

HBC Pulpit Curriculum

Three Keys to Understanding Your Bible, by Pastor Kurt Gebhards

II Timothy 3: 14-17

This material is designed to help give you ideas for discussing the sermon profitably. We trust the lifegroup leaders to choose the questions that will be most helpful to their groups. No one should feel obligated to complete ALL the questions. The reason there is so much material is to offer guidance for those who would like to study the topic more fully during their devotion times during the week.

Warm Up questions: **Share your life verse:**

Why did you select it? How does that verse give you confidence and faith in God?

Introduction

Open in prayer and then read II Timothy 3:14-17.

We must have confidence that the Bible is the true and complete Word of God. Our relationship with God's Word represents our relationship with God Himself.

I. God's Reed: How did they measure the books of Scripture?

What is the definition of "canon" of Scripture?

Discuss the canonicity of Old Testament, New Testament, and post New Testament Scriptures:

- A. What was the history of writing and assembly of the 39 books of the Old Testament? Read Romans 3: 2; how did Paul refer to the O.T. Scriptures?
- B. Read II Peter 3:15-16. What does Peter effectively do with Paul's writings? From verses 17-18 in our featured text, how was the N.T. Canon being developed? Discuss the significance of the two additional passages following: Deuteronomy 24: 4 and Luke 10:7.
- C. Pastor Kurt's sermon featured important dates that happened during the post N.T. canonization of the Scriptures. Discuss the particular events that occurred in 357 A.D., 397 A.D., and 404 A.D. Review the list of the five criteria for authenticating the 27 N.T. Books.

How do the five questions identifying the canon help you have confidence in the Bible in your hand?

II. Your relationship: How does your life measure up against Scripture?

God certainly wants us to know Him. God's Word is absolutely trustworthy!

- A. How does our culture undermine our confidence in the Word of God? Can you relate a real life incident where you observed the Bible being publically doubted? The skeptic, someone who doubts because he wants to be his own authority. How can we best minister to this kind of friend?
- B. Is it worse to be a skeptic, or to be disinterested in the Bible? Read Proverbs 1:20-33.
- C. The searcher or seeker, someone who wants to hear the voice of God by searching through the Words of God. Read Prov. 4:4-9 and identify the actions that one who pursues wisdom will take to gain a greater understanding of God and His Word.

III. Reader's challenge: "Devotion 119"

During July, the pastor wants us to focus on Psalm 119. We were provided with a study guide encouraging us to Read, Study, Meditate, and Memorize from this Psalm. Is everyone committed to doing this challenge? If not, why not?

Continue praying for a Worship Pastor and for additional staff. Continue to pray for Pastor Mark and his family, as they begin their life here in Hickory!