

## **Anchored in the Truth Series**

*Anchored in Truth: Navigating Cultural Shifts with God's Word*

### **The Authority of God's Word**

**Psalm 119:105**

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

**2 Timothy 3:16–17**

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

### **What Is Authority?**

- **Definition:** Authority = the right to define, command, and establish truth.
- **Question:** Who or what do we ultimately trust to guide our lives?

### ***Competing “Authorities” in Society***

1. **Human Reason** – truth is what seems logical to the human mind.
2. **Science** – truth is only what can be observed or measured.
3. **Culture / Society** – In society, truth is defined by majority opinion, trends, or laws.
4. **Personal Experience / Feelings** – truth is what feels right to me.
5. **Religious Pluralism** – all religions equally contain fragments of truth.

### **The Authority of God's Word**

1. **Inspired Authority** – “All scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Tim 3:16).
  - The Bible is ***God-breathed***, not merely human wisdom.

2. **Sufficient Authority** – “Profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (v.16).
  - **The Word is enough for faith and practice; it doesn’t need to be supplemented by worldly truth systems.**
3. **Practical Authority** – “Thy word is a lamp...a light” (Ps. 119:105).
  - **The Word guides decision-making, morality, and identity.**
4. **Final Authority** – The Scriptures judge all other “truth claims.” (John 17:17 “Thy word is truth”).

## **Contrasting the Word with Other Authorities**

- **Reason:** valuable but fallen (**Romans 1:21**). Scripture renews the mind (**Rom 12:2**).
- **Science:** reveals God’s creation but cannot explain the ultimate meaning. The Word provides purpose and moral boundaries.
- **Culture:** ever-changing; God’s Word is unchanging (**Isaiah 40:8**).
- **Experience:** subjective; the Word interprets experiences truthfully (**Jer. 17:9 vs. Psalm 19:7–8**).
- **Pluralism:** Scripture proclaims exclusive truth in Christ (**John 14:6**).

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Why do people often trust reason, science, or culture over Scripture?
2. In what ways do you see cultural authority challenging biblical truth today?
3. How does Scripture bring clarity in moments of confusion, temptation, or moral debate?
4. If Christ is the Living Word (John 1:1–2), how does this relate to the written Word?
5. Why can’t human reason or feelings be the ultimate authority?
6. How has the fall corrupted our ability to discern truth apart from God’s revelation?