

## What We Believe: The Bible

**Text:** 2 Timothy 3.16–17

**Theme:** God has spoken to us through the Scriptures so we might know eternal life is in His Son, Jesus, who changes us to live lives uprightly before Him.

**Read 2 Timothy 3.16–17**

**Introduction — The B.I.B.L.E.**

yes, that's the book for me  
I stand alone on the Word of God  
the B.I.B.L.E.

**Song which emphasizes what our Scandinavian forefathers of the EFCA asked:**

- “Var står det skrivet?”
- where is that written: meaning God’s Word is our source of authoritative revelation from God
- not traditions of men, even if they prove helpful
- not the opinions of pastors and scholars, as valuable as they might be
- no, the Word of God is that which we stand upon when it comes to our beliefs

**With that in mind, let’s read together Article #2 of the EFCA Statement of Faith**

**We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.**

**This summer, on our Sundays, we’ll be examining each article of our Statement of Faith**

- necessary to know what we believe
- vital to know from where it comes

*In this article, firstly, we see that...*

### **I. GOD HAS SPOKEN**

- last week we spent a few moments trying to learn everything there is to know about God!
- well, not exactly, but as it pertains to EFCA SoF, we covered most of that
- from teaching on God, we see that this God we worship is a God who speaks

#### **1. Affirmed throughout Scripture itself**

- **Hebrews 1:1-2 1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.**
- F. Schaeffer wrote book on this truth about God: He Is There & He Is Not Silent
- as God began all created things, we read: “And God said...”
- God keeps on speaking through His creation
- **Psalm 19:1-2 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech,**

**and night to night reveals knowledge.**

- affirmed in Romans
- **Romans 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.**
- God also spoke to that one creature uniquely made in His image: man
- **Genesis 1:28-30 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.**
- then God spoke to him promise of eternal life
- **Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”**
- Do this and live... God kept on speaking this law, even after man had sinned
- but He also gave the gospel promise of eternal life as He would provide it
- **Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”**
- God would not leave us in silence: He spoke forth His good news of and thru His Son

## 2. How did God speak this Word?

- heard in Hebrews 1 how He did this: by prophets and by Jesus Christ, His Son
- human authors
- real people in real time during real history
- this is important as we study God’s Word
- seek to understand author’s intent: time, place, people, and more
- if we do this, we know what God is saying, then and now
- want to know more? Join Jim’s Sunday morning class & you will learn how

*We can read and hear God speak...*

## II. IN TWO TESTAMENTS YET ONE BOOK

- sixty-six books in one book
- Old and New Testaments: divine authority affirmed by Jesus, as well as early church

### 1. Breathed out—inspired words

- God actually gave His words to His chosen men, 40 of them over 1,600 years time
- breathed them out, this is what inspired literally means
- every word in this book comes from God, not from man’s opinions
- focus if far more on end product than the process
- some religious works, e.g., Koran claim to be dictated; same with Book of Mormon
- God’s inspiration involves the whole man: thoughts, culture, context

• **2 Peter 1:20-21 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

• so source of this book is God

## 2. Without error

- God is God of truth, He cannot lie, as men so often do
- all-knowing and all-good, will never deceive us
- means this Book is completely reliable, wholly true, without any errors
- can be trusted in all it teaches
- Jesus' life is testimony to this: whole life depended upon God's words
- cannot understand Jesus & His mission without this

## 3. Complete

- God's Word in the Scriptures is sufficient
- **2 Peter 1:3-4 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature...**
- all we need to know for our Christian faith and life is here in this revealed Word
- thus, our EFCA forefathers: "Var står det skrivet?"
- or the reformers before them: sola Scriptura—Scripture alone is sufficient authority
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

## 4. Flows from supremacy of Christ Jesus

- *sola Scriptura* works out from *solus Christus*
- we cannot add anything to Christ's work of active & passive obedience, redemption
- to do so undermines who Jesus is & what He has done
- Jesus affirmed the OT; apostles took Jesus' teaching and gave it to us
- **"In these last days He [God] has spoken to us by His Son"**
- **"in [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge"**

## 5. Authoritative

- this Book is more than just a manual
- it is life and blessing for us who believe
- ignore to your great peril
- disobey it to painful discipline from hand of Father
- change it, corrupt it, correct it: OT & NT pronounce anathema upon this
- this is not to say other education or knowledge is to be ignored
- God gave us those things as well, but only His Word contains full knowledge of Him
- everything required of us for a holy life is in these pages

*SoF provides us with...*

### III. OUR RESPONSE

- God's Word is not just tome of deep theological truths
- it is that, but so much more
- it gives us God's will on how to live life pleasing to Him

- not so we can be saved, but because we are saved
- not “Do this and live” but “Because you live, do this”

### 1. Believe in all that it teaches

- God is God of all truth & makes Himself known
- Jesus prayed that we would be sanctified by use of God’s Word
- **John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.**
- this ought to humble us, fill us with gratitude that God has spoken His gospel to us
- then we adore and give thanks to Him always
- this is God’s Word; we do not stand as judge over it

### 2. Obey it all

- this is simply part of what Jesus commanded us to do
- **Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**
- a disciple obeys words of his Master, Jesus Christ
- Scripture is profitable, useful for this:
- for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
- **Isaiah 66:2**  
**But this is the one to whom I will look:**  
**he who is humble and contrite in spirit**  
**and trembles at my word.**
- this obedience will lead to cherishing & praising God as giver of His Words
- **Psalm 19:10-11 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;**  
**sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**  
**Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.**

### 3. Trust His promises

- **Ev’ry promise in the book is mine,**  
**Ev’ry chapter, ev’ry verse, ev’ry line;**  
**All are blessings of His love divine,**  
**Ev’ry promise in the book is mine.**
- while little ditty is helpful, not every promise is for you individually
- but those that are? Trust them!
- know the God who gave them, first off
- then give your assent to their veracity
- and finally, trust them to have their “Yes!” And “Amen!” in Christ Jesus

### Conclusion – This is God’s Word

- what this Book says, God says
- it is for our good
- it is for His glory
- God has spoken to us through the Scriptures so we might know eternal life is in His Son, Jesus, who changes us to live lives uprightly before Him.