

Continue in the Word – For Your Entire Life**1. Because of Its Power****2. Because of Its Source****3. Because of Its Use***Continue in the Word*

- Little story from hs. I went Luth hs; intrntl students from Germany join class; Luths. I remem teacher: German students shocked by how American kids treated Bibles. They'd have stack textbooks (Alg, Hist, Bible); in commons, throw to ground. If in way, use foot, kick to side. Felt very dsrspctfl.
- Here at church/school, I don't see people kicking Bible around, disresp word in that way. But if fault in Luthism where we dsrspct Bible, this: I've heard lot of adult Luths say, "I don't come Bible class bec learned when kid; had Cat class with Pr. So'n'so back in 19..." – may been over 50 yrs ago! So too often we Luths, who (I truly believe) have word of God taught correctly – too often we put Bible on shelf, don't cont in word once get out school. We don't come Bible class or bring kids SS bec we've heard it before, they get in school. We talk "God's word in truth/purity" but don't read it. Kind of like: if read book or see movie, may enjoy it; but usually don't read again, watch over/over. See once; I'm good. But that's not how God wants us treat his word. So Paul's emph today: cont in word.

For Your Entire Life

- Really, cont in word for entire life. **Vs. 14a.** Paul writing to Tim, that young pastor, studied under Paul; says: "Don't stop reading, studying, growing in God's word; but **vs. 14.** As young man Tim learned from Paul; but as child, from mom, grandma. Earlier 2 Tim: "**I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also**" (1:5). Tim's dad, unbeliever. But mom, grandma had profound influence on his faith. What about you? Who had profound influ on your faith? My parents taught; my teachers from Luth grade school; pastors, one in particular – I learned gospel from them. What re you? Parents? If Xian school, teachers? Any one pastor in partic had profound influ on your faith? **Vs. 14b.** Parents, what reminder for us on how imp is to teach children re Jesus, bring up in his word.
- When that begin? **Vs. 15a.** From infancy we teach children re Jesus. We bap as babies; pray with in high chair; read Bible stories in crib; get them to Luth PK. And we don't wait until old enough to decide for themselves – just like don't wait until old enough decide whether they want be potty trained, or use silverware at dinner table. **Vs. 15a.** Why make big deal: school, PK, SS, VBS. But Xianity isn't just for kids; Church isn't just big children's program. Paul's emphasis today: cont in word entire life! So no matter how old – child, parent, older Xian: **vs. 14a,** for your entire life!

Because of Its Power

- 3 reasons why we cont in word whole life: bec of Bible's power, source, use. Just listen to this power: **vs. 15.** "Wise for salv." Bible gives true wisdom. You can go school, learn lot subjects, earn degrees, get really smart. But "**The fear of Lord is the beginning of wisdom**" (Pr 9:10). On own, we would not be wise for salv. Wouldn't know: how we've sinned vs God, deserve his punishment; that God loves us, sent Son to bear our punishment in our place; who Jesus truly is or comfort his forgiveness or hope of eternal life. Wouldn't know any this, if not for Bible, which HS uses to make us **vs. 15b.**
- That's power! **Rom 1:16.** God's word so powerful that not only does it break through stone cold hearts (like dynamite through rock), but also creates/maintains in our hearts a strong faith in Jesus. That's power of word. So cont in word entire life bec of its power.

Because of Its Source

- And bec of its source. Called word of God, bec comes directly from God. **Vs. 16a;** means: in miraculous way God (picture him breathing out) conveyed his words/message to human authors. True, Bible physically written by people: like Moses/David, prophets like Is/Mic, apostles like Mt/Jn, and Paul – they physically put pen to paper. But God gave them exact words to write; breathed his

message into their minds. That's what means that **vs. 16a** – written by God through human hands. We use term verbal inspr to describe miracle of HS. Peter: **“Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pt 1:21, NIV84)**. So Bible's source not in humans; its source is in God himself.

- Really imp, bec if Bible comes from God, means perfect (like God is perfect), contains no errors. Also it's the only authority/standard for what we believe/teach. Lot of people/churches that say Bible does contain errors, and not our authority. Some churches add to /subt from God's Word; others simply dismiss clear teachings of Bible that clash with our society (for instance, in area of sexuality). But we're guilty of this same thing, too, whenever God's word speaks, we say, “Ah, not really how I want live; don't think that applies to me; not really what I personally believe.” In essence, that's putting yourself above Scripture, telling God what he should say.
- But Bible not our book we give God; it's his book he gives us. And reason it's perfect, authoritative: God himself is source. He wrote it – which also means: we can be perfectly confident in everything it says. And finally, main thing Bible says (its main message) is that God loves us, despite sin, and has rescued us from judgment through death/res of his Son JC. That's main point of Bible! And we can believe that, cont in that, bec it's not our word; it's God's word. God is the source.

Because of Its Use

- Finally, we want cont in God's word entire life bec of its use. Bible is useful. **Vs. 16**. Handymen out there: these four uses make me think re carpentry or construction – not on house, but heart.
 - Teaching: building phase in constr of my heart. God's word teaches me everything I need know re sin/grace, life/death, heaven/hell. It teaches, builds.
 - Rebuking: demolition phase on my heart. God's word like jack hammer: breaks through my pride, tears down my self-righteousness. God's law shows my sin; demolishes; rebukes.
 - Correcting: renovation phase, where God rebuilds what he's demolished. He renovates, renews my heart with his gospel; comforts soul, forgives sins. That's renovation taking place.
 - Training in righteousness: finish work – trim, paint, baseboards, little details you're constantly working on. God constantly working on my heart, exercising it, training me for Xian life.
- This how God uses word, like constr on home: building, demolishing, renovating, finishing; **vs. 16b**.

Be a Theologian

- Result: **vs. 17**. Another word for “servant of God:” theologian – someone who handles God's word, applies it to life. Don't have be pastor/prof to be theologian. I call my Cat students theologians, because I'm teaching them to handle God's word, apply it to life. As Xian, you're theologian.
- And as theologian (handler, applier of God's word), I urge you: cont in word entire life, from infancy until you're elderly. Don't take word for granted, or say “I took Cat class back in 60s.” When we start up Bible class again this fall, please come; I love full class; bring kids to SS; study word as family, here at church, and in your home. Read Bible; listen on smart phone. On kiosk I put stack Bible reading plans; pick up copy, put to use as works best for you.
- Whatever you do, cont in word whole life: bec of its power to strengthen faith; bec its source is in God himself; and bec it's useful for construction on your heart. Be a theologian who handles/applies God's word. It's not a book you look at once, then leave on shelf. As Paul urged Tim, so I urge you: continue in the word – for your entire life. And you will be a richly blessed theologian.

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, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.