



Welcome!

### ***Truth Applied***

• Consider this conversation ...

**“God has spoken to me. I just know I heard him. I have been feeling that my situation is just different, and now I’m sure of it. Now I know what I believe I should do.”**

• And this one ...

**“What’s so special about the Bible anyway? Every religion has their own book, written by some guy with an agenda. I can hear from God in my own way.”**

Truth Applied



### ***Voice of God***

- How do we know God speaks to us through the Bible?
- Is the Bible unique from other books?
- What message does it contain? Is it even clear?
- If the Bible is “God’s Word,” what do we do now?

Truth Applied



### ***Voice of God***

❖ Start with *Drama*: THE Story —> We can trust it!

• Together: **2 Timothy 3:10-17**

- Who is speaking to whom in this passage?
- What will happen to those who follow Christ?
- What directions or charges are given? (v.14-15)
- Discuss the purposes of Scripture. (v.16)
- Why should we use Scripture this way? (v.17)

Truth Applied



### **Voice of God**

#### • **The Bible (itself):**

- **66 Books**—Written across >2,000 years by >35 people (Biblical “canon” = “rule”)
  - **Unified voice of God**—Amazingly consistent message across cultures, perspectives and time
  - **Prophets, not oracles**—Limited understanding of their own writing; own words, but God’s message
  - **OT prophecies → NT fulfillment**—Work together
- ❖ God uses his creation to carry out his purposes

Truth Applied



### **Voice of God**

#### • **Jesus on the Bible:**

- **Creation and marriage**—Historical event and covenant promise; God’s words (Matt 19:4-5)
- **Referenced OT as history**—
  - Abel to Zechariah (Matt. 23:35)
  - Noah and Sodom (Luke 17:26-30)
  - Manna in wilderness (John 6:49)
  - Jonah (Matt. 12:39-40)
- **Main subject**—Fulfillment in Christ (John 5:39-40)

Truth Applied



### **Voice of God**

#### • **Jesus on the Bible:**

- **Apostles speak for him**—Hearing them is hearing Jesus himself; receiving them is receiving Father and Son (Matt. 16:16-19, 18:18, 28:16-10; Acts 1:8)
- ❖ No “red letter” Bible hierarchy
- **Apostles understood this**—
    - Peter about Paul’s writings (2 Peter 3:15-16)
    - Paul about Luke’s writings (1 Tim. 5:18)
- ❖ So, trusting Jesus is God requires trusting the Bible

Truth Applied



### **Voice of God**

#### • **Truth of the Bible:**

- **Proper diagnosis**—Created for God, but sinful and broken, and then saved and adopted
  - **THE Story**—Not about us, and yet addresses us
  - **Unparalleled wisdom**—Different and beyond us
  - **Offending and affirming**—Scripture challenges and supports every culture and time in some way
- ❖ Nothing else has power like this, showing it’s true

Truth Applied



“Through this Word, I am regularly introduced to a wisdom that is beyond anything that I have ever encountered anywhere else. His commands are just, and his gospel is liberating. Through this Word, the futile character in the script that I have written for my life movie has died and has been raised to new life in the story of Jesus. Then there are all the others he has cast in his unfolding drama who have become my nearest of kin, more dear to me than blood relatives. We have been baptized into Christ together by one Spirit, share one faith, and partake of the same heavenly food and drink. As in any relationship, communication is key. The more I hear God speak to me in his Word, the more I come to know him. I trust God’s Word for all these reasons and more.”

— Michael Horton

**Truth Applied**



### **Voice of God**

❖ Drama → Doctrine: THE Story tells us about itself!

- **Inspired**—Very words (not just message) is “God breathed” (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)
- **Inerrant**—God is behind the Bible, and he is great and good, then it has no error or falsity (Ps. 119:160)
- **Authoritative**—Jesus, who is God, viewed OT this way (Matt. 19:4-5) and authorized apostles to speak for him (Matt. 18:18, 28:16-20)

**Truth Applied**



### **Voice of God**

❖ Drama → Doctrine: THE Story tells us about itself!

- **Clear**—Conveys directly the message that it carries, but not clear on all other matters (John 5:39-40)
  - **Sufficient**—Contains all we need to know for salvation and sanctification (Luke 24:44)
  - **Self-consistent**—With many authors, long time periods and cross-cultural origins, it is still without contradiction
- ❖ If we read the Bible rightly, it will read us in return.

**Truth Applied**



### **Voice of God**

❖ Doctrine → Doxology & Discipleship: Truth drives our preaching and our living!

- **Law**—“Bad News”—To warn: God gave commands that we have broken; condemned by nature and choice
  - **Gospel**—“Good News”—To call: God’s Son lived righteously and died brutally under judgment in our place; he gives us life by grace, through faith alone
- ❖ Every verse is either Law or Gospel (or both).

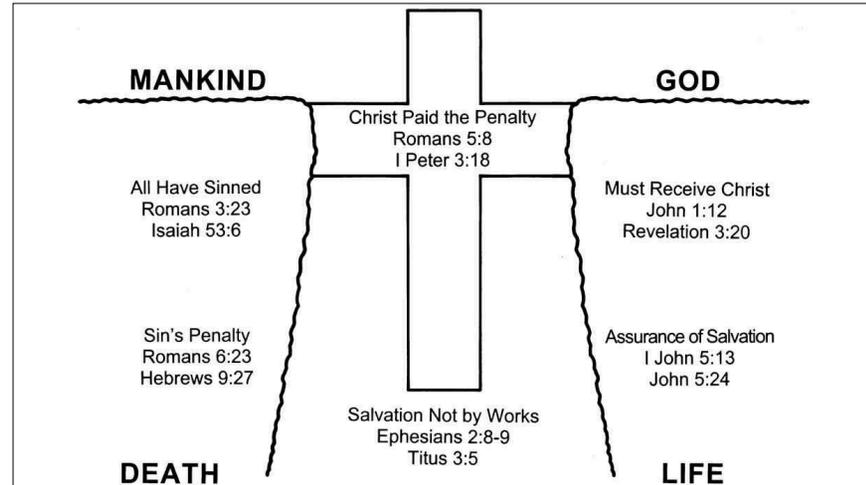
**Truth Applied**



**Romans 10:14-17**—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? [15] 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!” [16] But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” [17] So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

**Truth Applied**

 **EQUIP / ADULT**  
BE DISCIPLES. MAKE DISCIPLES.



### THE ROMANS ROAD

- 3:10 EVERYONE HAS SINNED
- 3:23 WE FALL SHORT OF GOD'S HOLINESS
- 5:8 GOD LOVES US AND SENT JESUS
- 6:23 WE DESERVE DEATH BUT ARE OFFERED LIFE IN CHRIST
- 10:9-10 DO YOU BELIEVE IN WHAT JESUS DID ON THE CROSS AND ARE YOU READY TO ASK JESUS TO BE YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR?
- 10:13 WE ARE PART OF GOD'S FAMILY



**Two Ways to Live:**

<http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au/2wtl/mobile>

**Truth Applied**

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BE DISCIPLES. MAKE DISCIPLES.

### **Voice of God**

❖ *Doxology & Discipleship*: Preaching and living!

- Together:
  - Explain the Gospel (THE Story) around the circle.

## Then ...

Truth Applied



- **“God has spoken to me. I just know I heard him. I have been feeling that my situation is just different, and now I’m sure of it. Now I know what I believe I should do.” What do you ask or say?**
- **“What’s so special about the Bible anyway? Every religion has their own book, written by some guy with an agenda. I can hear from God in my own way.” How do you respond?**

Truth Applied



- **Your friend just lost his job. He is struggling with how this will affect his family, where things weren’t going that great already. He wonders if God really cares. How do you explain God cares more than he could even imagine?**
- **You’re on the sideline at your kid’s game. Another parent asks why you weren’t there last Sunday. You tell them you were at church. She asks why you go to church. What do you say next?**

Truth Applied



### **Voice of God**

- ❖ *Doxology & Discipleship*: Preaching and living!
- Consider the Constitution (analogous) ...
  - **Forms a people**—Adoption, church and calling
  - **“Founding Fathers”**—Prophets and Apostles
  - **Leaders**—Word preached and proclaimed; building on foundation
- ❖ We need the preaching of the Word—expositional, applicational and regular—reminding us of the Gospel.

Truth Applied



### **Next steps ...**

- Consider the Law and the Gospel. What does each teach us about God and about ourselves?
- What one important thing did you learn today about God speaking through the Bible?
- What areas of your life are not under the Bible's authority? What needs to change?
- Pray for God to give you a Gospel-sharing opportunity.
- Read — **Review last 4 weeks**

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