific partner roles:  
Genesis 1:27-28, 2:23-24, Mt 19:4-6, Eph. 5:23-33, Heb. 13:4, etc.  
‘Homosexual marriage’ is therefore not marriage!  
Same sex attraction is a part of our brokenness as men and women.  
It becomes sin against God when it is acted out sexually.  
The Bible consistently condemns homosexual physical relations:  
Lev. 18:22 & 20:13, Rom 1: 26-27, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, etc.  
The Bible also consistently invites repentance & forgiveness by grace.  
What’s at stake: children denied a mom or dad; encouraging people to be out of God’s will & face judgment; failure to be salt and light as the Church, letting the court of gov’t decide what churches and Christians must support....

**This week:** Read in your Bible daily & pray about your response to Scripture.

*Next Sunday we will continue with the “It’s true!” series.  
The message is about the fact that good science validates the Bible.*



*Father God,*

*Jesus told us that we can’t live only by mere food, but by every Word that comes from Your mouth. Thank You for the Scriptures, that are able to make us wise for salvation in Jesus Christ. Thank You for the Holy Spirit who helps us understand Your Word and obey it.*

*Help us to make disciples for You, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded us.*

*In His name and for His glory, Amen*

*September 16, 2012*

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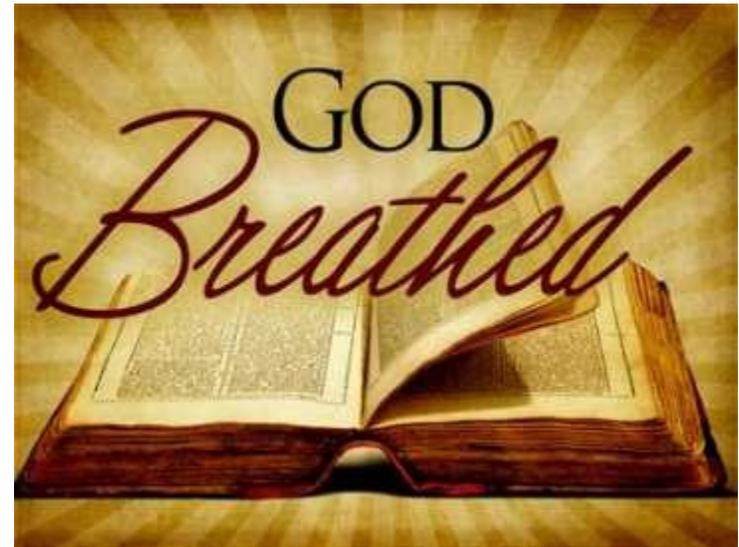
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