

## The Word of God # 8

2 Timothy 3: 14-17

As we continue our study in Basic Biblical Doctrine, we come to the foundation for all doctrine, the Word of God. We could not do a complete study (even if it is just a basic overview) of biblical doctrine without considering the source for our doctrine. We believe the Bible to be the sole authority for all of life's faith and practice. Our church is governed according to the Bible. We look to it for guidance, discipline, instruction, hope, and many other things.

The Bible is a book like no other. It was written over a period of 1,500 years by over 40 different authors. These included kings and common men, great leaders and shepherds, fishermen and tax collectors, to name a few. It is the only book that deals with all of life without a single contradiction. The Bible has faced great opposition, hatred, and countless attempts to destroy it, but it still remains. No book has changed lives as the Bible.

Our text is a wonderful passage that reveals much about the Bible itself. I want to examine the [unchanging facts](#) concerning the Bible as we consider: [The Word of God](#).

**I. The Purpose of the Scriptures** (14-15) – In these verses we discover the purpose of the Bible. We have been afforded the privilege of possessing the Word of God for a purpose. God had a plan in mind when He ordained the inspiration and recording of His Word. We find it was given for:

**A. Revelation** (14) – [But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them](#); Paul urged Timothy to continue in the Word, knowing whom he had learned. He had studied the Word of God and through that study he had been introduced to the true and living God. He had been pointed to the cross of Calvary, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through the Word, God had revealed Himself to Timothy.

- For many the Bible is just a centerpiece on the coffee table; a place to record births, marriages, and deaths; a place to keep family heirlooms. God's Word is far more than a book to keep dusted. In it we find the very heart and mind of God. Within its pages the sovereign nature of God is revealed. It is through the Bible that God is revealed to man. What a blessing we have received. We have the privilege to know God through His revelation to us. God's Word contains everything that He wants us to know about Him.

- Would you not agree that alone makes this a special book to be cherished and loved? Through diligent study we discover more of our God and our Savior! Do you desire to know more of God and His will for your life? Seek Him through the revelation of His Word.

**B. Salvation** (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](#). Here we discover another glorious purpose of the Bible. Paul reminds Timothy that it was the Bible that led him to Christ in salvation. It was through the Word he saw himself in need of salvation that Christ alone could give.

- We must understand and appreciate the fact that God has given His Word to reveal the separation caused by sin and the salvation offered through the Son. Were it not for the Word bringing conviction to our hearts, allowing us to see our need of Christ, we would never have come to saving faith in Him. We find that we are sinful creatures, by nature at enmity with God. The Bible reveals man's inability to save himself and the realization that apart from God we stand condemned, lost in sin, and destined for an eternity in hell. It is the Bible that reveals to us what we truly are, sinners! This leads us into God's purpose – the salvation of man. He wants us to realize the need of salvation and receive salvation through the sacrifice of His Son. God's purpose, the salvation of lost sinners, is revealed throughout the Bible.

**C. Sanctification** (14-15) – In the context of these verses we find a growing process in the life of Timothy. He was introduced to the Lord through the Word. As he continued to read and hear the Word he realized his need for salvation. By faith in what he had heard and read, he received Christ as his Savior. This began the process of spiritual growth, brought about through the Word.

- The Bible ought to be a vital part of our existence. Once we are saved we are secure in Christ, but there is much to learn. If we are to be the disciples He would have us be, we must seek instruction and spiritual purity from the Word. As we read and embrace the Word of God, allowing it to transform our lives, we experience the sanctification of God. You will never be all that Christ desires of you if your life is not lived according to His Word. We must submit our lives to God's will revealed through His Word. That will lead to a sanctified life.

### **I. The Purpose of the Scriptures** (14-15)

**II. The Person 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](#). The Bible has much to say about the lives of individual people. We find the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the great leaders: Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David; great prophets: Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel; the great NT preachers: Peter, Paul, and Silas; great women: Hannah, Ruth, Mary, and Martha; many heroes of the faith, but they are not the focus. They all point to the Redeemer of men's souls.

- Jesus is the focus of the Bible; He is the main character. We find Him in the Garden. Gen.3:15 – And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. He is found in Rev.22:20 – He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The Bible begins with prophecy of the coming Messiah and ends with the prophecy of the returning Lord. He is found in the beginning and end and everywhere in between. There are over 300 prophecies concerning Jesus in the Bible. It is written about Him. It is no ordinary book. It is the HIM Book. The Bible was given to reveal and exalt Jesus as the only begotten Son of God, Redeemer and Savior of the world!

### **I. The Purpose of the Scriptures** (14-15)

### **II. The Person of the Scriptures** (15)

**III. The Perfection of the Scriptures** (16) – All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: Here Paul reveals a fundamental truth that many have a hard time accepting. He speaks of the perfection of Scripture. There are a couple of areas we need to consider.

**A. The Inspiration** – All scripture is given by inspiration of God. All scripture, not some of it, or even most of it, is given by inspiration of God. That literally means “God breathed.” God gave His Word as it pleased Him through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. 2 Pet.1:20-21 – 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. We do not possess a portion of God’s Word. We do not have a book that contains God’s Word. We have the God breathed, infallible, eternal Word of God. If I didn’t believe that I would have no authority to preach. If this book only contained God’s Word, how would anyone know what was God breathed and what wasn’t? God has preserved His Word for our benefit. Ps.12:6-7 – The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. [7] Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

- Some likely wonder why I am so adamant about God’s Word. Why do I stand on it as I do? It is our final authority. Without it we would have no revelation of God and no means of salvation. We either have God’s Word or we don’t. I am convinced we do!
- While we are here, I feel I need to address the multitude of translations on the market today. Each is different, and that often raises the question as to how we could possibly have the Word of God with all the differences. We need to understand the basis of the translations.

- **Literal Translation** – This is a word for word translation, carefully translating each Hebrew or Greek word with an English word with the same meaning.
- **Dynamic Equivalent** – These translations take the main thoughts or phrases from the original text and translate those thoughts into a contemporary English phrase.
- **Paraphrase** – These are written in story form and place emphasis on clarity and ease of reading rather than on what the text originally said.
  - Now if we were talking about an ordinary book, it likely wouldn't matter much, but we are talking about the inspired Word of God. I am not interested in what someone thought the Lord meant; I am interested in what He actually said! If God said it, I want to know. That is why I preach and teach from the King James Text.

**B. The Instruction** (16) – *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:* Paul reveals that the Bible holds great value for our daily instruction. It is profitable for:

- **Doctrine** – The sole authority for what we believe and why.
- **Reproof** – Conviction of sin.
- **Correction** – Restoration to an upright state; to set right again.
- **Instruction in Righteousness** – Dealing with our daily lives; teaching right from wrong; leading us in the ways of God.

## **I. The Purpose of the Scriptures** (14-15)

### **II. The Person of the Scriptures** (15)

### **III. The Perfection of the Scriptures** (16)

**IV. The Provision of the Scriptures** (17) – *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.* We must keep in mind that Paul is speaking to Timothy, a preacher of the Gospel, but every believer can benefit from the provision of Scripture. He speaks of Timothy's:

**A. Progression through Maturity** – *That the man of God may be perfect.* Paul is not insinuating that studying the Bible and applying its doctrine will lead to sinless perfection, but rather spiritual maturity. The word **perfect** has the idea of "*being complete, sufficient, entirely qualified.*" If Timothy

would give himself to the Word of God, he would receive everything he needed to be successful in his calling and endure in ministry.

- This goes hand in hand with the sanctification we talked about earlier. As we spend time in God's Word, it molds and matures us, bringing us closer to God as we mature in Him. Many today lack spiritual maturity because they are not feeding on the Word.

**B. Preparation in Ministry** – [That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works](#). Timothy had no need to look any further than the Word of God to find all he needed to be equipped for ministry. His personal study and meditation upon the Word would completely equip him to fulfill his calling and reach others for Christ.

- All have not been called to preach or pastor, but all believers are called to be a witness. We all have a work to do for our Lord. If we are to be fully prepared, we cannot neglect the Word of God. Through it we find direction, strength, purpose, and a host of other valuable necessities for service. If you desire to fulfill all that God has for you to do, you must be committed to the Word.

**Conclusion:** I am certainly thankful for the Word of God. I am amazed that God would reveal Himself to us through His Word, but I rejoice that He did. There is much in life that I am unsure of, but the Scriptures are not in that category. I am fully persuaded that we have the complete Word of God without error. Through it we discover our depravity and our need for salvation. It is through the Word that we see the Gospel of Christ, and through the conviction of the Spirit, we respond in salvation. God's Word is precious! I hope you never lose sight of that fact. We are blessed to have His Word and the ability to read and learn of God.

What does the Word mean to you? Is it just an old, archaic book filled with many stories that seem hard to believe, or do you believe it to be the inspired Word of God? Have you experienced conviction through the presentation of the Gospel found within its pages? Have you responded to the leading of the Spirit as He pointed you to Christ for salvation? If not, will you come and allow me to share the Gospel with you from God's Word?