

Alton Baptist Church e-Service 4th October 2020

The divine inspiration of the bible

Welcome to this e-Service today that provides us with the opportunity to be encouraged as we praise God through the songs we hear, as we worship Him with our prayers of adoration and thanksgiving and we are blessed through the study of the Word.

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

³ I will proclaim the name of the LORD.

Oh, praise the greatness of our God!

⁴ He is the Rock, his works are perfect,
and all his ways are just.

A faithful God who does no wrong,
upright and just is he.

Song: Ascribe greatness to our God the rock

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXomlNaDI0E>

Prayer:

Father we acknowledge what Your Word says that you are indeed a great God worthy of our praise and adoration. You are a rock on which we can build our lives and a firm foundation in these difficult times. We thank you that you are faithful and just and through the giving of your Son we might know the forgiveness of our sins. We confess that our lives are stained with the following of our wrongful desires and we seek your forgiveness. We praise you for your Word that proclaims a message of salvation and is a guide for us as we journey through life. We pray that you will draw close to us even though we are restricted in the way that we can meet so that we can worship you in spirit and truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

Song: O Lord my God!

One of the aspects from the Bible is that it tells us of a creator God and we see that in the wonders of creation and this song reminds us of that and encourages us to say "How great Thou art."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHggQjJrxl8>

Intercessory Prayer:

Father we acknowledge, "How great Thou art" and it is with thanks that we can bring our petitions and requests to you as the One who is Sovereign Lord over all situations. We pray for our government as they make important decisions regarding the control of the pandemic and manage the economic repercussions arising from Covid 19. We ask that you will draw near to those suffering mentally and emotionally as a result of the current situation. We ask that you will protect students as they start a new academic year.

Internationally we ask that you will help those struggling in the USA with the civil unrest and for the democratic process for the appointment of the president. There are many areas of the world where people are being persecuted for their Christian faith and we ask that you will sustain them by the power of your Holy Spirit.

We remember the following people and ask that you will help them for you know their circumstances:

Hannah for her healing and for the wider family as they support her.

For David and Jenny as they prepare to move.

For Alan and Mary that you will bless and encourage them.

For Ginny in her role as a member of the council.

For the wider membership of Alton Baptist Church and we thank you that we can share our burdens and encourage one another.

Father we thank you that we bring our petitions and requests in the Name of Our Saviour Jesus. Amen

Song: Thy Word is a light unto my path

This song emphasises how the Word of God is a lamp that sheds light on our path through life's journey

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKlQpjl_oqY

The next message as part of the series **Back to Basics "We Believe in"**

The divine inspiration of the Bible 2 Timothy 3: 16 – 17, Deuteronomy 4: 2

Reading: 2 Timothy 3: 16 – 17 from the NIV Bible

16 All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The passage from the Message

16 Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and is useful one way or another – showing us truth, exposing rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way. 17 Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.

Deuteronomy 4: 2

Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you.

Prayer: Father we praise and thank you for the Word of Truth that is divinely inspired. We praise you that through the reading of your word we can call you our Father that by believing in your Son we can know the forgiveness of our sins and that we have the assurance of eternal life when we trust in Him. We ask in the Name of Jesus that you will help us to grow in our love and knowledge of yourself as we study your word. Amen

The divine inspiration of the Bible

If Christians were asked what it was that brought them to the point of making a commitment to become a Christian for many they would say that someone had shared something from the Bible. Paul in Romans 10: 17 says, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the **word of God.**” (KJV) There were two passages of scripture that were important in my conversion and they were Revelation 3: 20, “Behold I stand at the door and knock” and John 1:12, “To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” They were not just words from a book they were the **Word of God** that through the power of the Holy Spirit touched my heart and mind and changed the direction of my life. I am sure for you that you can make reference to Scripture that changed your life.

No other book has had such an impact on my life and I have seen how it has changed the lives of others. How can this be?

It is because **ALL Scripture is God breathed.** God is the author of the Bible but he did use men to write it. He used the prophets and the apostles to pen the words but they were empowered by the Holy Spirit under the supervision of God. God ensured that the Bible contained all the information we need to have to live in a close relationship with Him. The Bible is no ordinary book; it is unique and just as it has divine authorship so it requires us to be open to the Holy Spirit to understand it. 2 Cor. 14 “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

It is divinely inspired to teach us the truth. Psalm 19: 7 – 8, “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.” No ordinary book could make such a statement as this. Remember too that Jesus said, John 14: 6, “I am the way and the TRUTH and the life.”

The Word of God is there to rebuke and expose rebellion. Psalm 119: 36 – 37, “Turn my heart towards your statutes and not towards selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things: preserve my life according to your word.” This passage challenges the selfishness that can so easily dominate our lives and the wrong things that take our eyes away from being fixed on Jesus.

The inspired word of God corrects and trains. Joshua 1: 8, “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.” We need to feed on the Word of God so that we inwardly digest it remembering that ALL scripture has been given to us. Reference has been made to passages from the Old Testament to show how it complements the passage from Timothy.

Why are we given the inspired Word of God? Verse 17 makes it clear, “So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” This is supported by the encouraging word from Ephesians 2: 10, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Isn’t this wonderful, God wants to use us in His service. This gives us purpose and direction in our lives also the scriptures as revealed to us through the Holy Spirit will guide and direct us. Psalm 119: 105, “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet.”

Deuteronomy 4: 2 encourages us to keep to the commands that the Lord has given us. Sadly the Bible gives us a warning in 2 Timothy 4: 3 -4, “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather round them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”

We must seek to build each other up in a greater love and knowledge of the **divinely inspired Word of God.**

Prayer:

Father we thank you for the Bible that tells us of a relationship with you and that all scripture is given that we might have life and have life in all its fullness. We thank you the name of Jesus that you want to use us in your service. Amen

Song: Lord, Thy word abideth

This song reminds us that the Word of God as written in the Bible sustains us through life's trials.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcghwj7zZZg>

Blessing Jude 24 – 25 To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen