

Subject: *Why We Need the Bible*

Scripture: *2 Timothy 3:13-17*

We need the Bible in our church, in our families, and in our personal lives. Paul wrote to young Timothy who was a believer. He came from a good family (see 2 Tim. 1:1-5). Even though Timothy's mother and grandmother were believers, he still needed the scriptures (see 3:14-15). We need the Bible for three reasons.

1. We need the Bible because of its authority

Our text refers to the inspiration of Scripture. The starting place in Christian growth and service is a firm conviction that the Bible is the Word of God. Everything in your life rises or falls on your view of the Bible. The Bible says that "all scripture" is given by inspiration of God. That means everything that is written from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22. All scripture is given by inspiration of God (literally, "God-breathed"). When the Bible speaks, God speaks. Scripture is the final word. We need more than someone's opinion. We need more than a hand-me-down report. We all know how something can be distorted or confused when it passes from one person to another. God gave us His Word and preserved it in writing.

2. We need the Bible because of its accuracy

What is the big deal about Scripture being inspired by God? Why is it so important? We need to have absolute confidence in the Bible. Look again at 2 Timothy 3:1-7. We are living in "perilous times" (dangerous days). The Bible describes the attitudes and actions of the last days. He paints a dark picture, but we are seeing this play out in our world every day. All scripture is inspired, but not all of it is inspiring. Some of the Bible is depressing, frightening, and alarming, but all of it is enlightening.

Psalms 119:105 *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

Psalms 119:130 *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*

Verse 13 of our text warns us about deception in these last days. How can we know what to believe or who to believe? We can depend on the Bible and its accuracy in every area (historical accuracy, scientific accuracy, spiritual accuracy).

Where can we find accurate information on the subjects that matter most? The Bible tells us the truth about God the Father, Christ, the Holy Spirit, creation, man, sin, salvation, angels and Satan, the church, heaven, hell, and judgment. Where else can we find accurate facts on these things?

3. We need the Bible because of its ability

It makes us wise unto salvation (vs. 15). It is profitable for everything we need to live for God (vs. 16-17). It tells us about our need of salvation, our Savior and his death, burial, and resurrection (the Gospel), and what God requires for us to be saved (repentance and faith). Not only does the Bible tell us these things, it does what we need to save our soul. See Peter's sermon in Acts 2 and how he used Scripture. They were convicted and converted.

Romans 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

James 1:18 *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.*

1 Peter 1:23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

The Bible has the ability to give new life and new birth to us when we are dead in our sins. And it has the ability to nourish and build up and a saved soul.

Acts 20:32 *And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*

The Bible has the ability to make us holy (sanctify us) and make us more like Christ.

John 17:17 *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

Romans 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

We need to get a firm grip on the Bible until it has a firm grip on us. We do that as we hear it, read it, study it, memorize it, and meditate on it.

Why am I preaching a sermon like this? It's because we need the Bible and most of us don't get enough of it in us to make a difference. We get it in worship, but we also get it in SS classes, in AWANA, in men's and women's Bible studies, and best of all...in our daily devotional reading and personal study of the Word. In our revival service one night Bro. Rick challenged us to read and study our Bible every day. We need to do that because we need the Bible.

John Rippon served as Pastor of Carter's Lane Baptist Church in London, England, for 63 years, beginning in the year 1775. Now that's a long time to be pastor of the same congregation. As I read that I wondered how he could serve faithfully for that long a time. The answer must be that He trusted God for his own needs and the needs of the church and He depended on God's Word for guidance and strength. He wrote the words to this great hymn:

How Firm a Foundation

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say, than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*