22 Jan 2022 Core Values: Shaped by Scripture
2 Tim 3:16-17, Mt 4: 1-11, Pet 1: Lk 24: Ps 111:7-8

Intro: As Bible believing Christians, it may seem incongruous, that we looked at 'Jesus Centered' and 'Gospel Driven' before the Scripture's role in shaping us. But we know that Jesus' existence is not dependent on the existence of the scripture, nor is the gospel the entirety of the Scriptures, but rather a 'message about who Jesus is and what we do in response to Him.' Of course the Scriptures are the written record, without error, of God's story for His people and contains all that we need to life a life of Faith in Jesus and live according to His will.

1. Some definitions, so that we all are on the same page!

'the Scriptures' the bible's word for itself eg. Mt 21:42, , Mk 12:24,Lk 24:27, Jn 5:39, 1 Cor 15: 3-4, 2 Pet 3:16, 2 Tim 3:16, 1 Pet 2:6,
The 'Word' of God, meaning Jesus -only in Jn 1:1,14, 1 Jn 1:1, Rev 19:13:
The word of God meaning 'message' (Mk 4:14, Lk 3:2, Acts 2:41, Rom 10:8, 1 Cor 1:18, Col 3:16, 2 Tim 4:2, 1 Pet 1:23-25 +++)
Testament meaning 'Covenant'(New and Old) Gen 17:1-14, Ex 34:17-18, 2 Sam 7:4-17 (Jer 33:21) , Lk 22:20, Jer 31:31-33, Heb 8:8-13, 2 Cor 3:6
Kerigma, didache proclamation (of the gospel/teaching of the apostles

2. A Key Principles about the Scriptures and the message that is given:

A. The word/message needs to be 'activated' in 'faith' Heb 4:2, Mt 7:24-27

The scriptures and the message which comes through it are in and of themselves are 'Truth', but they are powerless in our lives unless they operate thru faith.

B. The Gospels and Jesus' work are explained in the 'letters'.

C. The N.T. writers use the OT by quoting to prove a point, or apply a teaching or sometimes using a principle and reapplying ti to a NT pricinciple. E.g 1 Pet 3:10-12,1 Cor 10:1-13, Rom 3:10, 4:7-8, 14:11, 15:8

3. Some Practices that help us as individuals to be shaped by Scripture

Read the Bible every day: (Josh 1:8, Deut 17:19, Ps 1:1-3)
Desire it like a new born baby (1 Pet 2:2, Heb 5:13-14)
Let it satisfy your soul, like honey (Ps 119:103, 19:10)
Do what they say: they are like a mirror (Ja 1:22-24, Mt 7:24-29)
Read all the scriptures prayerfully (Mt 4:4)

Practically: to start with:

** Read a translation of the Scriptures you can understand.
** Read the Bible, don't study it.....then later study it
** keep a notebook or mark your Bible
** Persevere for thirty days, Make an appointment with God
** Read the N.T first, then consecutively with the O.T
** Take a verse from the Psalms or Proverbs with you

What should I look for?

Jesus, If you don't see Him, you miss it all (Lk 24:27,32, 44)
Promises to claim for oneself (2 Pet 1:4, 2 Cor 7:1)
Examples to follow or an error to avoid (1 Cor 10:11)
Commands to obey or warnings to heed (Ja 1:22-24)
Teaching about. God's character which gives Hope (Rom 15:4,13)

4. Some applications from the Scripture as to why we do (and don't do) certain things in our 'life together'.

What a local body should do together (Acts 2:42-47)
Leaders in a local church (1 Timothy 3:1-13, Tit 1:5-9)
Confronting false teaching (Tit 3:10, 1 Tim 6:3-5, Rom 16:17-18, 2 Jn 1:9)
The teaching of the church (Acts 20:26-30, 2 Tim 4:3, 1 Tim 4:13, 2 Cor 4:2)

5. How Jesus used the Bible in Spiritual confrontation (Mat 4:1-11, Heb 1:1-4)

Conclusion/Application *(Ps. 119:105; Luke 24:27; John 1:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:14-5:2; Heb. 1:1-3)*

The Scriptures (*lit. the Writings)* are the written record of God's self-revelation to man. We treasure them because they reveal Jesus who is God's visible and final self-revelation. We want the Scriptures to shape us as we submit to the Lord Jesus who speaks authoritatively through them. So, we seek to faithfully understand and apply all Scripture, including the parts which may be deemed uncomfortable or unpopular.