

THINK, DON'T ANSWER out loud. Be honest, painfully honest with yourself.

Who or what is your authority?

Who or what determines what is right or wrong for you?

Who or what guides your thoughts, actions and reactions, behaviors and habits?

— Speaking to Christians as I hope that most of you here are, what answers would I expect to get?

— God, God's word

— If we look at your heart and life, better, lets look at mine, what's the reality?

- my feelings
- science
- history
- Famous people (athletes, singers, theologians and social commentators)
- many hosts of podcasting — big brained, loud talkers
- my wife
- my children/grandchildren
- maybe the Word of God if we are feeling spiritual that day.

Who can you trust? Which can you rely on faithfully when...

- Donald Trump wins the election?
- Kamala Harris wins the election?
- You lose your job?
- Your health declines?
- Your spouse dies? or parent, or child?
- You become overwhelmed with all of the voices around you?

Where do you go in those moments?

Hold on, fasten your seatbelts..here we go...

Turn to 2 Timothy 3:1 - 17, put your finger in it and listen for a moment.

CNN Saturday morning U.S. page

- school shooting in GA
- Idaho student killing trial
- ND judge strikes down abortion ban
- SO Cal Earthquake 4.7
- confrontation and shooting at a pro-Israel rally in MA
- man charged with DUI in NJ for killing to bicyclists (NHL star)
- Remains of a toddler missing since Feb found

Read with me v. 1 - 5

“But know this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, without gentleness, without love for good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, but having denied its power. Keep away from such men as these.

Now jump to verse 10 - 15

But you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you, continue in the things you learned and became convinced of, knowing from whom you learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

v.15 sacred writings - what are these?

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.”
(2 Timothy 3:1–17 LSB)

v.16 All Scripture - Why this Bible?

Great debt to Stephen Wellum for laying this out in his systematic and making it easier to understand. This just blows my mind. Let's Go.

Read Deut 5:22

*““These words Yahweh spoke to all your assembly at the mountain from the midst of the fire, of the cloud and of the dense gloom, with a great voice, and He added no more. **He wrote them** on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.”*

(Deuteronomy 5:22 LSB)

— before this 1-21 Ten Commandments

— He wrote them...Catch that?

God's Covenant with his Covenant people is in writing.
Stephen Wellum calls this “Canon Consciousness”

Deut 30:9-10

*“Then Yahweh your God will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your ground, for Yahweh will return to rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers, when you listen to the voice of Yahweh your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are **written in this book of the law**, when you return to Yahweh your God with all your heart and soul.”*

(Deuteronomy 30:9–10 LSB)

Deut 31: 24-29

*“And it happened, when **Moses finished writing the words of this law** in a book until they were complete, that Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of Yahweh, saying, “Take this book of the law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of Yahweh your God, that it may be there as a witness against you. For I know your rebellion and your stiff-neck; behold, while I am still alive with you today, you have been rebellious against Yahweh; how much more, then, after my death? Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officers, that I may speak these words in their hearing and call the heavens and the earth to witness against them. For I know that after my death you will act corruptly and turn away from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the last days, for you will do that which is evil in the sight of Yahweh, provoking Him to anger with the work of your hands.””*

(Deuteronomy 31:24–29 LSB)

What did Moses write? Pentateuch - first five books. Genesis - the writing down of God's covenant with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and the Exodus - Deuteronomy - God's covenant with God's people Israel.

It doesn't stop there...

Joshua 1:7-8

*“Only be strong and very courageous to be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn aside from it to the right or to the left, so that you may be prosperous wherever you go. This **book of the law** shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all **that is written in it**; for then you will make your way successful, and then you will be prosperous.”*

(Joshua 1:7–8 LSB)

*“Then afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is **written in the book of the law.**”*

(Joshua 8:34 LSB)

*“So Joshua cut a covenant with the people that day and made for them a statute and a judgment in Shechem. And **Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God**; and he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of Yahweh. And Joshua said to all the people, “Behold, this stone shall be for a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of Yahweh which He spoke to us; thus it shall be for a witness against you, lest you deny your God.” Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to his inheritance.”*

(Joshua 24:25–28 LSB)

As with Moses, so with Joshua - God speaks through him in written covenant. God establishes the pattern.

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel

(Is. 8:1-2, 30:8-11, 51:16, 59:21, Jer. 1:9, 3:6, 5:14, Ez.3:26, Dan 9:2)

“New Scripture is confidently Scripture because of its inherent relationship to what God has already given.” - Sinclair Ferguson

Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel all refer to each other.

Also..

Micah, like other minor prophets, quotes or references Jeremiah, Isaiah, Amos, Lamentations, Deuteronomy, Genesis, Habakkuk.

— Written by prophets:

“Now the acts of King David, from first to last, behold, they are written in the chronicles of Samuel the seer, in the chronicles of Nathan the prophet and in the chronicles of Gad the seer, with all his reign, his might, and the circumstances which came on him, on Israel, and on all the kingdoms of the lands.”

(1 Chronicles 29:29–30 LSB)

“Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, from first to last, are they not written in the chronicles of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam the son of Nebat? Thus Solomon reigned forty years in Jerusalem over all Israel.”

(2 Chronicles 9:29–30 LSB)

“Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first to last, behold, they are written in the chronicles of Jehu the son of Hanani, which is recorded in the Book of the Kings of Israel.”

(2 Chronicles 20:34 LSB)

“God, having spoken long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,”

(Hebrews 1:1 LSB)

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon all tied to the Covenants. (David)

“The law of Yahweh is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of Yahweh is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of Yahweh are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of Yahweh is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of Yahweh is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of Yahweh are true; they are righteous altogether.”

(Psalm 19:7–9 LSB)

“For Yahweh gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and discernment. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright, A shield to those who walk in integrity, To guard the paths of justice, And He keeps the way of His holy ones.”

(Proverbs 2:6–8 LSB)

“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.”

(Proverbs 30:5–6 LSB)

TEST of PROPHETS

*“If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and **((2)) the sign or the wonder comes true**, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ‘**((1)) Let us walk after other gods** (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for Yahweh your God is testing you to find out if you love Yahweh your God with all your heart*

and with all your soul. You shall walk after Yahweh your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death because he has counseled rebellion against Yahweh your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to drive you from the way in which Yahweh your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you.”
(Deuteronomy 13:1–5 LSB)

— This assumes there is a body of truth.

*“Behold, days are coming,” declares Yahweh, “**when I will cut a new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I cut with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, but I was a husband to them,” declares Yahweh. “But this is the covenant which I will cut with the house of Israel after those days,” declares Yahweh: “**I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know Yahweh,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,**” declares Yahweh, “**for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.**””*
(Jeremiah 31:29–34 LSB)

Which brings us to...NT — To Christ

*“Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the **Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**””*
(Luke 24:44 LSB)

Jesus quotes OT as scripture.

“It is written” - (Matt 4:4-10, 11:10, 21:3, 26:34, 31)

“Scriptures says” - (Matt. 21:42, Mark 12:10, Luke 4:21, John 7:38, John 10:35)

“God or Holy Spirit Says” - (Matt 15:4, 19:4-5, 22:43, Mark 12:26, 36)

Jesus interchanges Scripture with God.

— Apostles had the same view of the OT.

— NT writers are conscious that their writings were on par with OT.

*“God, having spoken long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days **spoke to us in His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds, who is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power; who, having accomplished cleansing for sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.”*
(Hebrews 1:1–4 LSB)

— **Christ is fulfillment of OT, therefore, NT is fulfillment of OT.**

NT clarifies our understanding of OT, we need to look to OT through the lens of the NT.

Because NT is new covenant, NT had to be written. (remember, the beginning, God's covenant in OT was written).

Christ teaches that OT is not done away with, but is fulfilled in the NT.

“Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the Gentiles, leading to obedience of faith; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.”
(Romans 16:25–27 LSB)

“Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature, a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are being abolished. But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom which has been hidden, which God predestined before the ages to our glory, which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” But to us God revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the depths of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the depths of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 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.

But a natural man does not accept the depths of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually examined. But he who is spiritual examines all things, yet he himself is examined by no one. For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL DIRECT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.”

(1 Corinthians 2:6–16 LSB)

*“But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is **brought to an end in Christ**. But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart, but **WHENEVER a person TURNS TO THE LORD, THE VEIL IS TAKEN AWAY**. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”*

(2 Corinthians 3:14–18 LSB)

Christ as Prophet

“Moses said, ‘THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BROTHERS; TO HIM YOU SHALL LISTEN to everything He says to you. AND IT WILL BE THAT EVERY SOUL THAT DOES NOT HEED THAT PROPHET SHALL BE UTTERLY DESTROYED FROM AMONG THE PEOPLE.’ And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also proclaimed these days. It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.’ For you first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.’”

(Acts 3:22–26 LSB)

*“Therefore, holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the **Apostle and High Priest of our confession—Jesus**, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, in so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. Now **MOSES WAS FAITHFUL IN ALL HIS HOUSE AS A SERVANT**, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later, but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope.”*

(Hebrews 3:1–6 LSB)

apostles are equal to old testament prophets

*“This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and **the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles**,”*

(2 Peter 3:1–2 LSB)

Christ speaks through the apostles

*“God, having spoken long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **in these last days spoke to us in His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds, who is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power; who, having accomplished cleansing for sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.”*

(Hebrews 1:1–4 LSB)

Father sent the Son

Son speaks from the Father

Father and Son send the Spirit

Spirit bears witness to the Son

“Know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes by one’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever made by the will of man, but men being moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

(2 Peter 1:20–21 LSB)

“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.”

(2 Timothy 3:16–17 LSB)

OT is read in synagogue:

Luke 4:17-20, Acts 13:15, 15:31

NT read in churches:

Col 3:16, 1 Thess 5:27, 1 Tim 4:13

Revelation**1:3 - Blessing**

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it, for the time is near.”

(Revelation 1:3 LSB)

22:18-19 - Cursing

“I bear witness to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book. And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.”

(Revelation 22:18–19 LSB)

Echos OT warnings:

Deut 4:2, 5, 14, 40; 12:32

All of this, where does it get us?

— This is the authoritative, sufficient, trustworthy, reliable, effective word of God.

— Next question, who is this God that the word that we hold here is from? How can you know Him?

The only way to know Him is by listening to how He explains Himself in His Word that He has given us.

Who is this God? — That...is for next week.

((Exploding brain))

Think about this this week...

This word is from God, this we now know. What does this word say about God’s holiness?