

## The Origin and Value of the Scriptures

2 Timothy 3:15-17

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Pastor Gary Hollinger

**The Bible is absolutely crucial to the life and health of a Christian.**

### **I. Knowledge of God's Word can lead to rescue from sin. (v. 15)**

*<sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." (Psalm 14:1 and 53:1)

Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities. (Psalm 107:17)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7)

The wise store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin. (Proverbs 10:14)

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm. (Proverbs 13:20)

The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left. (Ecclesiastes 10:2)

And a highway will be there;  
it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it;  
wicked fools will not go about on it. (Isaiah 35:8)

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. (John 5:39)

The Bible reveals our need of a Savior, that we are not right in God's sight. And the Bible reveals the identity of the Savior.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the

world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

The Bible teaches us both how to be saved and how to be assured that we have been saved through Christ.

We come now to verse 16 which Chuck Swindoll describes as: "...the single most significant sentence in all the NT regarding the Scriptures, because it touches on the watershed issue of faith in our times. What you believe about the Bible influences everything you believe and affects every decision you make."

## **II. The entire Bible is God's Word, breathed out by the Holy Spirit through men. (v. 16a)**

*<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed*

Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3 saying: "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Believer's Bible Commentary explains: "In a miraculous way, God communicated His Word to men and led them to write it down for permanent preservation. What they wrote was the very Word of God, inspired and infallible."

Yet, as Moody Bible Commentary puts it: "God superintended the writing of Scripture by His Spirit without blotting out the human author's personality, style or vocabulary."

MacArthur is representative of conservative scholars who point out that the correct translation of the first part of this verse is "All or every Scripture is inspired." He writes that: "Some suggest that it should be "all Scripture inspired by God is.." which would leave open the possibility that some Scripture is not inspired by Him. But that rendering would make the Bible worthless as a reliable guide to divine truth, because we would then have no way to determine which part of it is inspired by God and which is not. Men would be left to their own finite and sinful devices and understanding to discover what part of the Bible may be true and which may not, what part is God's Word and what part is human conjecture."

Verbal plenary inspiration: verbal=each word, plenary=the whole or entirety

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about

by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:19-21)

MacArthur points out: "The Pentateuch (the first five books of the OT) contains at least 680 claims to divine revelation and inspiration. More such claims are found 418 times in the historical books, 195 in the poetic books, and 1307 times in the prophetic books. The NT contains more than 300 direct quotation and at least 1000 indirect reference from the OT, almost all of them declaring or implying that they were God's own Word."

### **Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy - 1978**

1. God, who is Himself Truth and speaks truth only, has inspired Holy Scripture in order thereby to reveal Himself to lost mankind through Jesus Christ as Creator and Lord, Redeemer and Judge. Holy Scripture is God's witness to Himself.
2. Holy Scripture, being God's own Word, written by men prepared and superintended by His Spirit, is of infallible divine authority in all matters upon which it touches:
  - a. It is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it affirms;
  - b. Obedied, as God's command, in all that it requires;
  - c. Embraced, as God's pledge, in all that it promises.
3. The Holy Spirit, Scripture's divine Author, both authenticates it to us by His inward witness and opens our minds to understand its meaning.
4. Being wholly and verbally God-given, Scripture is without error or fault in all its teaching, no less in what it states about God's acts in creation, about the events of world history, and about its own literary origins under God, than in its witness to God's saving grace in individual lives.
5. The authority of Scripture is inescapably impaired if this total divine inerrancy is in any way limited or disregarded, or made relative to a view of truth contrary to the Bible's own; and such lapses bring serious loss to both the individual and the Church.

All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal. (Psalms 119:160)

Wiersbe correctly and wisely points out that: "We should not say that every statement in the Bible is true, because the Bible records the lies of men and of Satan. But the record is absolutely true."

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God. (2 Corinthians 2:17)

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. (2 Peter 3:15-16)

The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ... On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches..." (Revelation 1:1-2, 10-11)

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.  
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.  
The precepts of the LORD are right,  
giving joy to the heart.  
The commands of the LORD are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.  
The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever.  
The decrees of the LORD are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.  
They are more precious than gold,  
than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb.  
By them your servant is warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward. (Psalm 19:7-11)

### **III. God had a four-fold purpose in giving us the Bible. (v. 16b)**

*and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*

Various versions translate useful as profitable or beneficial or valuable.

#### **a) Instruction in the truth**

Teaching or doctrine (Gr. did-as-kal-ee'-ah) (21x – two are in one parallel passage in the Gospels, while the other 19 are all used by Paul and 15 of those times are in the PE's that we have been studying) Did-as-kal-ee'-ah or sound doctrine speaks of the truth contained in the Bible; truth about God and His nature, about how creation was formed, the spiritual world of angels and demons, about the fall, sin, salvation, the nation of Israel and its place in human history, the Church, as well as future events.

For everything that was written in former times was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and through encouragement of the scriptures we may have hope. (Romans 15:4)

Be conscientious about how you live and what you teach. Persevere in this, because by doing so you will save both yourself and those who listen to you. (1 Timothy 4:16)

MacArthur points out that: “It goes without saying that it is impossible to believe, understand, and follow what you do not even know. It is completely futile, as well as foolish, to expect to live a spiritual life without knowing spiritual truth.”

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)

The Bible teaches us what is right and true.

### **b) Revealing when we are in error or sin**

Rebuking or reproof (only here in this context); The Bible reveals to us what displeases and offends our holy God. Speaks of conviction of wrong-doing. It describes correction or censure in the sense of refuting error or rebuking sin.

Jesus replied, “Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? (Mark 12:24)

The Bible also teaches us what is not right.

Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. (Ephesians 4:28)

### **c) Showing how to get back on the right track**

Correcting is from the Greek ep-an-or'-tho-sis. Compound word (only here): epi (again) anorthos: 1) to set up, make erect of a deformed person 2) to rear again, build anew. It suggests improvement and restoration that restores and rebuilds.

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. (Hebrews 12:7-12)

The Bible teaches us how to get right.

#### **d) Learning how to live as God intends**

Training is from the Greek pahee-di'-ah (6x): the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment) It also includes the training and care of the body. 2) whatever in adults also cultivates the soul, esp. by correcting mistakes and curbing passions. 2a) instruction which aims at increasing virtue

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

The other four times are in Hebrews 12 that we just looked at.

In Righteousness (Gr. dik-ah-yos-oo'-nay): state of him who is as he ought to be, the condition acceptable to God. Speaks of integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking feeling, and acting.

That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:20-24)

The Bible teaches us how to remain right.

#### **IV. God's Word makes our good works possible. (v. 17)**

*<sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

If you have the NASB, this verse says so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work...

Swindoll explains that: “Unfortunately, the adjective adequate no longer means what it once did in English. At one time, adequate meant “equal to the task,” but now it smacks of mediocrity. No one who really wants a job would list adequate as a personal quality on a resume. Today, we would call the right person for the job qualified or proficient. He or she has the right training an expertise to master the task that needs to be accomplished.

The Greek sentence begins with the adverb ar'-tee-os meaning fitted or complete having reference to "special aptitude for given uses." And it ends with the same word having an ex

prefix attached to it that, according to linguistic scholars, perfects its meaning. As Kitchen explains: “The result is a meaning of completely outfitted, fully furnished, fully equipped or fully supplied. It was used to describe a wagon or a rescue boat which was fully outfitted for its task.”

Thus the KJV translates: the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished.

v. 17 NLT: It is God’s way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.

The NIV also puts it well by rendering the thought as: “thoroughly equipped,” meaning complete, capable and proficient, in other words: able to meet any and all demands placed upon us. And this equipping is from God Himself both in natural abilities, in spiritual gifts and through the benefit of the Scriptures that thoroughly equip us to do God’s will.

For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

The Believer’s Bible Commentary quotes Lenski: “The Scriptures are thus absolutely incomparable, no other book, library or anything else in the world is able to make a lost sinner wise for salvation; no other Scripture, since it lacks the inspiration of God, whatever profit it may otherwise afford, is profitable for these ends: teaching us the true saving facts – refuting the lies and the delusions that deny these facts = restoring the sinner or fallen Christian to an upright position – educating, training, disciplining one in genuine righteousness.”

Wiersbe puts it this way: “The times are not going to get better, but as Christians we can become better people, even in bad times. We must separate ourselves from that which is false, devote ourselves to that which is true, and continue in our study of the Word of God. Then the Lord can equip us for ministry in these difficult days, and we will have the joy of seeing others come to a knowledge of the truth.”