

## **2 Timothy 3:12-17 Scripture Alone 6/17/18**

*Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

*(Pastor prays)*

The Apostles' Creed is not scriptural but it is an ancient affirmation of Biblical Christian doctrine that says: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord. *And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord.* He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead and buried. Descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again and ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty from whence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the universal church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

(That's) A Christian standard based on an infallible Bible. According to a story in the Christian past, the Minnesota annual conference of the United Methodist Church has edited the historical Apostles' Creed so that it removes all references to God as Father. This is what happens when you loosen your view on the authority of the Bible. Thirty years ago, our own denomination was teetering on the edge of theological liberalism. Our churches were trending moderate and our seminaries were not affirming the true inerrancy of scripture, and in 1987 at a watershed convention, Jerry Vines stood and preached a monumental message entitled "A Baptist and his Bible." In that sermon, he affirmed what Christians have historically believed: that this Bible, all 66 books — 39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament — are God's infallible, inerrant word and, as

such, the Bible is fully sufficient to give us all we need to know the living God in a saving way.

It's why we do expository preaching — reading the Bible and then explaining it. It's why 90 of our students met on Friday for something called Intensity: to study God's word intensely. That's why next week we have Vacation Bible School and not vacation Facebook school. That's why in this passage Paul is urging the young pastor Timothy to lash his life and ministry to the trustworthiness of our Bible. The Bible is the very word of God. To hear the Bible is to hear from God.

## **God's Word Is God's Message to All People**

Let's listen to what Paul tells Timothy about the Bible in verses 15-17. 3 verses. 3 points.

### **The Bible Is All About Jesus Christ**

To see this, we pick up in the mid-thought and hear Paul direct Timothy's thoughts about the Bible. Let's read verses 14 & 15: *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> 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.* In verse 15 Paul talks about sacred writings. This is only used here in the New Testament. In the Old Testament of the Bible that aim and the context of the sacred writing was to point to Christ and God's saving purpose in Christ.

Keep looking at verse 15 and how it's written. The sacred writings are able to make you wise for Salvation. Why wise? Because the Bible says that the fool says in his heart there is no God. The Bible doesn't *provide* salvation, it *points to* the one who *is* Salvation. Keep looking at verse 15. It says sacred writings are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. The scripture enlightens us to our need for Christ. Isn't that what the Lord Jesus told the Pharisees in John 5: 39? *You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,*

From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is unashamedly Christian. The Old Testament anticipated Christ, the New Testament explains Christ. The Old Testament is a promise

made, the New Testament is a promise kept. When you read the Bible, it is about Christ. He is prophesied in the beginning, pictured in the middle and revealed in the end. Jesus is the hero of the Bible and He must be the point of every sermon. The Bible is not just a playbook for a life, it is a road map to Christ. It is not just an instruction manual, it is a rescue plan. The Bible is not just a love letter, it's a life giver.

When Paul explains the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 15 he said, *Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures*, In Luke 24 we see Jesus explaining on the road to Emmaus, *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself*.

The Bible gives us a comprehensive portrait of Jesus Christ so that by faith we might be saved. The Bible shows us the Savior who died to bear man's sins and was raised give us victory. There is a story line in the Bible that brings us to Christ. The Old Testament foretells and foreshadows Christ Jesus. The Gospel tells us the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus. In Acts we see the spirit descending and the mission of the Church of Christ Jesus. In Romans we see the doctrine and beliefs about Christ Jesus. In the Epistles we are taught the practical holy life of Christ Jesus. In Revelation we hear about the soon-coming King Jesus. The Bible is all about God's love for us, a love so certain and so strong that he sent His only son Jesus Christ so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. The Bible is all about Jesus Christ.

### **The Bible Is All Given By God**

Let me show you where I get this. It's right there in the first part of verse 16. *All Scripture is breathed out by God*. That little phrase "breathed out by God" is actually one word in Greek: *Theopneustos*. God Breathed. It was probably coined by Paul. That tells us the context and origin of the scriptures. This text reminds us that the Bible originated in God's mind, is communicated by God's mouth, and carried by God's spirit. It's for God's people, it reveals God's plan and points to God's son so that we can live to God's glory. You will notice in verse 16 that "all scripture is God breathed," that every word and phrase, nuance and doctrine, is there by God's will all for His glory.

The Holy Spirit of God worked through the Biblical writers to pen God's word entirely and exactly as God intended. Just as God spoke the universe into existence so also, He

breathed out His word in scripture. In this passage right here, Paul affirms the total inspiration of scripture.

That has real implications for us. It means that we can't pick and choose parts of the Bible that we like and don't like. We don't have the license to choose which commands we will and won't obey or which doctrines we will believe. If the Bible is in fact breathed out by God then in this Bible we see that God has set a righteous standard that no one can keep. This confirms that every single person is a sinner and under God's judgment and in need of the Savior Jesus Christ.

This text speaks to effective evangelism: the heart and soul of reaching people for Christ is the preaching and teaching and witnessing of the Bible that points people to Christ. The Bible is all about Jesus Christ. The Bible is all given by God.

### **The Bible Is All Written For Man**

Let's pick up the rest of the passage and see what the usefulness, what benefit the Bible is. Let's read the rest of verse 16 and into 17. *<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

4 words: Profitable. Beneficial. Productive. and Sufficient. 4 things.

**Teaching.** This is not method as much as it is content, that the Bible is the solstice and repository of Christian doctrine. It's how we combat heresy. The doctrine is creation, the fall, depravity and atonement, so that we not only know about God from creation, we know God through salvation. That's why we read, teach, preach and carry the Bible. Reprove or rebuke. This is the Bible exposing sin and false teaching. Scripture shows sinners their failures and saints their hope, exposing sin with the purpose of bringing correction, confession, repentance and obedience to God. We all have experienced times of sharp and deep conviction that brings us to the fall and the grace of God.

**Correction.** This has a real positive feel. It's a word used only here in the New Testament. It's the idea of restoring something to its original in proper condition, to take something that's fallen down and set it up right, helping a person get back on her feet.

It's a redemptive word, a restoration word. It's what the Psalmist said and Psalm 19: 7 - 9.

*The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.*

*The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.*

*<sup>8</sup>The precepts of the LORD are right,  
giving joy to the heart.*

*The commands of the LORD are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.*

*<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever.*

*The decrees of the LORD are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.*

**Righteous.** That's what Paul says in versus 16 through 17. Training in righteousness; that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work, someone who is in fit shape, living for Christ and for His glory, ready for whatever there is to face.

That's what God's word does. It teaches us about our holy and righteous God, a God who although He hates and judges sin, has shown grace and mercy through His son Jesus who fulfilled all God's requirements and did that on the behalf of sinners, then took the punishment from God, for the wages of sin is death.

Christ died on the cross in the place of sinners. He took God's anger and judgment of sinners and it is now satisfied providing you believe in Jesus. That's what I'm asking you to do today, turn from sin by faith and turn to Christ.

*(Pastor prays)*