

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

**Intro:** What is the Bible, why is it so important, and why do so few Christians treasure it as they should?

**Need:** Without the Bible, we have no saving knowledge of God, Christ, man's sinfulness, or our purpose.

**Theme:** The Bible is God's Spirit-inspired written word which saves sinners & equips for service.

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. 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.

1. Note, nothing else here is given this prominence. Other learning and knowledge is good/necessary.
2. If you want to be a pilot and learn about aviation, going to the Bible isn't going to prepare you for that.
3. But whatever career you have, the Bible will profit you to serve faithfully in that calling for the Lord.

#### 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.
3. 2 Pet. 1:19-21, the prophetic word was given to the Apostles, written down in Scripture, not by man's willing, but God's, for "no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."
4. The Apostles' spoken word is now written down, and Peter is saying to heed what he is writing in 2 Peter by inspiration of God Himself, the Spirit Himself. Heb. 1:1, God now speaks through Christ as He was revealed to the prophets & apostles, and through them to us in the Spirit-inspired Scriptures.

#### C. 3:10-15, review of context, Paul writes to Timothy to follow him as Paul follows the Scriptures/Christ.

1. "**carefully followed**" could be rendered "follow close behind" in v. 10. KJV says "has fully known".
2. Timothy is following, and this verb is in the perfect tense – he has followed -- what he has been taught from Paul, "doctrine", who learned from Christ and others who were with the Lord during His earthly ministry, as all the other Apostles minus Paul were.
3. It's fitting Paul was sent to the Gentiles, for he himself was not with Christ during His earthly ministry, as Christ exclusively came at that time to the house of Israel, the old covenant people of God.
4. But now the Gospel goes out to all, Jew/Gentile alike, all who by faith receive Christ as Lord and Savior & walk in His doctrine, which is Paul's doctrine learned from Christ.

#### D. This doctrine/teaching leads to a "manner of life", living in light of God's Words/teachings.

1. "manner of life" literally means leading/guiding. Timothy has followed Paul's lead.
2. Paul practiced what he preached, and so could encourage Christians to imitate him, as he imitated Christ, 1 Cor. 11:1. Paul there even mentions to follow the traditions as delivered to the Corinthians.
3. Tradition itself is biblical, not bad. But false traditions, like false teachings, are bad. Paul and the Apostles record for us in Scripture the tradition of Christ, and we must follow this tradition.
4. The traditions of the Pharisees are rebuked by Christ in Matt. 15. Following men and their words, especially when they claim to be the voice of God or His elite prophets, is sin and dangerous.

5. Tradition means “giving over”, and as Israel was to pass down God’s truth to their children from generation to generation, “giving over” the truth, so we have the divinely inspired “giving over”/tradition of God, of Christ as revealed in Scripture through His appointed apostles.
- E. 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.
1. We know how Paul was shipwrecked, imprisoned, stoned, had a thorn in the flesh the Lord would not take away, etc. The true Christian faith isn’t one always of health, wealth, and ease.
  2. It ends in holiness and wholeness, body and soul in heaven, and the Lord is often pleased to bless His people in this life. But He is even more often pleased to mix blessings with sorrows, trials, hardships, to test and strengthen our faith, so that we truly take up Christ’s cross and follow Him.
  3. The Lord delivered Paul through these trials, but in 3:12 he says all who wish to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. We need godly fathers/mothers in the church today to imitate.
  4. This is why the Church needs the body of Christ. The body sanctifies the body through the Word of God, sound doctrine, and sound, righteous living flowing from that sound doctrine.
  5. But part of sound teaching and sound living requires joining a faithful church body, to study, love, and live with God and His people properly, for our good and God’s glory.
- F. 13-14, Following Scripture’s teaching & living is essential b/c evil men/impostors increase in deception.
1. False teaching and false living dress in drag, as if it were actually biblical and righteous, as expected.
  2. Hucksters and the ignorant, those greedy for gain, etc, will always find a hearing, even in churches.
  3. Such persons are deceiving others and themselves are deceived. They must be renounced because their teaching and living is poison and danger, contrary to God’s breathed out, inspired Scripture.
  4. This is the backdrop found in 2 Tim. 3:1-9, Paul urges Timothy to follow his example in word and deed, what he learned from childhood from his Jewish mother/grandmother concerning Scripture.
  5. The last days have come where impostors and vile, wicked persons have arrived. Indeed, they have been here throughout history since the fall, but are growing worse and worse.
  6. Look at the transgender madness, and how these demons wish to molest our children. May God hang a millstone around the necks of all of them and drown them in the sea of the lake of fire forever.
- G. 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 in His Word!
1. The command here is to *remain, or abide*, in the Truth. This is the same word Jesus uses in John 15, about abiding in Him, for He is the vine and we must abide in Him and thereby be fruitful branches.
  2. Timothy has been abiding, and must continue to abide, in what he has learned and been assured of, he has a confidence in the word of God.
  3. All Christians should grow in knowledge in and confidence of God’s Word. That is all the more clear in vv.16-17, for all Scripture is inspired, God-breathed, clear, profitable for all things pertaining to godliness in this life. It is our anchor to avoid the deceptions and dangers of false teaching/living!
- H. 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.
1. Grandmother Lois and mother Eunice, 2 Tim. 1:5. Parents, be faithful in raising your children.
  2. Mothers, note that how you train your young children, catechizing them, nourishing them in God’s Word, praying with and for them, loving them tenderly, etc., all matters.

3. Perhaps one of your boys will have the faithfulness and boldness of a young Timothy here.
4. Timothy is well-spoken of in Acts 16 because he was well-acquainted with the Scriptures from birth.
5. He was so impressive that Acts 16:3 tells us Paul hand picked him to go on with him in ministry.
6. The Scriptures indeed have made Timothy “wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ.”
7. May we all have the testimony of Timothy, in knowing and doing, teaching and living for the Lord.

## 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.
- 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.
- 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.