

## 2 Timothy 3:10-17/Belgic Confession Article 3

### “God Speaks to You”

**Introduction: Because God has inspired his word for us, we listen gratefully to what he has to say.**

#### 1) Given Through Means

- Paul is writing the book of 2 Timothy to encourage his co-labourer in the gospel, Timothy. Timothy has “followed” Paul. This is more than ‘following’ Paul like we follow someone on Twitter, or follow someone’s sports career. This is more like ‘following’ recipe, meaning he observed, understood and attempted to put into practice what he saw in Paul.
- In imitating Paul, Timothy has received both joys and sorrows. (see Acts 13-14) This is because persecution is the normal situation for the follower of Christ. (John 7:7; 15:20)
- Timothy knows better than to follow the trajectory of the evil men who hate him. *First* Paul, Lois and Eunice (2 Tim 1:5) have shown him the genuine fruits of the genuine gospel.

#### 2) Given by God

- The *second* authority he must recall is the Scriptures which he learned from his youth, which are inspired. The word “inspired” here is more than being ‘motivated.’ This word is a combination of the words ‘God’ and ‘breathed.’ God breathes out his words into the lungs of his prophets and writers, and thus they produce inerrant Scripture. (Deut 18:18-22)
- The inspiration is not ‘*mechanical*’ as if God is dictating the words that the writers spoke without reference to their character. God uses the character, training and knowledge of his chosen writers to produce his text, giving it a human texture. This is why we call inspiration ‘*organic*.’

#### 3) Given for Our Benefit

- The scriptures never give us doctrine for doctrine’s sake. Likewise, inspiration should be a comfort and joy to us. It means that we are not left to determine for ourselves what is accurate and what is faulty in the Biblical text. Instead, God in his great love for us, gave us an accurate record of who he is and what he has done.
- One of the major revelations God gives is his saving work for his people. This was testified to in the Old Testament (v.15), with which Timothy was familiar, and most clearly in the New Testament.

- The Word is also valuable to train us in godly living. The same godly living that we will be hated for, and the same godly living that imposters to the Gospel ministry reject.

Conclusion: God's word is a gift, how can we be in God's word more?