

2 Timothy 3:10-17 – Bible Basics: What is the Bible? Part 2 – Sermon Outline

Intro: How does the Bible profit/benefit us? What does it equip us for?

Need: All that we need for life and godliness is given to us in Scripture, to be read and taught.

Theme: The Bible is God's Word which saves & equips us to serve God in all of life.

1. The Bible is God-breathed Scripture (writing) that saves & covers teaching & living.
2. The O.T. & N.T. alone make a Christian complete & fully equipped to serve God.

I. REVIEW: The Bible is God-breathed Scripture (writing) that saves & covers teaching & living.

- A. All God-breathed writings, the O.T. and now completed N.T., are profitable for us.
- B. 3:16, "inspiration" is likely a word coined by Paul, combining the word for "God" & "to breathe".
 1. The word for breath/wind/spirit is the same in Greek, *pneuma*. Inspiration = Spirit/God-breathed.
 2. "Scripture" is *graphe*, meaning writing/thing written. All the words of the Bible are God/Spirit breathed.
- C. 3:10-15, review of context, Paul writes to Timothy to follow him as Paul follows the Scriptures/Christ.
 1. Paul's doctrine/teaching leads to a "**manner of life**", living in light of God's Words/teachings.
 2. Notice the imitation of Paul, which is to imitate Christ insofar as Paul was obedient to God/His Word, includes not just faith, love, and purpose, but longsuffering, perseverance, persecution, afflictions.
 3. 13-14, Following Scripture is essential b/c evil men/impostors increase in deception.
 4. 14, Paul's medicine is the same medicine needed for our day – "*continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,*" from God/the Bible!
 5. 14-15, Timothy has learned these things from Paul, but as a covenant child on his mother's side, also learned them through her and his grandmother, even though his father was a pagan Greek.

II. The O.T. & N.T. alone make a Christian complete & fully equipped to serve God.

- A. 3:16 says the Scriptures are "profitable", meaning helpful, beneficial, necessary.
 1. I Tim. 4:8, "bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."
 2. Being a "man of God...complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" surely promotes maximum godliness.
 3. We should care most about profiting/growing in knowledge of Scripture, of who God is, what He has done, and what we are to do in response to His saving work in Christ.
 4. God is worthy of such devotion/diligence, & it will benefit us in whatever calling we find ourselves in.
 5. The Bible teaches clear cut precepts/doctrines, but also gives and urges wisdom.
 6. There are themes in Scripture, a wealth of wisdom that lies beneath the surface, and a worldview that seeks first God's glory/kingdom in all things, centered around Christ the King of the Kingdom.
 7. When you know the Scriptures well, applying them wisely will come more easily/naturally.
 8. Not everything is obvious or immediate in what we must believe. The Trinity, the 2 natures of Christ and their relation to one another. The 1 person of Christ. Doctrine is explicit & implicit in Bible.
 9. Likewise, applying doctrine, tracing themes in Scripture, godly wisdom, doesn't come merely by pointing to a Bible verse. Seeing how all Scripture harmonizes, its goal/trajectory, etc. all has to come into view in our understanding and application of God's Word. All Scripture is "**profitable**" for this.
- B. 3:16b, Scripture profits in doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness:

1. What should be taught (**doctrine** here means “teaching”) in the churches is the Word of God, not the Word of man, and it is the Scripture, which literally means the “**writings**”, which is the Word of God.
 2. The miraculous gifts and speaking in tongues were for the days of the Apostles, until the completed revelation of God’s Word was disseminated to the peoples.
 3. Paul himself, in his own lifetime and ministry, says the Gospel has gone out to the ends of the earth.
 4. Paul in Eph. 2:20 says the church is built upon the foundation of the prophets and Apostles, with Christ Jesus the cornerstone.
 5. That foundation has long been laid and dried, and now we are building upon that foundation, indeed Paul speaking to Timothy is transitioning to that phasing out process of the Apostles to the next generation; Paul tells Titus to appoint Elders in every city in the churches forming all over world.
- C. **“Reproof”**: The idea is to prove, or to convince of the truth, regarding doctrine, teaching and living.
1. **“God told me”** is not an argument unless what God told you is what you read in Scripture.
 2. It is Scripture, God’s writings, that are profitable for this kind of reproof.
 3. We know the Bereans in Acts 17:11 were counted as noble for even testing all the things Paul said with what was written in the Bible, at that time the Old Testament writings.
 4. Paul himself was reasoning from the Scriptures, the writings, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, Acts 17:3.
 5. Many were persuaded and believed, but some unbelieving, envious Jews went and gathered a mob, set the city in an uproar, and dragged Jason and other believers to the rulers of the city in Thessalonica, saying **“These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.”**
 6. Again, it is the Scriptures/writings that Paul used with his special revelation/knowledge of Christ, now recorded for us in the N.T. writings/Scripture, that turned the world upside down, which is really turning the world right side up since this world is fallen in sin. **Preach the Word for revival/reformation!**
 7. Indeed, 2 Tim. 4:1-5, Paul charges Timothy to preach the Word in and out of season, convincing, rebuking, and exhorting with all longsuffering and teaching, precisely because the time comes when people have itching ears and turn to false teachers who gladly tell them pleasant things.
- D. **“Correction”** is restoring/bringing one back from error in false teaching/living, to “straighten out”.
1. Elders/shepherds must reprove and correct, and do it in love, to correct, straighten out the sheep, the church members, so that they think and live righteously before the Lord.
 2. Thus the Elders have great duties to the congregation to be performed in love and humility, and the congregation has great duties to heed, learn, grow in love and humility through their pastors/Elders.
 3. This also is why membership is necessary not just to the well-being of a church, but to its being, its existence. A church is a local expression of the body of Christ, consider Paul’s words in Romans 12:3-8: *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you [the Church body in Rome], not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another [Each local church forms a body/church of Christ, which are covenanted to Him and are members of one another, using spiritual gifts to serve Christ and that local body/church].*
 4. *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in*

teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

5. Notice Paul's epistles/letters, they are written to the saints in Ephesus, Colossae, etc.:
 - a. 1 Thess., "to the Church of the Thessalonians" or in Philippians, "to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops/overseers and deacons" referring to Elders and Deacons, as Paul had Titus appoint in every city to form churches, Titus 1:5.
 - b. Eph. 4:7-16, *Christ Himself gave "some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."* God gives pastors to us to profit from God's Word.
 - c. So we read in Hebrews 13:17, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."
 - d. Paul in Acts 20:28, "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."
 - e. Peter says the same in 1 Peter 5:1-4, "So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."
 - f. How can the Elders/overseers "shepherd the flock of God that is among you" if there is no formal membership process? It is true, if one is baptized at that particular church, baptism essentially serves as the membership process, for one is baptized into Christ/His Church.
 - g. But historically, if a person was transferring from one church to another in membership, to submit to Elders at a new church where they are joining, a "transfer of membership/letter" would come from the old church. But today, so-called churches hardly even practice membership. Why?
 - h. Many are just ignorant, but many more "pastors" don't want membership because they don't want the responsibility, and many who "attend" these places don't want to have to submit to elders either. There is also legal loopholes if you identify as a non-profit but don't have "members".
 - i. Without church membership, you literally don't have a church, because a church is literally the *members/body* of Christ, forming as a body, members of one another, under Christ by submitting to the undershepherds/overseers appointed from within the local church body.
 - j. Is a man and woman married if they do not have wedding vows? No, there is a wedding ceremony, and usually paperwork with the state/government also. Simply living and sleeping together doesn't constitute a marriage, the two becoming one flesh.
 - k. Likewise, simply going to the same building with the same people and "living together" as Christians doesn't constitute a Church. There must be vows before God, as in a marriage.

- l. Thus Church membership and vowing before God is very solemn and serious, as serious as vowing to God in marriage to your spouse, more so even, for this is a wedding to God/His people.
 - m. But it is also a joyous occasion, just as a marriage is solemn and joyous. Faithfulness in a marriage brings incredible blessings between man and wife, and faithfulness to God and Christ's body in church "marriage" is also solemn and joyous, rich with blessing when there is faithfulness.
- E. "Instruction [paideia] in righteousness" is nurture, full training in all of life, full instruction.
- 1. Eph. 6:4, fathers raise their children in the paideia/instruction/nurture of the Lord.
 - 2. The focus is on righteousness, just and holy in thinking, loving, and doing before the Lord/man.
 - 3. Righteousness, again, would involve right doctrine and righteous living. Justification & sanctification.
- F. 17, If one is schooled in righteousness in all these ways, through God's Word, especially as received in the Church from the Pastor, shepherded by the Elders, and built up by the whole church body, the result is that the man of God/Christian is "complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
- 1. The end goal of being trained/built up in every aspect by the God-breathed written word of God is so those in Christ, all men and women who are true believers, may be "complete".
 - 2. This word comes first in this clause, "that complete may be the man of God toward all good works being accomplished" is a literal translation.
 - 3. Eph. 2:10 tells the redeemed that they are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, fore-ordained that we should walk in them.
 - 4. The idea here is that, saturated with God's word, with the Spirit working with God's Word in the heart and mind of the child of God, such a person is outfitted, equipped, fully loaded and prepared, capable to perform every good work, which is the whole point of our salvation, to be righteous for the Lord.
 - 5. Righteous in all that we think, say, and do, in our very being as redeemed new creations in Christ.
- G. God's Church today, as Israel of old, have "heaped up for themselves" false teachers, 2 Tim. 4:4. The solution is not marketing gimmicks and compromise, but faithful preaching with fervent prayer.
- 1. Consider 2 Kings 17:13-14: "*Yet the Lord testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets."* Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the Lord their God."
 - 2. When the Church is not hungry/thirsty for the Sacred Scriptures, they are not hungry for Christ.
 - 3. They reject God-breathed words that have been given to His people over thousands of years, spanning old and new testaments, from the days of Job and Moses to the days of Christ and His apostles. This is apostasy, and God always sends severe judgment to a land/people for this.
 - 4. Many chase unwritten words, visions and dreams and illusions, but have little appetite for careful study of God's clear and consistent words found in Scripture, which alone are infallible, inerrant, and fully capable to make us complete in the Lord, for salvation and every good work. Sola Scriptura!
 - 5. The Bible assumes logic, reasoning, and certain natural laws/truths created by God, given to all mankind. But to be trained for righteousness, all that is needed is found in God's Word.
 - 6. So continue in the things you have been taught and assured of, and by God's grace, the Spirit-breathed written Word of God will work in your heart, to make each of you complete in Christ, fully equipped for every good work to serve our great God and King, even though many refuse. Let's pray.