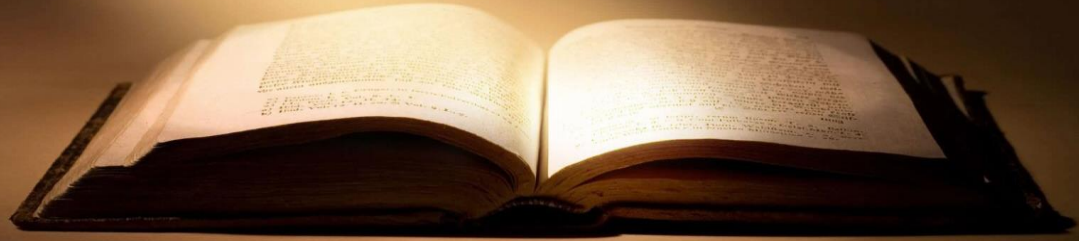


# An Imperative Revelation



## *Sermon Series: First and Foremost*

### *Part Two: An Imperative Revelation*

#### **2 Timothy 3:15-18**

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*Objective Sentence: Everyone should make the Study of God's Word his or her number one priority because the instructions for receiving eternal life are contained within the pages of the Bible . (1-14-18) (1189 chapters, , 31,214 verses , 773,746 words)*

*Introduction: Bob Buchannon:* There's no way around it, the faith of a **follower of Jesus stands or falls** on two things—on the inspiration of Scripture and on the deity of Jesus Christ. If either of these are false—if the Bible is not God's eternal Word, or if Christ is not God's Son—Christianity is false. It is bound to crumble and fall. If these two things are true, however, it will stand forever, regardless of how many skeptics, atheists, or infidels attack it.

**#1. The Bible, God's Word, is Everything** (*Author Unknown: As is your desire, so is your will. As is your will, so is your deed. As is your deed, so is your destiny*).

**A. Pastor Dan:** *I've come to believe that God's commands are a window into His soul revealing His needs and the work He will do in each person who is willing to walk with Him. We hinder Jesus from empowering us when we say, "I cannot be what God wants me to be, I cannot do what God wants me to do." The commandments do not deal with the actuality of our weakness, but with the potentiality of the strength that is ours through relationship with God. The power to keep every command is provided by the One who gave us every command to keep.*

**1. It is imperative for growth** (*James Lane Allen: You cannot travel within and stand still without*).

- a. **2 Peter 3:18 NKJV** But **grow in grace and in knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to Him be glory both now and forever.
- b. **1 Peter 2:1-3 NLT** Get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, you must crave the pure spiritual milk of God's Word **so that you will grow into a full salvation experience**. Cry out for this nourishment, <sup>3</sup> now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

- c. *Pastor Dan:* God's Word, the Bible, is to our spiritual being what food is to our physical being.
- d. **Psalms 1:1-3 NKJV** Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup> but his delight *is* in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.
- e. *Oliver Cromwell:* If I cease being better I cease being good.
- f. **John 15:4-5, 7 NKJV** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.
- g. **2 Pet. 1:2-8 NKJV** **Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God** and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup> who by His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the **knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and virtue, <sup>4</sup> and by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust. <sup>5</sup> And also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup> to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup> to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup> For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the **knowledge** of our Lord Jesus Christ. (**Philippians 3:10-14; Galatians 2:20**)

## 2. It Reveals What God Needs from Me and What I can Expect from Him

- a. **John 14:21** **He who has My commandments and keeps them**, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest [reveal] Myself to him.
- b. **Joshua 1:8 NKJV** This **Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth**, but **you shall meditate in it day and night**, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then **you will make your way prosperous**, and then **you will have good success**.
- c. *Pastor Dan:* When we get into the Word we will get out of the Word that which we need to live by the Word.
- d. *Stephen Covey:* Most of us spend too much time on what is **urgent** and not enough time on what is **important**." We sacrifice what is best on the altar of good.
- e. **2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV** **Study [God's Word] and be diligent to present yourself approved to God**, a worker [tested by trial] who does not need to be ashamed, [accurately handling] and rightly dividing the word of truth.
- f. **Psalm 19:7-11** The **law ... testimony ... statutes ... commandments ... fear ...** <sup>9</sup> [and] the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup> **More to be desired *are* they than gold**, Yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup> Moreover **by them Your servant is warned**, and in keeping them there *is* **great reward**.

*Closing: The Piano Player:* The music ministry of our little church went through many ups and downs, but more downs than ups. Nancy was very capable, but she was having a difficult time trying to

play the piano and lead the congregation at the same time. A very talented musician was a member of our church, but he was so stubborn and difficult to work with that I was forced to dismiss him. After struggling for two years, we needed a miracle. It was probably foolish, but I asked the little group of faithful midweek attendees at the beginning of our Bible study, "Do you think that God can, in this city of thousands send us a piano player?" They sat silently wondering where I was going with that question. "Can He?" Someone spoke up and said God can do anything. "Okay, since that is true let's show the Lord that we are serious and put our faith to a test. I believe that it is time for us to quit struggling until He answers our prayer. Here is my proposal: let's sing a cappella until the Lord answers our prayer. Are you with me?" They said yes, only because they didn't want to express doubt. We sang without music. Sunday morning, I repeated the challenge, and we sang again without the accompaniment of instruments.

There were four new visitors at church that Sunday: Ann, Brenda, Jim and Sue. That afternoon I was at the church when the phone rang. "Hello, this is Jim. I was in service this morning and want to talk with you about music." He was a piano and guitar player. His wife was a vocalist, and his son a drummer. They attended a large church and there was no opportunity for them to use their gifts. "If you will agree, we'd love to come and help you." That afternoon the family showed up for a rehearsal. They were amazing and with Nancy at the helm we had a complete team and worshipped the Lord with all our hearts. Ann, one of the other visitors that Sunday morning, joined our worship team some weeks later. It was one of the most amazing miracles that we had received since entering the ministry.