

November 19, 2017

“The Power of the Word of God”

Focal Passage: 2 Timothy 3:10-17 (ESV)

Cross References: 1 Corinthians 11:11, 1 Corinthians 15:10, John 15:18-21, Acts 14:22, Romans 10:13-17, 2 Timothy 1:5, Deuteronomy 6:6-10, Ephesians 6:4, John 3:3-8, Ephesians 2:1-9, Titus 3:4-7, 2 Peter 1:21, Hebrews 4:12-13, Psalm 119:9-11, Acts 20:32, 1 Peter 2:1-2

Lesson Idea: In a world full of false teachers and persecution, the Word of God is essential for the saving and continuing faith of every believer.

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Nov 12 John 19-21	Nov 13 Acts 1-3
Nov 14 Acts 4-6	Nov 15 Acts 7-8
Nov 16 Acts 9-10	Nov 17 Acts 11-13
Nov 18 Acts 14-15	Nov 19 Acts 16-17

Background: Paul is nearing the end of his second letter to Timothy. Up to this point, the apostle has warned his young protégé continually about the many false teachers he will encounter, and encouraged him to stand boldly against them. In this section of the letter, Paul makes clear to Timothy the best way to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, so that they, along with him, might stand firm in the last days. In the midst of a culture full of false teachers and people living in whatever way they see fit, Paul urges Timothy to cling to the Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:10-17

10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you 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.

DISCUSSION:

- **V. 10-11**

-Are there Christians in your life who you look to as an example? What is exemplary about their lives? (**1 Corinthians 11:1**)

Note: In these two verses, Paul points to the example he has set for Timothy, and commends Timothy for following his example. It is important to point out that Paul’s intent was not to puff himself up, but rather to rejoice in what the Lord had done in him (**1 Corinthians 15:10**), and encourage Timothy to look at his life as an example of the Lord’s faithfulness in the face of persecution.

- **V. 12**

-What is the difference between suffering and persecution?

-Have you faced persecution because of your desire to live a godly life? How might that look different in our culture compared to other cultures?

Note: All of mankind deals with physical illness, natural disasters, and many other forms of suffering common to man. However there is a form of suffering that Christians are promised *specifically because we are Christians*. This type of suffering is referred to as persecution (**John 15:18-21, Acts 14:22**). In some areas of the world, persecution is much more severe than it is in the United States. While this is undeniably true, the fact remains that this text teaches that persecution is a guarantee for “**all who desire to live a godly life.**” This does not mean that we should go out looking for persecution, but that persecution will naturally come as a result of a life centered on Christ. With this truth in mind, we should examine ourselves to see if our lives reflect this guarantee.

- **V. 13**

-In contrast to verse 12, what does Paul say will happen to those who are not living a godly life?

- **V. 14**

-Who is Paul referring to when he states, “**knowing from whom you learned it**”?

Note from Commentary on 2 Timothy, by John MacArthur: To further encourage Timothy to stand firm, Paul reminds him of his godly heritage. The plural form of the pronoun “whom” suggests Timothy was indebted not just to Paul, but to others as well.

- **V. 15**

-When did Timothy’s spiritual development begin?

-Where did it begin?

-What was the primary tool used to bring about “**salvation through faith in Christ Jesus**” (**Romans 10:17**)

Note: Timothy sat under the teaching of perhaps the greatest missionary of all time (Paul). However, long before he ever met the apostle, there were God-ordained influences in life. Lois and Eunice (his grandmother and mother) played a vital role in Timothy’s spiritual development (**2 Timothy 1:5**). These ladies are a beautiful example of the Scriptural mandate that parents are to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children (**Deuteronomy 6:6-10, Ephesians 6:4**). This spiritual nurturing begins with faithfully teaching the truth of Scripture.

For parents, there is no greater privilege or calling than teaching their children the “**sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**” If “*faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ,*” (**Romans 10:17**), then it is imperative for parents to consistently feed their children with the Holy Scriptures. Ultimately, salvation is a gift of God and comes about by the work of the Spirit (**John 3:3-8, Ephesians 2:1-9, Titus 3:4-7**). This means that there is no guarantee that faithfully teaching your children the Scriptures will result in their salvation. However, there is a guarantee that faith in Christ will not come about apart from the teaching and hearing of God’s word (**Romans 10:13-17**). With that truth in mind, parents should take seriously their responsibility to teach their children the Word.

- **V. 16**

-What does it mean that “**All Scripture is breathed out by God**”?

Note from John Piper’s sermon, All Scripture Is Breathed Out by God — Continue in It: Contrast what Paul says here about the Scripture with what Peter says in **2 Peter 1:21**: “No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” “Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” So what Peter emphasizes is that

the writers of Scripture were inspired. God “carried them” so to speak — influenced their minds — so that God’s word is spoken truly by the prophets.

But Paul focuses on the writings themselves, not the writers. He tells Timothy not to forsake the truth of these writings because the writings themselves (Greek: *pasa grafē*) are God-breathed. God’s influence was not simply on the mind of the writers in general, but his attention to the process of Scripture creation was such that when their minds and hands composed actual Scripture words, these words were so much God’s words that Paul says the writings themselves are God-breathed. We hold in our hands the very words of God translated into English. Have you ever been half as amazed at this as you should be? The Creator of the universe has breathed out a book — a book. We can read the mind of God revealed in this book. We have access to knowledge that is unshakably true and infinitely valuable — infinitely. Do you treasure, love, read, meditate, memorize, and study this book in accord with its infinite worth?

-As the Word of God is taught, how does it reprove, correct, and train in righteousness? What do these terms mean?

Note from Commentary on 2 Timothy, by John MacArthur:

-**Reproof...** This refers to a rebuke of wrong behavior or belief. The Scripture exposes our sin, and teaches us when we are out of step with the Spirit (**Hebrews 4:12-13**).

-**Correct...** Rather than simply convict us of our wrong doing, the Scriptures correct our way of thinking. God’s Word does not just rebuke, but also points us to a godly standard, and shows us how to get there (**Psalms 119:9-11**).

-**Training in Righteousness...** Scripture provides positive training in godly behavior, not merely rebuke and correction of wrong behavior (**Acts 20:32, 1 Peter 2:1-2**)

- **V. 17**

-What are good works a result of? (**See V. 15**)

-How do the Scriptures equip us for every good work?

-What does this text tell us about what is required for our saving and continuing faith?