

Grace & Truth Inside Out
Introduction; The Sovereignty of God, Part 1: His Word
Various Passages

I. Introduction

- Data/timeline of SCOTUS case (see below)
 - Reason for sermon series - 2 Timothy 3:1-5,10-15 (cf Genesis 3:1 Garden of Eden..."Did God really say...?"); Ephesians 1:11; 2 Corinthians 2:14-3:6; 1 Chronicles 12:32
 - Prayer
- A. Series Name - John 1:14, then 17 - cf Exodus 33:18; 34:5-7 (James Denny quote)
- Grace = Undeserved favor; joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness
 - Truth = Objective truth; open, not hidden or concealed
 - Inside Out = Our hearts first, then toward others
- B. Series Overview
1. Schedule (see slides)
 2. Format - Template (primary focus on truth); Best carried forward in community (reference email address); Q&A meeting(s)
 3. Expectations (see slides)
 4. Goals (see slides)

II. God's Sovereign Word

A. Definitions

1. God's Sovereignty - Power, Authority, Rule; Romans 11:36
2. God's Word - Eternal, Firm; Psalm 119:89

B. The Bible

1. Source (i.e., Process) - 2 Peter 1:19-21
2. Purpose - 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12
3. Reliability (see slides)
4. Priority (read doctrinal statement)

III. Applications (see slides)

GMD²

So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Peter 1:19-21)

Break it down. Spend this week coming to terms with what level of authority and rule Scripture will have in your life. Think and pray on the following phrases from the verses above as you consider those parameters:

- *pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place;*
- *no prophecy [of Scripture] was ever made by an act of human will;*
- *men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

On November 6, 2014, the US 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 that Ohio's ban on same-sex marriage did not violate the US Constitution. On November 14, 2014, same-sex couples filed a petition with the US Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari - i.e., to review the lower court's decision. On January 16, 2015, the US Supreme Court granted the petition and officially set the case in motion: Docket #14-556, James Obergefell, et al., Petitioners v. Richard Hodges, Director, Ohio Department of Health, et al. On April 28, 2015, oral arguments were presented to the US Supreme Court. On June 26, 2015, in a 5-4 decision the US Supreme Court reversed the ruling of the US 6th Circuit Court of Appeals and ruled that the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution requires all states in America to grant same-sex marriages and recognize same-sex marriages granted in other states.

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these....Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:1-5,10-15

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will....

Ephesians 1:11

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things? For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God. Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you? You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Corinthians 2:14-3:6

...the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do....

1 Chronicles 12:32

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth....For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

John 1:14,17

Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!"....The Lord descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the Lord. Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

Exodus 33:18; 34:5-7

"No man ought to preach nor can he really preach who cannot make great assertions about Jesus Christ."

James Denny, Scottish professor from the University of Glasgow

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

Romans 11:36

Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.

Psalm 119:89

So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 Peter 1:19-21

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two- edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired of God and without error in the original writings. The exact meaning of the Scriptures is essentially unchanged in any important respect in the widely accepted English translations. The Scriptures are authoritative and without error in any category of knowledge, including science and history, and are of supreme and final authority in all matters about which they speak. We believe the Scriptures are to be interpreted in a normal and literal way and that they are understood as the believer is guided by the spirit of God.

FBC Doctrinal Statement