

SERMON

Grace Street Fellowship, Dr. Jim Burgin, pastor

Sunday, September 16th, 2018

Sermon Series: "Heartbeat"

Sermon # 3 – **The Resourced Life** – 2 Timothy 3:14-17

HEARTBEAT: THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

1. Without a heartbeat, there is no life.
2. A corollary truth is all the parts of the heart must be there and be in good working condition. The atrium and ventricle (top and bottom) must work together. The valves and the vessels should be in good condition.
3. If your heartbeat is too fast, that's not good. If your heartbeat is too slow, that's not good.
4. **ILLUSTRATION:** When Debbie & I went on vacation this August, we traveled high into the mountains of Colorado. The Royal Gorge outside of Canon City, Colorado is 6,200 feet above sea level. To ride the air-lift back to our cars (in gondolas), we climbed another 300 feet. As we climbed up to the highest point, Debbie's heartbeat started to beat dangerously fast.
5. The Heartbeat series is intended to help us think about the "essentials of our Faith."

MAPPING THE SERIES—

1. Week 1 (September 2nd, Labor Day), we touched on the "Rest of Our Life." You'll never be more at peace than when you worship God Alone;
2. Week 2 (September 9th, last week), we focused on Jesus, "the Love of our Life." He was fully God, fully man, and his mission was "the cross," so that we could be reunited with Him forever.
3. Week 3 – (Today, September 16th), we will look at God's love letter, the Bible, the Word of God. This Bible is the "Bread of Life," but I am referring to today's message as "the Resourced Life."

TEXT

2 Timothy 3:14-17 ¹⁴"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and ¹⁵how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

OVERVIEW OF THE TEXT

TERRIBLE TIMES WILL COME – 2 Timothy 3: 1-9

1. These times are characterized by people without any underlying principles

- a. Self-centered – lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love;
 - b. Cruel – Unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God;
 - c. Insidious –
 - i. Definition - stealthy, subtle, surreptitious, cunning, crafty, treacherous, artful, sly, wily, shift, underhanded, indirect; informal, sneaky;
 - ii. They appear to be sweet and good. They may even be religious, and use the language of faith, but there is no power to their lives. Not only can they not help you, but they will use the appearance of godliness to draw you into their destructive trap.
2. People like this hurt other people as a matter of course (Verses 6 – 9);
 3. People like this only get worse (verse 13) – They go from bad to worse - deceiving and being deceived. They are advancing (going forward) in their cause of evil – going from bad to worse.

STAY CLOSE TO GOD’S PEOPLE

1. Like Paul – You know me, Timothy, and how I’ve lived my life. You’ve seen me in my most difficult moments, and you know how I’ve told you the truth and stayed by your side.
2. Like your mom (Eunice) and grand mom (Lois). Life wasn’t easy for them either, (Acts 16:1 tells us that Timothy’s father wasn’t a believer) but they loved you faithfully, and you know that God’s Word guided their lives;
3. Trust yourself – what you have learned, have become convicted of, throughout your spiritual journey – the power of God’s Word, and the difference it makes in a Christian’s life.
4. What is the common denominator between these three – the difference? – Answer: God’s Word.

SO, WHAT IS PAUL’S ADVICE FOR TIMOTHY?

1. Turn your back on negative spiritual influences;
2. Remind yourself of the difference you have experienced in those who have loved you well;
3. Keep growing stronger in your appreciation for the power of God’s Word in your life.
 - a. Those without God advance in evil, going from “bad to worse.”
 - b. You, “continue in what you have learned.” Stay, abide, grow stronger.

WHY GOD’S WORD?

1. Because these are sacred writings - Holy Scriptures - which are inspired by God. Breathed to life by God Himself (verse 16).
2. Because the scriptures reveal (uncover) the message of God about an eternal relationship with Him which can’t be discerned or learned anywhere else (Verse 15).
3. Because the Bible is God’s food for the soul, and an instrument in God’s hands to shape believers more and more into the image of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Teaching – for telling us what is true about God, man, the world we live in, and the world to come;

- b. Rebuking and correcting – Having an authority over us to lead us in the everlasting way, and to help us be shaped into God’s image;
 - c. Training in Righteousness – help us to grow into maturity as believers in Christ. To become fully devoted followers of Christ.
4. So that the servant of God will be fully equipped – i.e. fully resourced
 5. For what? For every good work.
 6. Then – watch this – As you read the Word of God, it reads you. As you jump into the word of God, it flows from you. As God’s Word, in the hands of the Master surgeon, is wielded like a scalpel in your soul, so it becomes a sword in your hand to change the world around you.

TWO PARALLEL TEXTS

1. Hebrews 4: 16 – “For the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart;
2. Ephesians 6:17 – “Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

BENEFITS OF GOD’S WORD

1. You discover who you are –
 - a. God made you in His Image, and He doesn’t make Junk – Genesis 1: 26-27.
 - b. You are extremely valuable, so much that God sent His own Son to die for you on the cross; No one else can define you, because God already has – John 3:16
 - c. You are not an accident – Isaiah 44:2a (ESV) – “I am your creator. You were in my care even before you were born.”
 - d. You were born for a relationship to Him, to walk with Him, to glorify Him.
2. You discover your purpose in life, and that
 - a. It isn’t about you, which is so freeing. Proverbs 11:28 – “A Life devoted to things is a dead life, a stump; a God-shaped life is a flourishing tree;
 - b. Driven Blindly from below – By guilt, resentment & anger, fear, materialism, or the need for approval.
 - c. Purposed by God – I know what I am planning for you. I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future. (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - d. One day, we will answer for how we spent our life.
3. You discover who He is.
 - a. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Almighty God, the everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.
 - b. You learn that he is a good, good Father (Luke 15) who loves His children.
 - c. You learn that he wants you to come into His presence, and that He wants a relationship with you. “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:16.

4. You Discern the Truth

- a. What about reincarnation? – No, it is appointed for man once to die, and then the judgement comes (Hebrews 9:27).
- b. Can I be forgiven? 1 John 1:9 says “If you confess your sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- c. Does God care about my suffering – Jesus wept (John 11:35);
- d. Are there many ways to heaven outside of Christianity? John 14:6 – “I am the way, the truth, and the Life. No one comes to the father, but by me.

INTERSECTIONS WITH GOD’S WORD

1. Desire it - Ask God to help you desire it. – Psalm 19:7-11. It is sweeter than honey, and the honeycomb.
2. Read it – 15 minutes, 1/96th of your day;
3. Meditate on it – Joshua 1:8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.
4. Trust it - It is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16) Psalm 119:105 – It is a light to your path.
5. Memorize it – Psalm 119:11 “I have hidden your word in my heart, so that I might not sin against God.” Start slow. You know more than you think you do. Put addresses to what you already know. Find the verses then which mean the most to you, and commit them to memory. For me, Isaiah 26:3 – “I will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusts in thee.”
6. Study it – 2 Timothy 2:15 – “Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that doesn’t need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (correctly handles the word of truth).
7. Apply/Obey it:
 - a. John 14:15 – “If you love me, keep my commands”
 - b. 2 John 1:6 – “And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands.
 - c. Luke 11:28 – “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.
 - d. James 1:22 – “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

CONCLUSION

Robby Gallaty is the Senior Pastor of Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, TN. He wasn’t always a pastor, though.

For three years, he battled a drug addiction that ravaged his life. A \$180 a day heroin and cocaine addiction forced him to steal \$15,000 from his parents. After living without gas, electricity, and water for months, losing 8 of his friends to drug related deaths, watching 6 friends arrested, and completing two rehab treatments, Robby remembered the gospel that was shared with him by a friend in college and was radically saved on November 12, 2002.

Eight months later, David Platt, a seminary student and church member at the time, asked Robby to meet weekly for accountability, prayer, and bible study. For the next 2 years, David installed a passion for missions, expository preaching, and disciple-making in his life. He also encouraged Robby to go back to school to pursue theological education.

Robby completed his Masters of Divinity Degree in Expository Preaching in 2007 and his Ph.D. in Preaching in 2011 from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Today, Robby's gospel conviction and evangelistic zeal drive him to passionately "make disciples who make disciples."

In addition to his leadership at Long Hollow, Robby is also the founder of Replicate Ministries and the author of several books, including *Growing Up*, *Firmly Planted*, and *Rediscovering Discipleship*.

He went from NO HOPE – TO NEW HOPE.

INVITATION

1. We are asking you to discover the promises of God, so that you can know the God of the Promise. Would you accept Him today;
2. Would you rededicate your life to him today – This Bible reveals that you can start over. Confess your sins.
3. Are there any here who want to grow in your trust of God's Word? Are you soaking the Word of God into your life, and speaking it into the lives of others.