

May 29th, 2022 – Pastor Kevin Olivier
2 Timothy 3:14-17 – “Equipped by Scripture”

- A. At the start of every endeavor, it is good & fitting to put forth a plan of what you plan to accomplish.
 - 1. If you have a trip, you need a roadmap or course planned in your GPS or cell phone.
 - 2. When you plan to make a building, you need a good architect & interior decorator who can put together a blueprint which lays-out the plan for all the workers involved.
- B. At the start of my work of ordained gospel ministry, I want to put forth **2 Tim 3:16** as a blueprint for the rest of my work here in this church.
- C. Paul wrote this epistle to a young minister named Timothy in order to equip him for his ministry.

You must be equipped by Scripture.	I. WHAT IS SCRIPTURE? II. HOW GOD EQUIPS YOU BY SCRIPTURE.
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I. WHAT IS SCRIPTURE?

- A. **v16** says Scripture is that which is “**inspired by God.**”
 - 1. A literal translation of this phrase could read as follow: “**All Scripture is God-breathed.**”
 - 2. When God created Adam from the ground, he did not become a living being until God “**breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**” (**Gen 2:7**).
 - a. Written language is just mere words on a page; however, God has breathed life into the words of Holy Scripture.
 - b. His Holy Spirit breathed into the prophets & apostles to set down the Word of God.
 - c. The Holy Spirit breathed into Mathew, Mark, Luke, & John to help them remember & give an accurate account of the words, works, & person of Jesus Christ.
 - d. All Scripture from **Gen** to **Rev** can be considered the “Word of Christ” according to **Jn 1**.
- B. In **2 Pet 1:16-21**, the apostle beautifully told us how Scripture has come to us. →Turn to **2 Pet 1:16f.**
 - 1. This passage tells us Scripture is not made up of “**cleverly devised tales**” (**v16**).
 - a. Instead it is based on empirical or observed evidence. Peter said in **v16**: “**we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.**”
 - 1) They saw Jesus on the holy mountain during His transfiguration (**vv17-18**).
 - 2) Eye witness accounts are upheld in a court of law.
 - 3) **1 Cor 15:6**: the risen Christ “**appeared to more than 500 brethren at 1 time.**”
 - b. Scripture is a trustworthy, evidence-based, historical account of the life & work of Jesus Christ the God-man.
 - 2. Going back to what we read in **Jn 1:1f**, Scripture gives supernatural light like “**a lamp shining in a dark place.**” When the Holy Spirit enables you to receive Scripture as God’s Holy Word, it is as if “**the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts**” (**v19**).
 - 3. The prophets & apostles did not give Scripture as a matter of their own interpretation (v20) because as **v21** says “**no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.**”
- C. It is very important to distinguish special revelation (Scripture) from general or natural revelation.
 - 1. God’s truth comes can come to us through His revelation in nature. **Ps 19:1** says “**The heavens are telling of the glory of God.**” Such truth can convince one that there is a God.
 - 2. Scripture (special revelation) is necessary to attain to God’s plan of salvation through Christ.

II. HOW GOD EQUIPS YOU BY SCRIPTURE.

- A. The 1st step is to acknowledge that you need to be equipped by Scripture. → **2 Tim 3:15** it is **“the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”**
1. You need God’s wisdom through His special revelation rather than man’s wisdom.
 - a. It is ultimately important that you submit yourself to God.
 - b. You have to submit your understanding— your thinking unto Him. **Prov 9:10** says, **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, & the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”**
 - c. **1 Cor 10:5** says you are to take **“every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”**
 2. Paul in **v15** went on to say that **“the sacred writings ... are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”**
 - The Word of God tells us, **“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, & believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom 10:9).**
- B. **v16** gives a list of ways God uses Scripture to make you **“adequate, equipped for every good work”**:
1. **“Teaching”**-
 - a. This same Greek word is used in **chapter 4:3**→ look there.
 - b. The Greek word for teaching or doctrine is **“didaskalia”** (i.e. didactic or teaching).
 - c. This is why this church, our denomination, & my practice is to try to always go back to Scripture for sound teaching or doctrine.
 2. **“Reproof”** –
 - a. This word can also be translated as **“rebuke.”**
 - b. No one likes a personal rebuke; however, it must be the beginning of your being wise unto salvation to allow God to rebuke you for sin.
 3. **“Correction”** -
 - a. This word can also be translated **“improvement”** or **“straightening.”**
 - b. Scripture is the standard or straight edge we need to measure up to.
 4. **“Training in righteousness”** -
 - a. A whole lot of religions that have a standard of righteousness based on man’s words. **Col 2:21f**²¹ **“Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!... in accordance with the commandments & teachings of men?”**²³ **These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.”**
 - b. God alone is Lord of the conscience; His Word alone is the standard of rightness.

Review, further application, & conclusion: