

Article 1 The Scriptures

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I got to hurry up, amen. Good afternoon, beloved. Today I get to kick off our conversation talking about the central foundation of our faith. That is the scriptures, the word of God.

We all know that no building can stand without a strong foundation. If the foundation is weak, unstable, or cracked, everything built upon it risks coming to a collapse. Whether it's a house, a skyscraper, or even a church, everything depends on the strength of that foundation.

But we are not just talking about physical buildings this afternoon. We're talking about our faith, our lives, our walk with God. And the question is, what is your foundation built on? The foundation will crack and crumble if it's built on anything less than the truth of God's word.

The scriptures, the holy Bible, they are perfect, they are true, they are completely trustworthy. The Bible is God's revelation to man and the solid foundation on which our lives must be, not can be, not should be, but must be built.

John 1:1-4 tells us, *in the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God, and the word put on flesh and dwelt among us, and in him was life and the light of men.*

The word, the scriptures, are not just a collection of stories or letters. The word is God himself, the creator, the life giver, the light of men.

The foundation is not just information, it is divine, eternal, and all powerful. And if our foundation is the word of God, then we have something solid to stand on. And without it, we have nothing.

Beloved, we live in a world where the truth is constantly questioned. People build their lives on opinions, shifting values, and temporary ideas. But we lose our direction, our hope, our stability, if we don't have the scriptures as our foundation.

Imagine if this article of the faith, the scriptures, our belief in the truth and the authority of the Bible, was not part of the Baptist faith and message. What would happen to the church? What would happen to believers?

We would be like a ship without an anchor, drifting in the sea of confusion. We would have no standard to guide our conduct, no truth to measure our beliefs, no revelation for who God is and what he requires of us.

Beloved, without the scriptures, we wouldn't know the way of salvation. Without the scriptures, we wouldn't know who Jesus is. Without the scriptures, we wouldn't realize he is the divine revelation. Without the scriptures, we wouldn't have God's instructions on how to live, how to love, and how to serve.

The word of God is the foundation of our faith, and it is the standard by which all things should be judged.

I love **Psalm 119:105**, because it reminds us that *your word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.*

I love God's word because it guides us, it fills us. When we find ourselves in darkness and confusion, distraction, it lights up the path. It gives us a way to go. It helps us so we don't stumble, nor do we fall.

The Bible is our guide, it is our direction, it is our spiritual GPS.

Psalm 119:9 says, *How can a young man keep his way pure?*

How can an old man keep their way pure? How can a young woman keep their way pure? How can an old woman keep their way pure?

It answers itself, *by taking heed unto the word of God.*

We live in a world full of temptation and sin and brokenness. And how do we stay pure in a world like that?

Well, we do so by living our lives according to the word of God. We take heed to the word of God.

Living according to the scriptures keeps us aligned with God and His will.

2 Timothy 3:16, the Bible says, *All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.*

It teaches us what's right, it shows us when we're wrong, it keeps us back on the right path.

God's word is not just informational, it is transformational.

Hebrews 4:12, the Bible says, *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of the soul and the spirit, the joint and the marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

God's word is alive. It's not just words on a page, it's active. It cuts deep, it challenges us, it keeps us, it works on the inside of us and then works on the outside of us.

It's sharper than any sword, able to reach into the deepest parts of our being. It convicts us, guides us, transforms us.

Isaiah 48, the Bible declares, *The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of God will stand forever.*

Everything else fades away. Everything else, trends, ideas, philosophies, they come and they go, but the word of God, it will stand forever.

It's unchanging, it's eternal. When everything else crumbles, God's word remains.

The Baptist Faith and Message tells us, The Bible is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, truth and without any mixture of error for its matter.

Therefore, all scripture is totally true and trustworthy.

Beloved, the scriptures show us the way of salvation. They tell us who God is, who we are and how we ought to live.

The Bible is not a book of suggestions. It is a supreme standard by which human conduct, our creeds and the religious opinions should be measured.

It is a foundation of our faith, the lens through which we are to understand the world, the role mat for which we live.

And as I close, I want to remind us this way.

When we prioritize the word of God, we prioritize stability.

When we prioritize the word of God, we prioritize clarity.

When we prioritize the word of God, we prioritize purity.

When we prioritize the word of God, we prioritize authority.

When we prioritize the word of God, we prioritize security.

When we prioritize the word of God, we prioritize integrity.

When we prioritize the word of God, we prioritize eternity.

When we prioritize the word of God, we prioritize community.

His word is still a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.