

## **Why We Need The Bible Pt. 4** **“The Church & The Bible”** **Eph. 2:19-22 & I Tim. 3:14-15**

**Introduction-** *Why do we need the Bible?*

- It's the revelation of God the Father.
- It's principal subject and authenticating witness is Jesus Christ God the Son.
- The agent of this divine revelation is God the Holy Spirit.

The Bible comes from God, centers on Christ; and is inspired by the Holy Spirit. Today I want to look at another relationship with the Bible. It's that of *the Church*; what is the relationship of *The Church and The Bible*. Or *what is the place of the Bible in the Church?*

Edward Hayes says, “*No question is more crucial than this in today's church. In many congregations the Bible is sorely neglected. This has come about because of the church being placed under the authority of the state, the abuse of papal power, the influence of humanism during the Enlightenment, the destructive nature of nineteenth-century rationalism, and the rise of theological modernism. The Scriptures, which were basic to all apostolic preaching, and which were recovered in the Protestant Reformation, are not in even more danger of becoming peripheral than they were in previous centuries.*”

The late Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones was right when he wrote in his book, *Preaching and Preachers*, “*The decadent eras and periods of the church's history have always been those in which preaching has declined.*”

“*The church remains sick and feeble whenever it refuses the healing medicine and wholesome nourishment of the Word of God,*” John Stott.

The church today suffers from what the prophet Amos called, “*a famine of hearing the words of the Lord.*”

In the opening series a few weeks ago, I said that how you view the Bible; and what you do with the Bible is of the utmost importance. This is also true when it comes to the Church.

### **Six views of attitudes toward the Bible:**

**1. Rationalism-** The Bible is not a divine revelation. The human mind is the final authority (Satan's first words).

2. **Romanism-** The Bible is the product of the church therefore the church along with the Bible is the authority.
3. **Mysticism-** Experience is the authority.
4. **Neo-Orthodoxy-** The Bible is a fallible witness to the revelation of God.
5. **The Christian Cults-** The Bible and the writings of their leaders are of equal authority.
6. **Orthodoxy-** The Bible alone is the ground of authority.

There are two complimentary truths I want to focus on concerning *The Church and The Bible*:

1. The Church Needs the Bible!
2. The Church Serves the Bible!

## **I. The Church Needs the Bible**, Eph. 2:19-22

Three pictures of the church in this text. The church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets. That is the teaching of the biblical authors is the foundation on which the church is built, and Jesus Christ is the cornerstone which holds it together. So the church is dependent on the Bible.

### **1. The Bible created the Church.**

Illus.: Acts 2. God's word, the combine witness of apostles and prophets proclaimed in the power of the Holy Spirit, created the church and still does.

See, II Peter 1:23-25, II Tim. 3:15 and Rom. 10:13-15.

**2. The Bible strengthens the Church.** See I Peter 2:1-3, vs. 2 "grow weary."  
Eph. 4:11-16 and Acts 20:32.

**3. The Bible sanctifies Church.** See II Tim. 3:16.

**4. The Bible equips the Church for service.** See II Tim. 2:17.

## II. The Church Serves the Bible, II Tim. 3:14-15

Although God spoke his word through prophets and apostles, it had to be received and written down. So also today, it still needs to be translated, printed, published and preached. In these and so many other way the church is serving the Bible, guarding it and proclaiming it.

In this text, I Tim. 3:15, Paul says of the church that it is the pillar and ground of the truth. The two words Paul uses to describe the church:

- 1. Pillar, so we hold the truth high.**
- 2. Ground or foundation, so we hold to the truth firm.**

So we have an evangelic task and we have an apologetic task. The church has the responsibility to proclaim the truth and protect the truth.

How does the church serve the Bible?

The Scriptures were given to the church as a stewardship; a sacred trust!

II Tim. 1:14, “*Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you, guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.*”

The Bible, God’s Word is our greatest treasure! Many saints in previous generations gave their lives to preserve it, preach it, and to publish it.

**So lets:**

- 1. Hold fast to it** (II Tim. 1:11-13).
- 2. Continue in it** (II Tim. 3:14).
- 3. Rightly divide it** (II Tim. 2:15).
- 4. Preach it** (II Tim. 4:1-5).

Conclusion:

1. **Pastors-** Take your preaching more seriously.
2. **Christian People-** Read and study the Bible, but also demand faithful preaching. Support faithful preaching. How? Through encouragement and prayers. Come with your Bible ready to hear and obey!
3. **Christian Parents-** Teach the Bible to your children.

**To give the Bible its rightful place is to bring glory to God,  
health to the church and light to the world.**