

WHY WE BELIEVE...

1 & 2 Timothy 3

January 7, 2024

BELONG

Get to Know One Another

Take a couple of minutes to look over the list of eight questions. Which one will you be intentional about in 2024? [list of 8 questions provided on class handout.]

BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

Throughout 2024, we are going to periodically cover sermons entitled, "**Why We Believe...**" Our hope is that this series will be thought-provoking as we do a deep dive into the core tenets of our faith as found in Scripture. In each of these sermons, we will address topics that the church is facing. Then we will examine these topics through the lens of Scripture - fostering a deeper understanding of how **our faith** shapes **our responses** to the challenges of the modern world.

Today, we are going to discuss why it's essential for the Bible to form the foundation of our beliefs. While this may seem like a simple concept, it serves as a crucial reminder for the Church. It seems that more often in church world, churches start teaching by addressing the perceived needs of their congregation rather than starting with Scripture. This can lead to church leaders attempting to shape God's Word to fit our agenda, rather than vice-versa. Additionally, societal influences often oppose the teachings of the Bible. In our discussion today, we'll explore how the Bible serves as the fundamental foundation of our faith and the bedrock of truth for Christians. Our main focus will be on two passages from Scripture, **1 & 2 Timothy 3**.

Quote to Wrestle: "Why do men and women hate this gospel? It is because the gospel message condemns our religiosity and all our efforts to make ourselves good and earn our own salvation." - Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Question 1: What stands out in this quote to you?

- Do you believe this quote accurately reflects culture, the Church or both?

BUILD

Engage and Apply the Scripture

Have someone in your group read **1 Timothy 3:14-16**

Question 2: Why did Paul write these instructions? **[3:14-15]**

Question 3: How should the church be a "pillar and foundation of truth" in this world? Is the church accomplishing this?

- How has Jesus equipped the church to be a pillar and foundation of the truth to the community that we interact with on a daily basis?

Have someone in your group read [2 Timothy 3:10-17](#)

Question 4: In [verse 10](#), how did Paul demonstrate being a “pillar and foundation of truth” to Timothy?

- How else did Timothy follow Paul [[verse 11](#)]? [*In persecutions and sufferings*]
- What was the result of Paul enduring persecutions and sufferings? [*He endured and the Lord rescued him.*]
- What is the promise for all who want to live a “godly life” or to be a “pillar and foundation of truth”? [*all will be persecuted - verse 12*]
- Is this, “*Live the godly life and guarantee persecution,*” good “advertisement” for the Christian faith?
 - If, “*Live the godly life and guarantee persecution,*” was FBC Portland’s mission statement, then what would attendance look like at Membership Matters?

Question 5: In [verse 14](#), Paul encourages Timothy to “continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed.” Are you continuing to learn the Bible?

- In what ways, are you intentionally pursuing the study of Scripture? [*plug the Bible reading plans at fbcportland.org/biblereadingplans*]

Have someone read [2 Timothy 4:3-4](#).

Question 6: Regarding Scripture, what do you think people *want* to hear? What do they NEED to hear?

- What are “itching ears” and what is the result of turning from sound [biblical] teaching?

Question 7: If there is time, look up these additional passages. How does each one contribute to our understanding of the importance of scripture for our lives?

- [Psalm 1:1-3](#)
- [Psalm 119:9-11](#)
- [Proverbs 30:5-6](#)
- [1 Peter 1:20-21](#)

BEGIN

Response and Prayer

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Blue Letter Bible: [1 & 2 Timothy 3](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: [1 & 2 Timothy 3](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.

