

The Scripture of the Word of God

I. Introduction: The Foundation of Faith

- **The Necessity of Revelation:** Scripture is the foundational source that provides the specific character, plan, and Gospel of God.
- **Protection from Error:** Without special revelation, humans produce "limited and disfigured ideas" about God.
- **The Call to Fidelity:** Using 2 Timothy, the sermon highlights the ongoing need for the church to remain faithful to the Word amidst a world of competing and often dangerous ideologies.

II. The Nature of Holy Scripture

- **God's Self-Witness:** Scripture is defined as God's own witness to Himself, intended to reveal Him to lost mankind through Jesus Christ.
- **Infallible Authority:** As God's own Word, written by men under the superintendence of the Holy Spirit, it carries divine authority in every matter it addresses.
- **Total Inerrancy:** The sermon asserts that Scripture is wholly and verbally God-given, making it without error in its teachings on God's acts, world history, and literary origins.

III. The Role of the Holy Spirit

- **Divine Author:** The Holy Spirit is the ultimate author behind the human writers of the Bible.
- **Authentication:** The Spirit authenticates the truth of the Word to the believer through an "inward witness".
- **Illumination:** Beyond just providing the text, the Spirit must open human minds to understand its true spiritual meaning.

IV. The Believer's Response to the Word

- **To Be Believed:** Scripture should be accepted as God's instruction in everything it affirms.
- **To Be Obeyed:** It must be followed as God's command in everything it requires of the believer.
- **To Be Embraced:** The promises within the Word are to be held as God's personal pledge.

V. Conclusion: The Consequences of Authority

- **The Cost of Compromise:** Impairing the authority or inerrancy of Scripture brings "serious loss" to both the individual believer and the Church.
- **A Living Testimony:** The sermon concludes with the example of a "radiant Christian" life being a testimony to the transforming power of the living Word, even in the worst circumstances.