

“The Necessity of Scripture”
2 Timothy 3:14-17
(Preached at Trinity, September 18, 2022)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we saw last time, **Verses 15-17** give us one of the clearest statements on the Word of God in all of Scripture. Paul gives a clear statement on the inspiration of Scripture.

"All scripture is inspired by God"

θεόπνευστος – Literally it means "God breathed"

- A. God illuminated their minds and prompted them to write.
God acted upon the writers in harmony with the laws of their inner being –
He used them as they were – their character and temperament, gifts and talents,
education and culture, their vocabulary and style
 - B. Verbal Plenary Inspiration:
Verbal = the words are inspired. Not just the thoughts or ideas.
Plenary = all of the words.
- 2 In this passage we find God as Author of Scripture which are the infallible rule of faith and practice. It is God's Word.
1689 London Baptist Confession
Chapter 1:1 - Of the Holy Scriptures
The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.
 3. In **Verses 15-17** Paul describes the Bible as essential not only for the salvation of sinners but also for their progress in the faith.
This morning I want to examine the necessity of Scripture in God's work of redemption.
 - a. The 19-20th centuries showed a continued decline in the man's regard for the Bible. Many today see it as irrelevant. Flawed by human writers.
 - b. The simple truth is that without the Bible no man can be saved.
 - c. The Reformers held fast to the principle of Sola Scriptura. That Scripture alone was the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
 - d. And Scripture is God's means of our sanctification.

- I. First of all, we need to be certain that the Bible is essential for salvation.
2 Timothy 3:15 NAU - "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."

- A. Salvation presupposes knowledge
 1. But not just any knowledge. There is no shortage of knowledge today
We are living in the information age.
 - a. We have the Internet
 - b. Never have we had so many books
 - c. Never have we had so many colleges and universities

- d. You can have your mind filled with facts and be no closer to Christ
2 Timothy 3:7 NAU - "always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."
2. No amount of earthly knowledge can meet the true need of man.
 No amount of education can save a man's soul. It has no power to change the heart.
 A man may be a walking encyclopedia and still be lost.
 Salvation can only come through the Bible.
3. A man may be an unlearned man – ignorant and uneducated and yet be saved. To have a knowledge of the Bible is the highest knowledge. This knowledge of truth is essential unto salvation
1 Timothy 2:4 NAU - "who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."
1 Corinthians 15:1-4 NAU - "Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
- B. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself. He reveals His holiness, His infinite power and wisdom. The Bible contains God's Law and His demand for obedience
1. The Law condemns us.
 2. We cannot know sin apart from the law
Romans 3:20 - "through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin."
- C. The Bible contains God's revelation of the Gospel of Christ
Romans 1:16 NAU - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."
1. The Bible sets forth the conditions for salvation
 2. It describes our sinfulness
 3. It describes the nature of Christ – human and divine, God's Redeemer.
John 5:39 NAU - "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;"
 4. The Bible describes the nature of the atonement.
 5. It describes God's demand for faith and repentance
 6. It describes the promise of life
- D. Both the N.T. and the O.T. contain the Gospel. Remember Paul here is referring to the O.T. Scriptures.
2 Timothy 3:15 NAU - "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."
1. Salvation is the supernatural work of God's transforming grace.
 2. The means by which He works in the hearts of sinners is His Word.
Romans 10:17 NAU - "So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

II. This knowledge must be imparted to the lost and received by the sinner

This can occur in various ways

A. The Word Preached to the ears of the lost

Romans 10:13-15 NAU - "for "Whoever will call upon the name of the LORD will be saved." ¹⁴ How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!"

1 Corinthians 1:21 NAU - "For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe."

John 5:24 NAU - "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

B. The message of the Gospel may also surely be read

John 20:30-31 NAU - "Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

1. Directly from the Bible
2. Books that present the gospel
3. Tracts that present the gospel

C. The Bible is the only source of knowledge unto salvation – God's appointed means.

1. In the Parable of the Sower Jesus describes the Word as the seed which the sower sows to the saving of the soul

Matthew 13:23 NAU - "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

2. When the religious leader asked Jesus concerning eternal salvation Jesus pointed him to the Bible

Luke 10:25-26 NAU - "And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?"

D. Without the Bible no one could be saved.

1. What about those who have never had access to a Bible? They are lost.
2. This is why missions and evangelism are so essential.
3. It is false to say that men are only lost if they reject Christ.

III. These verses also teach us yet another important truth. The Word of God is essential for our growth unto Christian maturity. It is essential in the work of edification.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NAU - "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."

A. The same means God uses to save the sinner is the same means He uses to grow His faith – He uses His Word.

John 17:17 NAU - "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."

1. Paul begins by stating that the Word of God is profitable to the believer implying the sufficiency of Scripture

2. Then Paul lists the chief areas of profit.

"For teaching" – Literally, the truths taught in Scripture

"For reproof" – This word is only found here but it is from the word ἐλέγχω which carries the idea of admonition or rebuke.

standard by which we measure our lives and everything around us

"For correction" – a hapax legomina – it literally means "restoration to an upright or right state." When something is corrected it is restored to a proper condition or state.

"For training in righteousness" – from the word παιδεία which means to discipline or train for the purpose of holiness.

B. **Verse 17** provides the key to the passage

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

1. The word for "adequate" is another hapax legomina. It implies completion. It provides the key to this passage.

KJV – "Perfect" NKJV – "Complete"

2. "equipped for every good work." – completed or equipped

3. All of this implies that the Bible is essential to the growth and maturity of the believer.

It is the only rule of faith and practice – again Sola Scriptura

4. **1689 London Baptist Confession** - Chapter 1:1 - Of the Holy Scriptures
The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.

a. It is the only absolute rule for faith and practice

b. Not Church tradition, not the Book of Mormon, not the writings of the Watch Tower Society, not the Koran, not the special revelations of the Charismatics.

c. False religions ultimately expose themselves in their view of Scripture

d. Children's Catechism

Q.14 - Where do we learn how to love and obey God

A - In the Bible alone

C. The Bible alone is our Standard for living – for teaching

1. It is profitable for doctrine – for instruction in theological truth

2. Biblical doctrine effects the way we live, the way we look at the world

a. It provides the basis of our understanding about God

b. It provides the rule or parameter for our life

The Godless cannot endure sound doctrine – **4:3**

3. The absence of Biblical knowledge creates spiritual weakness
 - a. We cannot live a spiritual life without knowing spiritual truth
 - b. In listing the Christian spiritual armor Paul says,
Ephesians 6:14 NAU - "Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth"
 - c. God's Word is unchanging, absolute, and must be obeyed
Joshua 1:7-8 NAU - "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. ⁸ "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success."
- D. The Bible is our source of faith for living
Just as faith for salvation comes by hearing God's Word, faith for living also comes through God's Word
 1. A message on God's love may strengthen the downtrodden
 2. A message on God's purpose for the good of His people may strengthen those suffering affliction
 3. A message on God's provision may help those in economic hardship
 4. God's people gain great strength from His Word
Psalms 119:49-50 – "Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. This *is* my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me."

Conclusion:

1. What does this demand of us?
 - A. As a church we must always maintain a high view of God's Word
 1. We must stress the importance of Biblical teaching
 2. Other things are useful and have their place, but the Word is essential to our strength, even our existence.
 - B. We must not discount the importance of the ministry in the teaching of the Word
 1. The Apostles made it their chief duty
Acts 6:3-4 NAU - "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. ⁴ "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."
The pastor must carefully guard his time
 2. This is the chief purpose of the pastoral ministry
1 Timothy 5:17 NAU - "The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching."
2. If we expect to grow in holiness we must continually seek God's means of holiness – His Word. We must know it and know it intimately. We must study it and study it carefully. We must place great importance upon God's Word.