

Sermon Study Questions: Giving Thanks for the Word

13 October 2024

Read 2 Timothy 3:12-17

1. In the beginning of the sermon James described the “utterly unbridled joy” of the Jewish festival Simchat Torah - the Joy of the Torah. He then went on to suggest a few reasons why we Christians may be less joyful when we think about the gift of the Bible. Can you remember what some of those reasons were?
2. Most of the sermon was a close look at verse 16 of our reading from 2 Timothy. What was the word added in the translation of the phrase “All Scripture is breathed out by God?” How does the addition of that word impact our understanding of Divine revelation?
3. Because the literal translation of the Greek is “all Scripture is God-breathed” James asked the question: “is out the only direction God could be breathing when we talk about the Scriptures?” What happens to our understanding of the Bible if we think of God not just breathing **out** the words of Scripture but also breathing His life-giving breath **into** the words of Scripture?
4. Our Gospel reading from Luke 24, the story of the encounter on the road to Emmaus, suggested that it was more than something, but a someone who could be found in the words of Scripture, both Old and New Testaments. Who is that someone? And how well do **we** find him in the Old Testament?
5. Paul used quite a utilitarian word, “profitable” to describe the effect of the Scriptures on the life of the one who reads and studies them. How are the Scriptures profitable? How do you instinctively respond to these words?
6. Verse 17 describes the end result of these profitable words of Scripture on the life of the reader: “that everyone who belongs to God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” How did James suggest this transformational work was accomplished? And what is our part to play in this process?
7. A final question for general reflection, either with the group or individually: have you been seeing a change in your life as a result of your exposure to the Bible? And if you have, has that resulted in you being more grateful for the gift of the Bible?