

## Lesson 4: Core Values – Submit to the Authority of Scripture

### **Opening:**

A compass is a magnetized strip of steel that when balanced on a point and free to swing in any direction, comes to rest with one end pointing north. The compass has been used for hundreds of years as a foundational tool for navigation. We have already seen in this series that glorifying God is His design for our lives. The Bible is the navigation tool that God gives us to guide us toward fulfilling our biblical mission of loving God, serving others, and equipping disciple-makers.

### **Central Truths:**

- The Spirit speaks to us through the Bible and leads us to know God.
- Knowing God and submitting to His will helps us to learn how to glorify Him as a church and makes the Bible our authority for faith and practice.

### **Core Values: Submit to the authority of scripture**

The second core value that gives direction to our church is: We submit to the authority of scripture. Reading, believing, and obeying God's word provides us the direction we need to glorify God.

### The Bible helps us to know God's heart and be more grateful for His grace:

The key to reading and understanding the word of God is first to know what you are looking for. God's word reveals to us His heart, His gracious plan of redemption, and therefore points us toward Jesus. All of Scripture points to our need for a Savior. God said of David that He was "a man after My heart" (Acts 13:22). David sought to know the Lord, and seeking Him, he became like the one he was seeking after.

### The Bible helps us to know God's will and plan:

Jesus quoted many of the books in the Hebrew Old Testament. Look at the following ways that Jesus glorified God through His use and understanding of the word of God and write down how Jesus used scripture:

Matthew 4:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 7:5-8 \_\_\_\_\_

The word submit means to yield our will to the will of another. God always knows what is best for us and what will help us fulfill our mission. Submission is not a passive word. On the night of Jesus' betrayal (Read Luke 22:42) He didn't passively take our sins upon Himself. Instead, He actively chose to die for our sins so that we might be reconciled to God. Ephesians 5 is an often-discussed passage about submission in marriage relationships but look at the first part of Ephesians 5:24 *Now as the church submits to Christ*. The context of Ephesians 5 makes it clear that the church is not to be passive but is to be active in seeking to follow the will of God. In fact, the way the church follows the Christ that is revealed in the Scriptures becomes the example for marriage and all other relationships.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17: What does this passage tell us about the importance of the Word of God?

### **Examine the Text:**

Reading the Biblical Text: Romans 10:14-17

<sup>14</sup> How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" <sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" <sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

As God's people, when we hear and obey the word of God we are equipped as a disciple of Jesus and we become a witness to His promises. We have already seen that the Scriptures help us to know God's heart, and to understand God's will, **but the primary purpose of the word of God is the advancement of His mission.**

Look at V. 14 In Romans, the writer is encouraging the church to focus on the biblical mission of sharing the gospel with others. He notes that people come to faith when they hear the gospel presented through the word of Christ.

Look at V. 15 Notice that preaching the good news is based on being sent. When we study the word of God, He guides us and sends us to preach the good news during the week. He supplies encounters with others who need to hear about Jesus. The word of God leads us to fulfill the mission of God.

Look at VV. 16-17 These verses remind us that conversion is God's work, but teaching and proclaiming the truth of the word of God is the work of the church.

**Applying the Text:**

- When we submit to the authority of Scripture, we are inclining our hearts toward God and away from selfish interests. (Read Psalm 119:36)
- When we submit to the authority of Scripture, we cause people to consider more fully the claims of Christ. (Read Acts 17:11)