

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and teaching.** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.



Series at a glance

Week 1: God's Plan for the World

Week 2: What is the *church*?

Week 3: Leadership of the church

Week 4: God's Word as the DNA of the church

Week 5: Relationships as the lifeblood of the church

Week 6/7: Distinctives of LSCC



What do we mean when we say DNA of the church?

- DNA defined: “a self-replicating material that is present in nearly all living organisms as the main constituent of chromosomes. It is the carrier of genetic information. The fundamental and distinctive characteristics or qualities of someone or something, especially when regarded as unchangeable.”



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- Defined in the church context:
 - Culture
 - Size
 - Philosophy of ministry
 - Theology/Doctrine



What do we mean when we say God's Word?

- “Scripture”; “The Holy Scriptures”; “The Word”; “The Bible”
- 66 books of the the Old & New Testaments
 - 39 books of the Old Testament
 - 27 books of the New Testament



What does inspired, inerrant, & infallible mean?

- Inspired
 - God divinely influenced the human authors of the Scriptures in such a way that what they wrote was the very Word of God
 - “God-breathed”; plenary-verbal inspiration
 - 1 Cor. 2:12-13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; Matt. 5:17-18



Now we have received, not the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know
the depths graciously given to us by God, of which
depths we also speak, not in words taught by
human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit,
combining spiritual depths with spiritual words.



All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work.



For no prophecy was ever made by the will of man,
but men being moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from
God.



“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”

Matthew 5:17-18



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- Inerrant & Infallible
 - The words of the Bible are true and without error
 - Incapable of error
 - Ps. 12:6, 19:7; Prov. 30:5; Rom. 9:20; Heb. 4:12



The words of Yahweh are pure words; As silver tried
in a furnace on the ground, refined seven times.

The law of Yahweh is perfect, restoring the soul; The
testimony of Yahweh is sure, making wise the
simple.



Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those
who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words
Lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.



On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? WILL THE THING MOLDED SAY TO THE MOLDER, “WHY DID YOU MAKE ME LIKE THIS”? Or does not the potter have authority over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?



For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



Is God's Word reliable?

- Extra-Biblical evidence
 - Archeology supports the reliability of the Bible



Is God's Word reliable?

- Extra-Biblical evidence
 - Archeology supports the reliability of the Bible
 - Literary/textual criticism makes the Bible THE most reliable ancient document in history
 - All NT books written within decades of the events
 - Circulating/known in the 1st C.; earliest lists similar to ours was early-to-mid 2nd C.; official "cannon" late 4th C.
 - Accurate copying



Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approximate Time Span between original & copy	Number of Copies	Accuracy of Copies
Lucretius	died 55 or 53 B.C.		1100 yrs	2	---
Pliny	A.D. 61-113	A.D. 850	750 yrs	7	---
Plato	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200 yrs	7	---
Demosthenes	4th Cent. B.C.	A.D. 1100	800 yrs	8	---
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	---
Suetonius	A.D. 75-160	A.D. 950	800 yrs	8	---
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	A.D. 900	1300 yrs	8	---
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1300 yrs	9	---
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	A.D. 900	1200	10	---
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	1000	10	---
Livy	59 BC-AD 17	---	???	20	---
Tacitus	circa A.D. 100	A.D. 1100	1000 yrs	20	---
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	1400	49	---
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	A.D. 1000	1400 yrs	193	---
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
New Testament	1st Cent. A.D. (A.D. 50-100)	2nd Cent. A.D. (c. A.D. 130 f.)	less than 100 years	5600	99.5%

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- Biblical evidence
 - NT writers reference other NT writers (Peter>Paul; Paul>Luke)



How does God's Word inform preaching & teaching?

- 2 Timothy 4:1-2
- John 21:15-19



But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.



So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, **“Tend My lambs.”** He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, **“Shepherd My sheep.”** He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, **“Tend My sheep.”**



“Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go.” Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God.

And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me!”



How does God's Word inform Christian living?

- Come Hungry



...like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation...



And He humbled you and let you be hungry and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh.



How does God's Word inform Christian living?

- Come Hungry
- Come Searching



...for they received the word with great eagerness,
examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these
things were so.

Acts 17:11



Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.
Amen.



How does God's Word inform Christian living?

- Come Hungry
- Come Searching
- Come Expectant



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:105



The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of
our God stands forever.

Isaiah 40:8



For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come
knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:6



If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

