

Rod Rindahl  
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***Anchors for the storm #2***

# **The Bible**

Anchors for the storm: Key truths that anchor us to Christ, help us navigate life and enable us to glorify the Lord.

Good morning! Happy Father's Day! Welcome to Harvest! I greet you in the greeting of the Apostle Peter, from his first letter to the church in **1 Peter 1:2** (NLT) "May God give you more and more grace and peace."

**Let's pray!**

## **Introduction:**

I want to begin this morning with a word of encouragement and challenge to the Father's and men who are here today, or listening online.

The challenge is this:

1. **Fathers**, husbands, men, adult or young adult, teen or even boy: Get yourself into the Bible!

- Read it to know God
- Read it to know yourself
- Read it to know your children, your family, your neighbors
- Read it to know the world

2. **Men**, if you don't read well, or reading is difficult to you, be encouraged, God has given you help, technology that can assist in your knowledge of him:

- Bible Apps - YouVersion, BibleGateway, Logos, Olive Tree
- Audible (E-Books), Christian Audio, Kindle,
- Christian Podcasts
- These are very helpful and practical, they allow you to take God's word with you

anytime and anywhere you have your phone

3. **Ladies, encourage your man**, to be a man of the Word. Thank him for making time to read God's word. Thank him for filling his mind and heart with God's truth. You know that this will make them a better a better friend, husband, father and leader.

4. **Men, Fathers**, let your wife, kids, family and friends know you are in the word regularly. Let them see it, let them hear about it, let them know you are thinking about it. Let them see it change your life. Let them see that it is God's word that leads your life.

5. **Fathers**, when tempted to not read it, not engage with it, don't quit, don't give up, don't give in - let them see your courageous faith to engage with God through his holy word and that it inspires your devotion to Jesus, which will inspire their devotion to Jesus. Keep moving forward, in and through and by God's word, always moving toward God through the Bible.

**If we are to KNOW GOD, then how are we to know him?**

**John MacArthur** has said of the Bible, "The Bible is not just a book you read for information. You read it for transformation. The words of Scripture are the very Word of God, and they change your heart as you meditate on them. This is what the Bible claims for itself: it is a perfect treasure that changes us, enlightens us, judges us, equips us, and makes us grow.

**Chuck Swindoll** has said, "Your call will become clear as as your mind is transformed by the reading of Scripture and the internal work of God's Spirit. The Lord never hides His will from us. In time, as you obey the call first to follow, your destiny will unfold before you. The difficulty will lie in keeping other concerns from diverting your attention."

When a man or woman reads the Bible they are like men or women who go to the gym, seeking to transform their bodies, to keep them in shape, to encourage health and vitality. This is what the Bible does as it is engaged daily.

**Jesus** believed in the Bible - "the Scriptures"- **Mark 12:24** (ESV) "Jesus said to them, 'Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither **the Scriptures** nor the power of God?'" - knowing the Bible is knowing powerful, life altering truth!

**Paul** believed in the Bible - "the Scriptures" - **Acts 17:2** (ESV) And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from **the Scriptures**, - knowing the Bible is knowing true truth about reality.

**Peter** believed in the the Bible - "the Scriptures"- **2 Peter 1:19-21** (ESV) 19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no **prophecy of Scripture** comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. - Knowing the Bible is knowing "the prophetic word" that shines in a dark world.

# The Bible

The members of Harvest Community Church, Litchfield believe that

*“...God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.”*

Unpacking this statement in its fullest sense would take weeks of study. So let me remind you and highlight what we believe about the Bible.

## **We believe that:**

1. **God has spoken in the Scriptures (the Bible)** (Matt. 1:22; 4:4; 19:4,5; Heb. 1:1-2),
2. **Both the Old and New Testaments are God’s word (the Bible)** (2 Pet. 3:15,16) ,
3. **The Bible was written through the words of human authors** (Lk. 1:1-4).
4. **The Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God** (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20,21),
5. **The Bible is without error in the original writings** (Num. 23:19; 2 Sam. 7:28; Prov. 30:5; Ps. 119:96, 160; Matt. 5:18; Jn. 10:35; 17:17; Tit. 1:1,2),
6. **The Bible is the complete revelation of His will for salvation** (Lk. 16:29-31; Gal. 1:8,9; 2 Tim. 3:15),
7. **The Bible is the ultimate authority** by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged (Jn. 17:17; 1 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Pet. 1:23; Ps. 119:44,45,165).
8. **The Bible is to be believed** in all that it teaches (Matt. 22:29; Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16),
9. **The Bible is to be obeyed** in all that it requires (Matt. 28:20; 2 Thess. 3:14; 1 Jn. 2:5),
10. **The Bible is to be trusted** in all that it promises (Rom. 1:2; 4:21; Heb. 10:23; 2 Pet. 1:4; 3:13).

For example: **Isaiah 40:27-31** speaks about the God we trust and believe in:

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”?

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;

31 but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

## What do we mean by “God has spoken in the Scriptures” ?

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** (ESV) 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.” We mean that the Bible is God’s very breath, his spoken word, recorded for us in the Bible.

The **apostle Paul** taught the church that “All of scripture” is the word of God, both the OT and the NT. **1 Timothy 5:18** (ESV) **“For the Scripture says,...”** He then sites **Deuteronomy 25:4** (ESV) “You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.

The **apostle Peter** declared in **2 Peter 3:15-16** (ESV) 15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, **just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote** to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do **the other Scriptures**.

**If you, man or woman of God, are going to get to know God**, to “...grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18) you need to be in the Bible, the technological means (electronic or paper) does not matter.

**Get your self in the Bible!**

**How are we to obey God if we do not know what God says?**

**How are we to love God if we do not know how we are to love him?**

**How are we to serve God if we do not know how he desires us to serve him?**

**How are we to tell people about Jesus if we do know the truth of Jesus from the Bible?**

## Get your self into the Bible.

David wrote in **Psalms 119:15-16** “I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. 16 I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.”

Paul says in **Romans 7:22** “For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,”

And he says in **Ephesians 3:14-21** (ESV) 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and **to know the love of Christ** that surpasses knowledge, **that you may be filled with all the fullness of God**.

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.