



“Living by the Book”
2 Timothy 3:14-17
2 Timothy: Faithful to the Finish

2 Timothy 3:14-17 – “You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, **15** and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

The Importance of Abiding in God’s Word

Verse 14 – “You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of...”

The Need for Trustworthy Teachers

Verses 14-15 – “...knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings...” (cf. 2 Tim 1:5)

The Reliability of God’s Word

Verse 14 – “... the things you have learned and become convinced of...”

Paul refers to those teachings as “sacred writings” (v. 15) and “Scripture” (v. 16)

The Bible claims to be the word of God (cf. 1Thes 2:13; Heb 1:1-2, 4:12)

- “*Thus says the Lord*” appears roughly 2800 times in the Old Testament.

The Bible claims to be “inspired by God” – Greek: *theopneustos* (v. 16; cf. 2Pet 1:21)

- Verbal plenary inspiration: God supernaturally guided the authors of the Bible to write exactly what He wanted to communicate.
- Verbal: the words are inspired by God. (“All Scripture is inspired by God.”)
- Plenary: all the words are inspired by God. (“All Scripture is inspired by God.”)

The Bible claims to be inerrant (Jn 17:17, 10:35; Mt 5:18).

The Bible was carefully preserved, copied and compiled into a collection of 66 books that Protestants recognize as the complete, authoritative “canon” of God’s Word.

- E.G. New Testament – we have 5,300 Greek manuscripts and manuscript portions, 10,000 Latin Vulgate and 9,300 other versions, and 36,000 quotations from church fathers dating between 100-300 AD.

The Power of God's Word

Verse 15 – "... the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

The Purpose of God's Word

Verse 16 – Scripture is "*profitable for...*"

1. **Teaching** – instructing people in doctrine.
2. **Reproof** – rebuking people in sin.
3. **Correction** – guiding people in error.
4. **Training in righteousness** – helping people grow in godliness.

The Result of Abiding in God's Word

Verse 17 – "*so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*"

"The vigor of our spiritual life will be in exact proportion to the place held by the Bible in our life and thoughts. I solemnly state this from the experience of fifty-four years. The first three years after conversion I neglected the Word of God. Since I began to search it diligently the blessing has been wonderful. I have read the Bible through one hundred times, and always with increasing delight. Each time it seems like a new book to me. Great has been the blessing from consecutive, diligent, daily study. I look upon it as a lost day when I have not had a good time over the Word of God." - George Muller

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your plan for reading the Bible on a consistent/daily basis this year?
2. What obstacles could get in your way of doing that, and how could you overcome them?
3. What questions or doubts do you have about the reliability of God's Word? Did this message help resolve any of your questions?
4. Henry Halley said: "Individual direct contact with God's Word is the principal means of Christian Growth." Why do you agree or disagree with that statement?