

BIBLICALLY-DRIVEN—ALL MINISTRY FLOWS FROM SCRIPTURAL MANDATES

- Key verses
 - ◆ 2 Tim 3: 15 – 17; “and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”
 - ◆ I Cor 4:6; “Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another.”
 - ◆ Joshua 1:6 – 9; “Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”
- Applications
 - ◆ The Bible is God’s Word to us
 - ⇒ It has all the answers that God has for our lives
 - ⇒ We sometimes wonder why we don’t hear God speak to us – read His Word, He is speaking there
 - ⇒ Mentioned last Sunday that we have to communicate with someone to get to know them
 - ⇒ We pray to God, He speaks so us primarily through His Word
 - ⇒ Not necessarily the only way since He uses people and circumstances to get our attention
 - ⇒ But the first step is to get to know Him by reading His Word
 - ◆ It has all the information we need to live life
 - ⇒ Live life God’s way – remember He only wants His best for us
 - ⇒ Won’t give answers the way we feel should live life
 - * I think that is where most people go wrong
 - * Pick and choose what they like but ignore or modify the rest
 - * Then we wonder why things are not working out
 - ◆ Sample instruction for living life
 - ⇒ God first – emphasis of last week
 - ⇒ Church membership – Cliff has been teaching us on this
 - ⇒ Church organization
 - * Elders, including pastor/teacher – get pertinent verses
 - ◇ Have heard Cliff preach and teach on this
 - ◇ Plurality of God-appointed men to shepherd the flock
 - ◇ Their responsibility, therefore, is to God, they are accountable before God, not men
 - * Deacons – real role is “servants” in the church
 - * Women’s role in the church - not leadership roles but as servants

- ⇒ Church discipline – Cliff has already preached on this a couple of Sundays ago
 - ⇒ Corporate worship
 - * Must check out form of worship against Scripture
 - * Will take away from I prefer to worship this way or that
 - * Music is only one small part of the corporate worship
 - ◇ Need to be mindful of this
 - ◇ Cannot allow it to become the proverbial 800 pound gorilla
 - ◇ Worship: prayer, Scripture reading, announcements, preaching, giving, serving, fellowship, music
 - ⇒ Role of husbands, wives and children – Eph 5:22 – 6:4
 - * Husbands, love your wives even as Christ loves the church – unconditionally
 - * Wives, submissive to your husbands – not slaves
 - * Children, obey your parents
 - * Parents, spare the rod spoil the child
 - ⇒ On the job, at school – in all you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord (Col 3:23)
 - ⇒ If we alter any of these roles, God cannot bless because we are going counter to His Word
 - ⇒ In fact, if you think of it, we are limiting God by living life counter to His design
 - * Doesn't mean life will be a show stopper
 - * But we won't be able to live it to the fullest that God would have for us
 - * You and I have the power to limit almighty God
 - * But you are then at the short end of the “blessing” stick
- ◆ The Word of God is like a spring of water
 - ⇒ Just like a spring of fresh water you are always refreshed when you return to it
 - ⇒ Story of hiking in BC – lap cool water from mountain stream
 - ⇒ So is the Word of God, as many times as you go back it has a new lesson for us
- I Cor 4:6, “Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another.”
 - ◆ People tend to want to add more to Scripture – why?
 - ◆ Does God really need the help of men?
 - ◆ GBF needs to always be careful to abide by the Scripture AS WRITTEN – no more and no less
 - ⇒ All decisions, test with the Word of God
 - ⇒ If the Bible doesn't say anything about an issue – probably not something that impacts the “main thing”
 - ⇒ “Carpets need to be green to worship”, “Only hymns of worship songs are worshipful”, “...”
 - How will this distinguish GBF?
 - ◆ There is a tendency, even among evangelicals, to moderate Scripture to “tickle” ears
 - ⇒ Should be “God said, I believe it and that's good enough for me”
 - ⇒ Usually it becomes “God said it, we modified it and things aren't good anymore”
 - ⇒ We all have that choice to make and at GBF we choose the first
 - ⇒ AGBF will become known as a Bible teaching and living church
 - ⇒ E-mail example regarding what was read from our website
 - ⇒ It may not attract everyone but does that matter?
 - ⇒ What really matters is God first and Bible-based teaching
 - ⇒ God will honor and bless us for that – we just need to believe it