

Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 3:14-15

Because the holy Scriptures impart saving wisdom to those who have faith in Christ, we are to continue in their instruction.

1) The need for saving wisdom (3:12-13).

- a) Worldly resistance to godly living in Christ Jesus (3:12)
- b) Temptation of the path of least resistance which leads astray (3:13)
- c) The necessity of perseverance (Matt. 24:13; 2 Tim. 2:12)

2) Scripture has power to impart wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (3:15).

- a) **Wisdom to put sin to death:** Psalm 119:9, 11 “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your Word. . . . I have stored up Your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.”
- b) **Wisdom to deal with hostile enemies of our faith:** Psalm 119:98, 110 “Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. . . . The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from Your precepts.” (cf. Matt. 4:1-11; Eph. 6:17)
- c) **Wisdom to identify and refute false teaching:** Psalm 119:99-102, 104 “I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, for I keep Your precepts. I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep Your word. I do not turn aside from Your rules, for You have taught me. . . . Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.” (cf. 1 John 2:18-24; 2 Peter 1:19)
- d) **Wisdom to see the straight and narrow way (Matt. 7:14), even in the dark:** Psalm 119:105 “Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”
- e) **Wisdom to pray fruitfully:** John 15:7-8 “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.”
- f) **Wisdom to love Jesus:** John 14:23-24 “Jesus answered him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Whoever does not love Me does not keep my words. And the Word that you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.’” 1 John 2:5 “But whoever keeps His Word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.”
- g) **Wisdom to be holy:** John 17:17 “Sanctify them in the truth; Your Word is truth.” (cf. Eph. 5:26)
- h) **Wisdom to know yourself truly:** Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (cf. James 1:22-25)
- i) **Wisdom to know God in Christ:** John 5:39 “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about Me.” (cf. Luke 24:25-27, 44-47)
- j) **Application:** Do not esteem the soft sciences or human philosophy as on par with the Scriptures.

3) We are to continue in the instruction of Scripture.

- a) “Continue” (3:14a)
 - i) “in what you have learned”
 - ii) “and believed”
- b) Knowing from whom we learned it (3:14b; cf. Heb. 13:7)
 - i) 3:10-11 Paul’s Character and Persecutions (Acts 13:50; Acts 14:5-6; Acts 14:19-20; Acts 14:21-22; 2 Tim. 1:8)
 - ii) 1:5 The Faith of His Mother and Grandmother—people he could see up close every day, not just at their best
 - iii) Recalling the outworking of faith in the lives of the faithful can encourage us to abide in the Word.

- c) Knowing our history with Scripture (3:16a)
 - i) “and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings”
 - ii) Deuteronomy 6:7-9
 - iii) Recall the power of God’s Word in your conversion and in your edification.
- d) **Application:** 2 Timothy 3:16 Scripture is profitable:
 - i) **for teaching**, therefore humble your mind to receive its instruction; and instruct others from the Scriptures
 - ii) **for reproof**, therefore humble your mind to receive its judgment of your thoughts; and refute false thinking from the Scriptures (cf. 2 Corinthians 10:5)
 - iii) **for correction**, therefore humble your will to receive its judgment of your conduct; and admonish one another from the Scriptures (Colossians 3:16)
 - iv) **for training in righteousness**, therefore humble your will to receive its discipline/instruction of your conduct; and discipline/instruct one another from the Scriptures
 - v) 2 Timothy 3:17 “. . . that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”
 - (1) Raising godly children
 - (2) Living godly lives
 - (3) Worshiping God congregationally
 - (4) Witnessing to the world about Christ/the Gospel
 - (5) Planting, growing, and leading churches
 - (6) Making tough choices (Discernment)

Doxology: Let us praise Him Whose “divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.” 2 Peter 1:3-4