



Passing It On

The Book of Second Timothy: Introduction

GracePoint Church, Ephrata. 04 AUGUST 2019



The Central Question:
The Central Answer:

I. **Purpose:** What is the purpose of this book?

- a.
- b.
- c.

II. **Context:** How does this book fit into History, the rest of the Bible, and GracePoint?

Relevancy?

- 1)
- 2)

Key Verse:

III. **Themes:** What does Paul, generally, write about?

- a.
- b.
- c.

IV. **The Message:** What is the Main Point?

GRACEPOINT CONSTITUTION AND AFFIRMATION OF FAITH EXCERPTS

Preface: The Origin of This Document

This Affirmation of Faith originated at GracePoint Church of Ephrata, Ephrata, Washington, as the Elders (Overseers)¹ saw the need to define what they believe and teach for the clarity and continuance of Biblical faithfulness in the church. Over the time period of 2006-2008 the Elders met to pray, study, discuss and formulate this doctrinal statement of what we believe and why we believe it.

We rejoice that God has led us as a church and a ministry to embrace a vision of himself and his work that will guard us and help us spread a passion for his supremacy in all things for the joy of all peoples through Jesus Christ.

Purpose of This Document

GracePoint Church of Ephrata Elders have affirmed this Elder Affirmation of Faith and are to be held accountable to maintain it through life and doctrine. As the Summation of this Affirmation states, the aim of this document is to preserve the unity of the church through sound doctrine. In the words of the Affirmation,

We believe that the cause of unity in the church is best served, not by finding the lowest common denominator of doctrine, around which all can gather, but by elevating the value of truth, stating the doctrinal parameters of church or school or mission or ministry, seeking the unity that comes from the truth, and then demonstrating to the world how Christians can love each other across boundaries rather than by removing boundaries.

This document, then, and the team of Elders' adherence to it aims to preserve the unity of the church through a commitment to Biblical truth.

Preamble

The teaching of GracePoint Church of Ephrata is based on the Scriptures. Our statement of faith reflects those doctrines that the Elders and congregation consider essential to understanding, teaching, and practicing God's Word and is based on an interpretation of the Scripture that is:

1. **Normal** - understanding the words of Scripture in their common usage unless otherwise indicated by the context.
2. **Literal** - understanding the meaning of Scripture in its ordinary sense unless the context requires a figurative interpretation.
3. **Grammatical** - using the recognized rules of grammar to interpret the text.
4. **Historical** - understanding the words of Scripture in the context of the times in which they were written.
5. **Systematic** - categorizing and comparing the teaching of the Scriptures with the whole of Scripture in view.

As Elders of GracePoint Church of Ephrata, we believe and affirm that this statement of faith reflects the truth of God's Word.

Article 1. Revelation, Scripture, and Authority

We believe that God is revealed in creation, in the Holy Scriptures, and in Jesus Christ, the apex of revelation. The Scriptures, all sixty-six Old and New Testament books, are divinely authoritative in all they affirm. (Ps. 19:1-6; Heb. 1:1-2; John 17:17) We believe that all the Scriptures center about the Lord Jesus Christ in His person and work in His first and second coming, and hence that no portion, even of the Old Testament, is properly read, or understood, until it leads to Him. We also believe that all the Scriptures were designed for our practical instruction (Mark 12:26, 36; 13:11; Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39; Acts 1:16; 17:2-3; 18:28; 26:22-23; 28:23; Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 2:13; 10:11; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21).

We believe in the verbal, plenary² inspiration of Scripture.³ This means the Holy Spirit dynamically superintended the verbal expressions of the human authors of Scripture so that the very thoughts God intended were accurately penned in the wording of the original manuscripts. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; 1 Cor. 2:13)

We believe the Scripture is inerrant⁴ as to fact and infallibly⁵ trustworthy as to truth, and should be interpreted in context to ascertain each author's intended meaning. Our present Bible continues to bear the final authoritative instruction of God for the church and the world. (John 10:35b; Ps. 19:7; Matt. 5:17-18)

We believe that God's intentions, revealed in the Bible, are the supreme and final authority in testing all claims about what is true and what is right. In matters not addressed by the Bible, what is true and right is assessed by criteria consistent with the teachings of Scripture.

¹ The designation, "Elder" refers to the office of spiritual leadership in the local church. The term "Overseer" (giving oversight) describes the activity of the Elder in the local church. Both terms are used interchangeably in this document. See Article 9. for further explanation.

² **verbal, plenary** "This influence of the Holy Spirit over the writers of Scripture extended beyond the thoughts to the selection of the very words which the authors chose. Yet this influence of the Holy Spirit did not amount to a verbal dictation. The term often adopted is that of "concurrency," or confluent authorship, i.e. That every word is both fully divine and fully human." -M. James Sawyer, *Theories of Inspiration*, www.bible.org.

³ **Inspiration** is...God's superintendence of the human authors so that, using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error His revelation to man in the words of the original autographs." - Charles C. Ryrie

⁴ **Inerrancy** means that when all the facts are known, the Scriptures in their original autographs and properly interpreted will be shown to be wholly true in everything that they affirm whether that has to do with doctrine or morality or with the social, physical, or life sciences." -Paul D. Feinberg, *The Meaning of Inerrancy*, **Inerrancy**, Norman L. Geisler, ed. p.294.

⁵ **Infallible** signifies the quality of neither misleading nor being misled and so safeguards in categorical terms the truth that Holy Scripture is a sure, safe, and reliable rule and guide in all matters." - Norman L. Geisler, *Appendix: Inerrancy*, Norman L. Geisler, ed. p.500.