**Sermon – *“The Worthiness of the OT”*** – 35 minutes (42.5 allowed)

(Part of the Series: 39: Treasuring the OT Together)

For Sunday, 06/02/19:

1. Series Context: Part 1 of the series “[39: Treasuring the Old Testament Together](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ewQaL5hhz8kGa0VQbhUC4wOnrDpHKyrTmD7VhK6DBOA/edit?usp=sharing)”
   1. **Series Overview:**
   2. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible reveals the heart of God and his plan for our redemption, and yet, far too many Christians view the first 39 books of the Old Testament as antiquated, irrelevant and too difficult to understand. In our summer preaching series, "39", we want to help people see the riches of all of Scripture. We want people to walk away each week with a new desire to say: “I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold.” (Psalm 119:127)
   3. By preaching from various genres and themes of the Old Testament in a Christ-centered manner, we will demonstrate the profitability of all Scripture to save us, change us, and equip us for every moment of every day. With our Lead Pastor on Sabbatical, it provides our congregation an opportunity to hear from a diverse range of gifted voices with the unified aim of explaining the text and exposing its relevance for our lives!
2. Sermon Title: “The Worthiness of the Old Testament”
3. Text: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:4
4. Medimemo: ***16****All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,****17****that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. [2 Timothy 3:16-17]*
5. Theme: During Tanner’s Sabbatical, various preachers will provide an OT sermon. I will establish the foundation for the rest of the series.
6. Goal(s):
   1. Introduce Series
   2. Set anticipation for range of preachers
   3. Stimulate a desire to read some OT Scripture this summer
7. Main Point(s): Jesus-followers should value God’s gift of the Old Testament for wisdom, faith, and practice.

OUTLINE:

Worship Song, Pre-Sermon Prayer, & Transition (1.0 Minute)

1. Dismissal of children

Introduction (6.0 Minutes)

1. Greeting
2. Context of This Series, including Tanner’s Sabbatical; Invited Preachers
3. Main Point - Jesus-followers should value God’s gift of the Old Testament for wisdom, faith, and practice.
4. Scripture Reading – 2 Timothy 3:14-4:4
5. Prayer of Transition

Main Body (18.0 Minutes)

1. Encouragement #1 – Value the OT as the powerful Word of God.
2. Encouragement #2 – Value the OT that leads us to Jesus, the Messiah.
3. Encouragement #3 – Value the OT for dealing with questions of life.

Conclusion (10.0 Minutes)

1. Final Exhortation
2. Final Word of Encouragement

Prayer & Transition (1.0 Minutes)

1. Prayer -

Next Element (? Minutes)

1. Song – Psalm 23 “I am not Alone”
2. The Lord’s Supper (lead by Chasteen)

**Sermon – “The Worthiness of the OT” [2 Timothy 3:14-4:4]** – 35 minutes (42.5 allowed)

###### TRANSITION & INTRODUCTION – 6.0 minute

Transition and Greeting:

1. Children are dismissed to go to Redemption Kids.
2. Good Morning! For those of you who I haven’t had the pleasure of meeting yet, my name is John Reddy. I’m privileged to serve as one of the Pastors here at RHC. And… as a double privilege, I get to share first in a new preaching series at RHC.

Context:

1. This morning, we begin our summer preaching series entitled, “*39: Treasuring the Old Testament Together*”.
   1. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible reveals the heart of God and his plan for our redemption…
   2. And yet, far too many Christians view the first 39 books of the Bible – what we refer to as the Old Testament - as antiquated, irrelevant and too difficult to understand.
   3. In our summer preaching series, "39", we want to help people see the riches of all of Scripture - including portions of our Bible that is sometimes avoided and oftentimes misunderstood.
   4. As many of you know, our Lead Pastor – Tanner Turley – has begun his well-deserved and long-overdue Sabbatical. But before he left, he did us a great service and arranged for a number of wonderful Pastors to come and share a heart-felt message from the Old Testament.
   5. I am hopeful that you will be as excited as I am to hear from a diverse range of gifted voices this summer as each one of us – Jon, Stephen, and myself – share the preaching platform with some really gifted and dear preacher-friends of RHC.
   6. Each one of our invited guests has a deep and prayerful commitment to seeing Greater Medford reached through the ministry of those who call Redemption Hill Church home.
   7. We trust that you will find that as we preach through the various forms of literature and different themes of the Old Testament in a Christ-centered manner, that we will demonstrate the profitability of all Scripture to save us… to change us… and to equip us for every moment of every day.
   8. We’ve challenged every speaker to not only explain their Old Testament text but also to expose its relevance for our lives today! I am personally looking forward to a rich summer of learning and deeper personal commitment.
   9. And I pray that you will join me as each of us walks away every week with a new desire to say with the Psalmist: “*I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold.”* (Psalm 119:127)

The Main Point:

1. And so, even before we read our primary Scripture, let me tell you where we are going this morning. [Pause]
   1. Jesus-followers should value God’s gift of the Old Testament for wisdom, faith, and practice.
2. My desire today is to clearly establish from the Word of God a foundation of confidence that to faithfully read… to intentionally study… and to wisely apply godly principles from the 39 books that make up our Old Testament is a worthwhile endeavor.
3. To help us arrive at that conclusion, I’m going to look to the encouragements that the Apostle Paul shared with his pastor protégé, Timothy.

Scripture Reading:

1. So, if you will please open your Bibles to this morning’s key Scripture found in 2 Timothy 3:14-4:4… we’ll begin reading at verse 14… [Pew Bible, p\_\_\_]
   1. ***14****But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whomyou learned it****15****and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.****16****All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,****17****that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

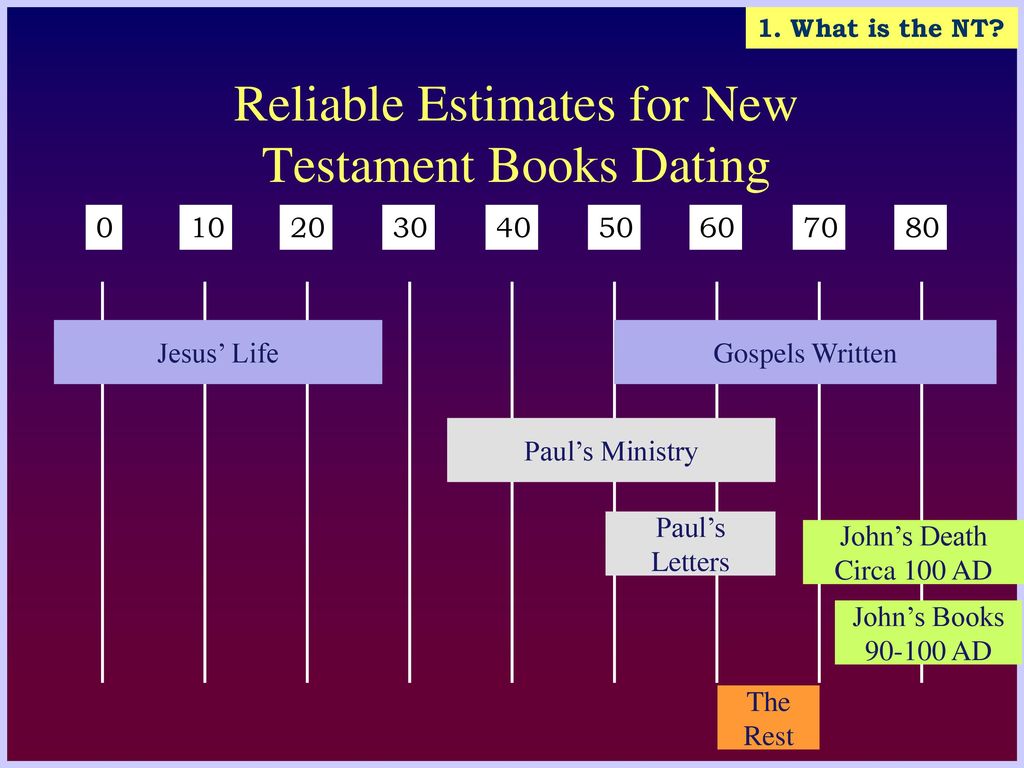
***1****I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:****2****preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.****3****For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,****4****and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

Prayer of Transition:

1. Thus says the Word of God…
2. Would you simply repeat after me while I pray?
   1. *“Heavenly Father… Speak to our hearts… and change our lives”. Amen.”*

**MAIN BODY – Encouragement #1: (6m):**

1. As we look at the worthiness of the Old Testament, my first encouragement to us this morning is that we “Value the OT as the powerful Word of God”.
2. That may seem as an odd declaration to make so let me share why I think that it’s crucial that we understand this truth.
3. We live in a time when our society and even some Christians, including some prominent leaders, are questioning the useful of the Old Testament as a source of life for our times. In fact, in our post-modern culture, the Old Testament is sometimes identified as a “stumbling block to faith” ”[[1]](#footnote-1) or even “obsolete”. The reasons given are varied but run a range as wide as these reasons:
   1. The types of literature written, the geo-political nations traced, and even the names of the characters are unfamiliar to us today.
   2. God sometimes appears to be angry and vengeful rather than loving and kind.
   3. It can be hard to see a picture of “grace” in the pages of the OT.
   4. There are a lot of strange stories that are sometimes weird to understand.
   5. The greatest heroes in the stories all have some pretty serious flaws in their character.
   6. A whole bunch of the laws and ceremonies don’t really seem relevant for our times.
   7. Even the layout and the chronology of the books of the Old Testament don’t seem logical to us.
   8. And, after all, shouldn’t Christians be all about Jesus and the New Testament?
4. But let’s look back at what Paul had to say to Timothy.
   1. In 2 Timothy 3:14, he writes,
      1. ***14****But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whomyou learned it****15****and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings…*
   2. He then reminds Timothy that,
      1. ***16****All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable…*
5. My question to you this morning is this…
   1. When Paul mentions the “sacred writings”… what comes to your mind?
   2. When he identifies “all Scripture”… what list of writings come to the front of your mind?
6. If you are like many of us, your initial thoughts go to those books in the Bible that is most familiar or most precious to you… and, for many Christians today, that list will be heavily populated by the gospels, and Paul’s letters, and other favorite New Testament writing.
7. BUT, for Timothy, that would not have been his “list”.
8. We need to remember the place and time of Paul’s letter to Timothy.
9. While precise dates of all New Testament writings can have some debate, I’ll show you a chart that fairly represents a general dating of the 27 books of the New Testament.
   1. As you can see, Jesus’ life and ministry predates Paul’s ministry.
   2. It’s in and around 50AD that Paul begins to write his letters and the gospels begin to be recorded with John’s gospel probably being penned in late between 80-90AD.
   3. It is estimated that Paul’s second letter to Timothy was probably written around 66-67 AD.



1. So when Paul says in that letter,
   1. ***14****But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whomyou learned it****15****and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings,*
   2. …he was exhorting Timothy to delve deeply into the Hebrew Scriptures, what we call the Old Testament, what Timothy had been raised since childhood to read, and study, and learn, and cherish, and obey… Why? Because the Old Testament comes to us from God!
2. The Scripture (graphe, “writings”) that was “breathed out by God” and was available to young Timothy when Paul wrote – was the Old Testament and later in life – as it was being written – more and more parts of what we call the New Testament.
   1. “Breathed out by God” – translates a Greek word – theopneustos – that does not occur in any other Greek text (biblical or otherwise) prior to this letter.
   2. This term stresses the divine origin and thus the authority of Scripture. Using it, Paul does not point to the human authors of Scripture as inspired people but says that the writings themselves (Scripture; graphe; writing) which in the NT always refers to biblical writings are the words spoken (breathed out) by God.
   3. The fact is that whenever the word “Scripture(s)” (graphe, graphai) appears in the New Testament, it almost always points to the Old Testament.
   4. The Old Testament was the Bible of the early church.
   5. The first New Testament believers tested what they had heard from Jesus and his disciples against what was written in the Old Testament.
   6. They had no other canon or source of help. So, because the early believers knew the Old Testament to be true, they tested what was now being received as new (the New Testament) against that truth!
3. Given teachings about discerning divine authority and testing false prophets in Deuteronomy 13 and 18, it would have been natural, historical, and logical for Jews considering the claims of Jesus and the gospel to interpret this revelation using the known revealed Word of God that we know as the Old Testament.
   1. The Apostle Matthew begins his gospel with a genealogy that stretches from Genesis to the New Testament era.
   2. The foundation of Jesus’ teaching was the Old Testament.
      1. Think about this fact… the Old Testament was Jesus only Scripture
   3. Paul based his teaching on the Old Testament.
      1. “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” [1 Corinthian 15:3-4]
4. As Christians, we need to “value the OT as the powerful Word of God”.
   1. Because the Old Testament was the working dictionary of Christian vocabulary.
      1. When we come to a word, phrase, or concept in the New Testament, our first question should be, “What does the Old Testament say?” Remember, the New Testament was originally written by Jews, and much of it was written to Jews. It assumes knowledge of the Old Testament and builds upon it.[[2]](#footnote-2)
   2. Because the Old Testament is God’s revealed Word, it substantially influences our understanding of key biblical teachings.
      1. By the end of the Law (Genesis–Deuteronomy), the Bible has already described or alluded to all five of the major covenants that guide Scripture’s plot structure (Adamic-Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, and new).
      2. We need the OT narrative to fully understand God’s work in history.
      3. Where else do we learn about our world view than in the first three chapters of Genesis? How can we understand sacred space apart from the temple? How unfortunate would it be for us to miss the majesty of YHWH without Isaiah 40? Or the potential for a substitute to bear our penalties in life without Isaiash 53?
      4. The NT writers knew this well and eagerly used the received Word of God found in the Hebrew Scriptures to quote, allude, and echo throughout their writings!
         1. Peter even asserted of the OT prophets and their writings, “It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you” ([1 Pet. 1:12](https://www.esv.org/1%20Pet.%201%3A12/)). The OT authors understood that they were writing for a future audience – what we now know as Christians identified with the NT church.
         2. Similarly, Paul was convinced that the divinely inspired OT authors wrote *for*NT believers, living on this side of the death and resurrection of Christ. “For whatever was written in former days was written *for our instruction*, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” ([Rom. 15:4](https://www.esv.org/Rom.%2015%3A4/); cf. 4:23–24).
         3. Because we are now part of the new covenant and not the old, there are natural questions that arise regarding how exactly the Christian should relate to specific old covenant instruction. Nevertheless, the point stands that the OT, while not specifically written *to* Christians, was still written *for*us.[[3]](#footnote-3)
5. And so, my prayer for us this morning is that we would “Value the OT as the powerful Word of God” with enthusiasm and gratitude.

**MAIN BODY – Encouragement #2: (6m):**

1. As we continue to look at the worthiness of the Old Testament – what we know to be the revealed Word of God, my second encouragement is that we “Value the OT that leads us to Jesus, the Messiah”.
2. Look to Paul’s words to Timothy again beginning with verse 14:
   1. ***14****But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whomyou learned it****15****and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus…*
3. “To make you wise for salvation” – Scripture can lead to the “knowledge of the truth”. It has the power to bring its readers to faith.
   1. And Paul says that that knowledge – found in the Old Testament – can bring us the kind of wisdom that brings salvation!
4. The Old Testament doesn’t just “point forward” to Christ; it reveals him.
5. It isn’t merely a series of signposts to Christ; his revealing shadow falls on every page.
   1. I like what author David Murray asks:
      1. …why linger in the Old Testament shadows when we have New Testament sunlight?
         1. Have you never found it easier to read and be refreshed in shade?
         2. Have you never admired the unique and wondrous beauty of the dawn? [[4]](#footnote-4)
   2. He’s acknowledging the idea that sometimes the brightest light can be appreciated differently in a softer, yet visible, light. Such can be the relationship between the brightness of the NT in the light of the Old Testament.
6. Jesus himself said that all of the Old Testament points to him.
   1. As Jesus himself said speaking to his religious opponents, *“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me*” ([John 5:39](https://www.esv.org/John%205%3A39/); cf. 5:46–47).
   2. Later in Luke’s gospel on the road to Emmaus, Jesus – now resurrected – opened the Hebrew Scriptures with 2 of his unrecognizing disciples… *“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself”* ([Luke 24:27](https://www.esv.org/Luke%2024%3A27/)).
7. Early church fathers in the 2nd and 3rd century, like Justin Martyr, not only read, studied, and used the OT in worship but they insisted that Christ was their main subject. The OT was valuable because Christ was there! [[5]](#footnote-5) [Pause]
8. Jesus did not come to destroy the Old Testament, the Law and the Prophets and the Wisdom but to fulfill them.
   1. This was Jesus’ teaching.

* 1. He highlighted the lasting relevance of the OT’s teaching for Christians:
     1. *Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished*. [Matthew 5:17]

1. Now it is important to note here that, while the age of the old covenant has come to an end, the OT itself maintains lasting relevance for us.[[6]](#footnote-6)
2. When Jesus Christ came into the world as the long-expected Messiah of the Old Testament, a profound and dramatic change happened in the way we handle the Old Testament.
   1. For example, Jesus was the fulfillment of all the Old Testament animal sacrifices, which were offered as a temporary way of pointing to the way God covers sins. The entire sacrificial system comes to an end in Jesus. We don’t need sacrifices anymore because Jesus was the decisive sacrifice himself.
   2. When we read Isaiah 53, we get to go beyond the narrative of the gospels description of the crucifixion of Jesus on Calvary’s Cross. In Isaiah 53 and some of the Psalms, we get to experience the unfathomably deep emotional and mental struggles of his earthly suffering.[[7]](#footnote-7)
   3. He also is the high priest — the final, decisive, finish-it high priest, who mediates between man and God so that the sacrificial system and the priestly ministry of the sacrifices go away. We have a high priest that takes us right into the throne of grace, personally.[[8]](#footnote-8)
3. But understanding and appreciating the depth of those examples strengthens our joy at what we now know to be true in Christ. And isn’t a greater joy a worthy incentive to renew our commitment to read and study the 39 books of the Old Testament? (Pause)
4. The OT announces the very “good news” or “gospel” that we enjoy.
   1. In Paul’s opening words of his letter to the Romans, Paul stresses that the Lord *“promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures” (i.e., the OT prophets) the powerful “gospel of God . . . concerning the Son”* that he preached and in which we now as Christians rest [[Rom. 1:1–3, 16](https://www.esv.org/Rom.%201%3A1%E2%80%933%2C%2016/)].
   2. Reading the OT, therefore, is one of God’s given ways for us to better grasp and delight in the gospel (see also [Heb. 4:2](https://www.esv.org/Heb.%204%3A2/)).
   3. And, as we read about this “good news” revealed in the OT, Paul assured Timothy that they would prove*“able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus…”[2 Tim 3:15]*
   4. Like the revealed Word of God through the writings of the New Testament, the Old Testament also saved (and still saves) souls through faith in the Messiah.[[9]](#footnote-9)
5. Do you want to see and savor Jesus as much as you can? We find him in the Old Testament.
6. If you want to know Jesus more, read the Old Testament![[10]](#footnote-10)
7. My prayer for us this morning is that each of us will deeply appreciate and “value the OT that leads us to Jesus, the Messiah”. [Pause]

**MAIN BODY – Encouragement #3: (6m):**

1. Finally, as we look at the worthiness of the Old Testament – what we know to be the revealed Word of God, my third encouragement is that we “Value the OT for dealing with questions of life”.
2. Looking back at 2 Timothy 3:16, we see that:
   1. ***16****All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,****17****that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*
3. What Scripture? [Pause] That’s right the 39 books of the Old Testament as well as some of the beginning-to-circulate New Testament writings.
   1. What is that Scripture good for?
      1. Teaching… reproof… correction… training in righteousness… essentially the stuff of life and right living.
   2. So strongly does Paul feel this that he goes on to write:
      1. ***1****I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:****2****preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*
4. All of the Scriptures… and most certainly, the OT — *all of them* — are useful!
5. Not just a few scattered, nice points like Isaiah 53. *All of it* is profitable.[[11]](#footnote-11)
   1. As we consider the stories of the OT, we form foundations of key doctrines that should influence how we live.
      1. He’s incarnated some of His moral principles in the lives of Old Testament characters, providing us with fascinating biographies to inspire and warn.[[12]](#footnote-12) We learn about:
         1. Justifying faith through Abraham
         2. Effectual and fervent prayer through Elijah
         3. Commitment in relationship through Ruth and Naomi.
         4. Perseverance through Job
         5. Forgiveness as well as chastisement through David.[[13]](#footnote-13)
   2. Therefore, many Old Testament principles – properly understood - can give guidelines for wise Christian living.
   3. As we consider God’s revealed moral principles that are clear and unchanging, we can wrestle with the application of those principles. Shifting an awareness of the context of Israel and its history, we can apply with wisdom into the context of our history.[[14]](#footnote-14) [Pause]
6. The Old Testament comforts and encourages us. And in age where despair and depression seems rampant who couldn’t use a little comfort and encouragement, right?
   1. We are comforted with God’s sovereign love, His majestic power, and His covenant faithfulness in his relationship with Israel. And, therefore, increase our confidence for our lives.
   2. When we know the Old Testament backgrounds of those listed in the Hebrews 11 “Faith Hall of Fame”, we’re encouraged to follow their focused faith and committed spirituality.
   3. In the Psalms, we’re given songs that have comforted and encouraged believers throughout the world and throughout the centuries.
   4. And when we see the way that hundreds of Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in Christ, our faith in God and his Word is strengthened.[[15]](#footnote-15)
7. Perhaps our greatest comfort can be achieved when we reconcile the truth that both the old covenant (expressed through the OT) and new covenant (expressed through the NT) call for love.
   1. We can learn much about love from the OT.
   2. Within the old covenant, love was *what*the Lord called Israel to do.[[16]](#footnote-16)
   3. All the other commandments found in the OT simply clarified *how*to do it.
   4. This was part of Jesus’s point when he stressed that all the OT hangs on the call to love God and neighbor:
      1. *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets*” [[Matt. 22:37–40](https://www.esv.org/Matt.%2022%3A37%E2%80%9340/)].
8. Reading the Old Testament is one of God’s given ways for us to better grasp and delight in the gospel of love.
   1. Christ emphasized, “Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12).
   2. Similarly, Paul noted, “The whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” ([Gal. 5:14](https://www.esv.org/Gal.%205%3A14/); cf. [Rom. 13:8, 10](https://www.esv.org/Rom.%2013%3A8%2C%2010/)).
   3. As with Israel, the Lord calls Christians to lives characterized by love. However, he now gives *all* members of the new covenant the ability to do what he commands.
9. Moses’s old covenant law called for life-encompassing love, and Christians today, looking through the lens of Christ, can gain clarity from the OT on the wide-ranging effect of love and its application in all of life.[[17]](#footnote-17)
10. It bothers me greatly that one of today’s greatest spiritual myths is that the Old Testament is devoid of love and that God is an angry unloving Father.
11. I contend that those who hold this point-of-view have not carefully read the Old Testament nor understood its primary character, our loving heavenly Father.
12. My prayer for us this morning is that we not ignore the rich treasure of wisdom found in these 39 books and “value the OT for dealing with questions of life”.

**CONCLUDING THOUGHTS & PRAYER (10.0 minutes):**

Final Exhortation

1. In our text today chapter 4, verse 2, Paul commands Timothy (and by extension all church leaders) to preach the Old Testament.
   1. *…preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.* [2 Timothy 4:2]
2. Why? For Paul, Christian preachers like Timothy needed to preach the OT in order to guard the church from apostasy. While we now have the NT, we can, and indeed must, appropriate the OT like Jesus and his apostles did for the good of God’s church. Paul stresses that those who unhitch themselves from the OT put themselves in danger of falling away from God.[[18]](#footnote-18)
   1. ***3****For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,****4****and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.* [2 Timothy 4:3-4]
3. And so, here at RHC, we are going to honor that admonition. For the next 3 months, we are going to sample the Old Testament.
   1. ?List some offering?
4. And, as we sample, I think that you’ll discover that we meet the same God in both Testaments.
   1. He is YHWH of Exodus 34:6:
      1. *“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”*
      2. The One who continues to pardon and preserve a wayward people. For God’s grace fills the OT, just as it does the NT.[[19]](#footnote-19)
5. God has not changed. Therefore, wherever we rightly understand his character and his ways in the Old Testament, we are learning something true about the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and sent Christ to die for us.
6. Here’s the way Paul expresses it in [2 Corinthians 1:20](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor%201.20): *“All the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.”*
   1. That is an absolutely glorious, amazing, wonderful, stunning, precious sentence. When you read the Old Testament, there are promises upon promises upon promises made to God’s people, and in Christ, they are yours.
7. See how the writer of Hebrews shows us how this works:
   1. [Hebrews 13:5](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb%2013.5) says, “Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have.” And here’s how he argues: “for he has said” — then he quotes [Joshua 1:5](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Josh%201.5) (words given to Joshua) — “I will never leave you or forsake you.”
   2. Then he continues in verse 6, “So we can confidently say” — and then he quotes Psalm 118 — “the Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”
   3. You see how he’s doing this. This is what we do. We hear the command, “Be content, and keep your life free from the love of money,” but how can I? Answer: go to the book of Joshua; go to the Psalms. You’ll hear promises that will steady your heart and make you peaceful. That’s amazing. [[20]](#footnote-20)

Final Word of Encouragement:

1. As “Jesus-followers, let’s value God’s gift of the Old Testament for wisdom, faith, and practice.” (my Main Point).
   1. First, let’s meet God for who he really is so that we can know him and worship him since

his character was revealed as truly in the Old Testament as in the New Testament.

* 1. Second, let’s celebrate the hundreds of promises found in the Old Testament and let them wash over us as our blood-bought birthright in Christ Jesus so that every day, we set ourselves free from sin by the superior pleasures of the promises of God.[[21]](#footnote-21)

1. I think that we will all find that as we read, study, and treasure the 39 books of the Old Testament, we will truly appreciate the New Testament even more.
2. We must insist that the first word in the phrase *Old* Testament must not mean unimportant or insignificant to Christians.
3. Let us pray.

**PRAYER & TRANSITION (1.0 minutes):**

1. Transition – Let’s Us Pray: *Heavenly Father, …*
   1. Heavenly Father… Lord Jesus… Spirit of the Living God,
   2. This morning, we bow and ask...

1. Micheal Kruger, “**Why We Can’t Unhitch from the Old Testament” (**<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/reviews/irresistible-andy-stanley/>) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. David Murray – “Jesus on Every Page: 7 Reasons to Study Your Old Testament[”](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/profile/david-murray/) (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/jesus-on-every-page-7-reasons-to-study-your-old-testament/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Jason DeRouchie, “10 Reasons the Old Testament Is Important for Christians” **(**<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/old-testament-important/>) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. David Murray – “Jesus on Every Page: 7 Reasons to Study Your Old Testament[”](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/profile/david-murray/) (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/jesus-on-every-page-7-reasons-to-study-your-old-testament/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Micheal Kruger, “Why We Can’t Unhitch from the Old Testament” **(**<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/reviews/irresistible-andy-stanley/>)

   [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [Rom. 6:14–15](https://www.esv.org/Rom.%206%3A14%E2%80%9315/); [1 Cor. 9:20–21](https://www.esv.org/1%20Cor.%209%3A20%E2%80%9321/); [Gal. 5:18](https://www.esv.org/Gal.%205%3A18/); cf. [Luke 16:16](https://www.esv.org/Luke%2016%3A16/) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. David Murray – “Jesus on Every Page: 7 Reasons to Study Your Old Testament[”](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/profile/david-murray/) (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/jesus-on-every-page-7-reasons-to-study-your-old-testament/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. John Piper, “What value is the Old Testament to the Christian Life?” (<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-value-is-the-old-testament-to-the-christian-life>) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. David Murray – “Jesus on Every Page: 7 Reasons to Study Your Old Testament[”](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/profile/david-murray/) (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/jesus-on-every-page-7-reasons-to-study-your-old-testament/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. # Jason DeRouchie, “10 Reasons the Old Testament Is Important for Christians” (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/old-testament-important/>)

    [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. John Piper, “What value is the Old Testament to the Christian Life?” (<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-value-is-the-old-testament-to-the-christian-life>) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. [1 Cor. 10:11](https://www.esv.org/1%20Cor.%2010%3A11/); [Luke 17:32](https://www.esv.org/Luke%2017%3A32/) [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. David Murray – “Jesus on Every Page: 7 Reasons to Study Your Old Testament[”](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/profile/david-murray/) (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/jesus-on-every-page-7-reasons-to-study-your-old-testament/> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. David Murray – “Jesus on Every Page: 7 Reasons to Study Your Old Testament[”](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/profile/david-murray/) (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/jesus-on-every-page-7-reasons-to-study-your-old-testament/> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. David Murray – “Jesus on Every Page: 7 Reasons to Study Your Old Testament[”](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/profile/david-murray/) (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/jesus-on-every-page-7-reasons-to-study-your-old-testament/> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. [Deut. 6:5; 10:19](https://www.esv.org/Deut.%206%3A5%3B%2010%3A19/) [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. # Jason DeRouchie, “10 Reasons the Old Testament Is Important for Christians” (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/old-testament-important/>)

    [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Jason DeRouchie, “10 Reasons the Old Testament Is Important for Christians” **(**<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/old-testament-important/>) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. # Jason DeRouchie, “10 Reasons the Old Testament Is Important for Christians” (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/old-testament-important/>)

    [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. John Piper, “What value is the Old Testament to the Christian Life?” (<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-value-is-the-old-testament-to-the-christian-life>) [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. John Piper, “What value is the Old Testament to the Christian Life?” (<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-value-is-the-old-testament-to-the-christian-life>) [↑](#footnote-ref-21)