

***The Biblical Blueprint for the Home # 4***  
**The Fortitude of the Home**  
2 Timothy 3: 14-17

This morning we are continuing in our study: The Blueprint for the Home. Although many may disagree, I am convinced the home is the foundation of society. Whether we like it or not, society bears a striking resemblance to the home. The values and traditions of the home, mold and shape our societies.

Today we have come to a powerful passage of Scripture that has much to say regarding the home. Here the Apostle Paul is speaking to the young pastor, Timothy. He had been called to shepherd the flock of God, serving as their pastor and teacher. Timothy faced many challenges within society. This was very early in the church age. Many had come to faith in Christ, but the majority were not serving the Lord and had no desire for His Word or His ways. In the face of such a daunting task, Paul provides a strategy for Timothy to endure and prosper in ministry.

While Timothy served in a time prior to a majority receiving salvation in Christ, we live and serve in what many are beginning to term as: the post Christian age. Many of the challenges the early church faced have reappeared in our modern day. We live in a world where most are unconcerned with the Word of God and have no relationship with Christ. Living and serving the Lord in such a time as this requires commitment and fortitude. The same strategies Timothy was urged to use in ministry continue to be effective in the modern Christian life. I want to examine those [strategies](#) as we consider: [The Fortitude of the Home](#). If we are to maintain fortitude, we must be grounded in the Scriptures.

**I. Our Perseverance in the Scriptures (14)** – [But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.](#) Paul realized the importance of daily feeding on the Word of God and sought to instill that in Timothy. Consider:

**A. The Challenge (14a)** – [But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of.](#) The world in which Timothy lived would find many ways to consume his time. The challenges and responsibilities of ministry itself would require much of his time. Paul knew the importance of protecting time to read and study the Word. He desired Timothy to continue in the Word. This has the idea of “*enduring, abiding, remaining, and standing upon.*” When the world brought adversity and challenged his faith and resolve, Timothy would have to remain committed to the Word, standing fast upon its precepts. He knew the Word would endure. He had experienced its power and embraced its truth. Paul challenged him to maintain his focus and remain committed to the truths he had been assured of.

- This is a powerful truth for ministry, but it is also essential for the family. If we are to impact our society, seeing profitable change in America, we must continue in the Word. Most have

abandoned it, but we must stand firmly upon the Word. It is the final and absolute authority for all of life's faith and practice. In order to build and maintain a strong, godly home, we must remain committed to the Word of God!

**B. The Confidence** (14b) – *But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.* Clearly Paul had been the primary instructor for young Timothy, but we must not assume any arrogance on the part of Paul. He is not implying that his teaching made the difference, but he wanted Timothy to consider the truth which he had received. He could consider the evidence of changed lives, growing churches, and committed believers. The Word of God had proven effective and it possessed the power and understanding Timothy needed in ministry. There would be occasions of doubt, but in those times Paul wanted Timothy to remember the great results he had witnessed. He had seen and experienced the power of God at work in the life of Paul. The Word had been proven true and it could be trusted!

- There can be no doubt regarding the effectiveness and power of the Word. Most of us here today have experienced it within our personal lives. We have seen the Word transform lives and equip for service unto the Lord. We have the greatest guidance for our homes and lives in the Word and yet it is often ignored and left unread. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the Word in our lives and homes. Such confidence that Paul speaks of will not be received through casual, sporadic reading. The word learned in the text has the idea of *“increasing one's knowledge by study, observation, and asking questions.”*<sup>i</sup>

**II. Our Perspective of the Scriptures** (15) – *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.* Paul desired Timothy to maintain a proper perspective of the Scriptures. He spoke of:

**A. The Timing** (15a) – *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures.* Paul reminded Timothy that he was not dealing with something new or foreign. Timothy had heard the Scriptures since he was a child. They had been instilled in him by his mother and grandmother. Throughout his life he had heard, studied, and known the Scriptures, witnessing their power and guidance in his life and the lives of others. There was no need to look to any other now!

- I will agree, the challenges the modern family faces are unlike any experienced by previous generations in America. However, I totally disagree with the argument that the Bible is outdated and no longer relevant for today. The challenges we face may be different and even more difficult, but the strength and wisdom we need to face them is found within the Word. We don't need a new or different Word, we need a renewed commitment to the Word we have been given. I have witnessed its power in my life. I have seen the power it possesses to transform and guide lives. The Word that worked when we were children will continue to work today! The problem is not in the Word, but in the lack of understanding and application!

**B. The Truth (15a)** – Paul makes reference to the [holy scriptures](#). We will deal with their divine inspiration in a moment, but Paul wanted Timothy to grasp the source of the Word and recognize it as absolute truth. It could be trusted in every area of life. If God had said it, that settled it, period!

- We live in an age where most have no regard or reverence for the Word of God. They often lift passages out of context in an effort to support their ungodly choices and lifestyles. They refuse to submit to the Word. It is often treated as a buffet, taking what one desires and leaving the rest. We can build our lives and homes on the Word of God. It will remain when this earth has passed away! The world may reject it, but I am settled upon the Word. I am committed to putting forth an effort to live according to the Word, even if society chooses to reject it!

**C. The Treasure (15b)** – [And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus](#). Paul reminds Timothy of the great significance of Scripture which leads to the eternal treasure of salvation. It was the Word that revealed Christ unto him and brought conviction that convinced him of his need for Christ in salvation. The Word had brought about the most significant event in Timothy's life. Apart from the Word, he would yet be unsaved. If for no other reason, his experience with the Word leading to salvation ought to challenge Timothy to remain deeply committed to the Word. [Eph.2:8 – For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God](#). [Rom.10:17 – So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God](#).

- This great truth remains relevant today. Of all the experiences I have enjoyed in life, none compare to the day I realized my need for Christ and received Him as my Savior and Lord. Apart from the Scriptures, I never would have received that opportunity. Next to my own conversion, is the joy I felt when my children were saved by the grace of God. Their salvation was the result of the convicting and convincing power of the Word. We must ensure the Scriptures enjoy a place of prominence and preeminence within our homes. The salvation of our families depend upon it!

**III. Our Persuasion through the Scriptures (16-17)** – If every any doubt arose within the heart of Timothy, Paul wanted to ensure him that he could be fully persuaded in the Scriptures. We need that same persuasion within our lives and homes. Consider:

**A. The Inspiration (16a)** – [All scripture is given by inspiration of God](#). Paul declared that every word within the Scriptures was given by inspiration of God. This literally means it was “*God breathed*.” The Lord Himself breathed the words He desired us to have and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, faithful men recorded those words for us. Timothy could rest in the validity and authenticity of the Word. [2 Peter 1:19-21 – We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:](#) <sup>[20]</sup> [Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.](#)

[21] For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

- I can think of nothing more important or necessary to build our lives and homes upon than the Word of God. We can rest in it, knowing God has given us His very heart and thoughts through His Word. He has revealed Himself to us in the Word, providing all we need to know Him in salvation and serve Him faithfully throughout life!

**B. The Instruction** (16b) – All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. Paul shares the great benefit of Scripture for humanity: it provides profitable instruction for every need in life. It is profitable for **doctrine**. This refers to the specific *teachings* of the Scriptures. The Bible reveals the doctrines of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, salvation, godly living, Satan, sin, heaven, hell, etc... It is profitable for **reproof**. This speaks of the *conviction* of the Scriptures. The Word of God will read us as we read it. It speaks to our hearts, revealing the error of our ways, convicting of sin. It provides **correction** as well. This literally speaks of “*restoration to an upright state*.” Once conviction is given, God’s Word points us in the right direction; leading us in the paths of righteousness. It also serves to provide **instruction in righteousness**. *It guides our lives, providing discipline, guidance, and development of Christian character*. Paul assured Timothy the Word would provide all he needed to serve the Lord and be effective in ministry.

- Our world is filled with all manner of advice and those who seek to provide direction for our lives. Many have gained great wealth through seminars and conferences that are promoted as teaching aids for daily living. There is something to be gained from the wisdom of others, but we must allow God’s Word to guide our lives, providing the wisdom and direction we need to serve Him. The home is in desperate need of biblical wisdom and instruction.

**C. The Impression** (17) – That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. Paul left Timothy with a word of comfort, as well as a challenge. He had been called to a great work that would require much of him. The task was too great to perform within his own ability, but there was no need for worry. The Word of God would provide all he needed to mature in the faith and finish the work he was called to do. Through careful study of the Word, diligent application of its truth, and faithful proclamation to the world, he would accomplish the work while enjoying the help of the Lord. God’s Word would provide all he needed to be successful in ministry and his personal Christian journey.

- These final words were spoken with the pastor in mind, but they are beneficial and applicable for each of us. There is no need in seeking the guidance and perspective of this world while trying to live for the Lord and establish a godly home. In fact, the world will lead you astray and seek to weaken your faith and resolve. If you are interested in a victorious Christian life and a godly home, depend upon the Word to provide the guidance and help you need.

**Conclusion:** Many were skeptical of the Word of God and the Christian faith in Timothy's day, but Paul encouraged commitment to the faith and the Word. The world would never understand nor support his efforts, but God would be faithful unto him. The Word had led to his salvation and continued to provide the vital instruction he needed to serve the Lord. He must never abandon the Word, regardless of the views of society.

We have been discussing the biblical blueprint for the home. If we are to follow the biblical blueprint, we must be willing to read the instructions found within the Word. A blueprint is of no use to a builder if he doesn't read it and follow its direction. Failing to read the blueprint will result in disastrous results in the construction of the home. The same is true if we desire to build a godly home founded upon His principles.

Are you committed to living and building your home according to the Word of God? In order to do so, you must know the great Architect, the Author of the Word. If you have never been saved, I pray you will respond to the call of Christ and come to Him today for salvation. Maybe you need to renew your commitment to the Lord and His Word. I urge you to respond to His leading!

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<sup>i</sup> John Phillips Commentary Series, The - The John Phillips Commentary Series – Exploring the Pastoral Epistles: An Expository Commentary.