



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Why Study God's Word? (2 Tim 3:14-17)

MARCH 2, 2011

Jason Palermo / (501) 366-2557 / www.capitolcom.org / jason.palermo@capitolcom.org

As we begin the legislative session, it is important to establish from the outset why it is we are gathering together. Why set-aside regular time to refresh your soul and prepare your mind for the rigors you will face, by studying God's Word? While the answer is somewhat answered in the question, the truth is God calls His people to make a regular practice of being transformed by the renewing of their mind, so that they can be thoroughly equipped for the service to which He has called them.

Isaiah 40:28-31 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The

Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. 29 He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. 30 Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, 31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

Romans 12:1-2 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them; 15 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. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

INTRODUCTION

Today we will briefly explore 2 Timothy 3:14-17. The epistle of Timothy was written by the Apostle Paul to Timothy who was his disciple and to whom he regarded as his spiritual son. Timothy was left in Ephesus to continue strengthening and firmly establishing God's church and the congregation's faith in Christ upon the solid foundation of God's Word.

This task was no easy task as Timothy was experiencing much opposition, just as the Apostle Paul and the Lord Jesus Christ had before him. Paul wrote as one who had experienced severe opposition in the ministry even to the point of being left for dead, and he was writing from prison to encourage Timothy to continue the work he was sent to accomplish. Key to carrying out any God-given ministry is the uninterrupted teaching and proclamation of the Word of God. Notice what the Apostle Paul taught about the Word of God Timothy was to proclaim.

I. THE SCRIPTURES PROVIDE WISDOM THAT LEADS TO SALVATION

Timothy had been taught the Scripture since his youth by his mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5-6), then later by Paul. The Word of God is the source of truth that God uses to save people (Ps. 19:7; Mark 4:14; Rom. 10:14-17).

God uses the truth of His Word to point people to Jesus Christ (Luke 24:27; John 5:39; John 3:16; Gal. 3:24), and by His grace, God saves them through faith (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5). Salvation is all about God rescuing needy people whom Scripture describes as separated from the life of God (Eph. 2:1-10), having fallen woefully short of God's glory and righteousness and are worthy of God's justice (Rom. 3:10, 23). In God's mercy, He did not abandon people, but revealed Himself to all men in nature (Psalm 19; Romans 1), and by graciously providing His Word through His prophets and apostles (Eph. 2:20), and ultimately through His Son Jesus Christ Who satisfied God's holy standard perfectly by obeying His law, and by paying the sinners death penalty on the cross, so that by grace through faith in Jesus Christ all men might have their sins fully paid for by Christ's death on the cross. Thus all who place their faith in Christ may be rescued from the power and consequences of sin and death. The Father poured out His entirely wrath which was against us upon His innocent Son, Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ God has also provided everything the believer needs for salvation—a covering for sin, and through being united with Christ, believers are received by God as if they had never sinned against Him (Gal. 13; 2 Cor. 5:21). This seems almost inconceivable, but that is how great the love of God is toward all those who believe in Him. One day Jesus Christ will present all believers before the Father, holy and blameless and beyond reproach (Jude 23-24). They will never have to experience God's rejection.

BIBLE STUDIES

WED. @ 7:00 - 7:30 A.M., ROOM 19 IN THE STATE CAPITOL
(TAKE EITHER ELEVATOR TO THE LOWER LOBBY, EXIT LEFT)

Why Study God's Word? (2 Tim 3:14-17)

Why study God's Word? God's Word alone provides what nature and human opinion could never provide, the truth about God and man, including God offer of salvation to those in need of a Savior.

II. THE SCRIPTURES ARE GOD'S PRODUCT

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God.

There are at least three important points to mention. The first has to do with the meaning of "inspiration." Scripture is not making the claim that it is "inspired" in the same way that we might use the word to refer to a Shakespeare play, or a tasty meal, our favorite football game, or music CD. While these may all be "inspirational," this is not at all what Paul meant when he wrote to Timothy that "all Scripture is *inspired* by God."

The first Greek predicate adjective (for the word "inspired") that describes God's Word is *Theopneustos*. It is more literally rendered "God-breathed," or "breathed-out by God." It refers to God's authority and His superintending work, such that the final product (Scripture) is God's work. How do we reconcile that it went through sinful man and yet came out perfectly, and inerrant? We start with God who is the Creator. He is all-powerful and all-wise. Nothing is too difficult for Him. It is important for us to realize that God has even used unbelievers to communicate revelation (Balaam in the Old Testament, and Caiaphas in John 11:49-53, in the New Testament). With these Scriptural givens, it is not inconceivable to conclude that such a great God could miraculously accomplish this amazing feat.

This raises another important second point, and that is that it was the Scriptures that were inspired and not the human authors of the Scriptures that are in view. Certainly the Apostle Paul was a very godly and righteous man. Paul's life and faith are very worthy of imitation, but he was still a man who, like us, struggled with sin, and had need of a Savior.

The third very important point to make clear is that "all Scripture" is inspired by God. Jesus taught that "every letter and every stroke" of every word is inspired by God (Matt. 5:17-18), and that it is "easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one letter of the law to pass away (Luke 16:17)." Even the smallest elements of every letter in Scripture Jesus taught, is inspired. Now if this were not true, then there would be no certainty whatsoever that any portion of the Word could be trusted, for if even one word were not inspired (or God-breathed), then that could have effect upon a phrase, or a clause, or a sentence or a paragraph or a

teaching. Thus the final product is what is in view the Scripture is what God "inspired."

III. THE SCRIPTURES ARE PROFITABLE TO SANCTIFY

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

By sanctify it is meant that something is set-apart for special use (i.e. unto God). Scripture helps accomplish God's work of transforming believers to be increasingly like Jesus Christ. The Greek Word for "profitable" *ophelimos*, includes the ideas that Scripture is beneficial, productive and sufficient for the purpose God intended (i.e. producing Christ-like believers who are equipped for every good work).

Consider the profitable results of God's Word in Psalm 19: 7-13

Psalm 19:7-13 ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. ¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover, by them Thy servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward. ¹² Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults. ¹³ Also keep back Thy servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me; Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.

Clearly the psalmist is keenly aware of the all-sufficient, transforming power of the Word of God. How does God's Word accomplish this transforming work? God uses His Word to instruct people in the truth then He changes them with it, from the inside out. Because of this, God gets all of the glory, both for providing His Word, and also for using it for all of the purposes for which He intended it.

Paul, in the remainder of 2 Timothy 3: 16 declares that Scripture is profitable in four ways: for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. Herein are the four keys to sanctification, and biblical change. We will examine these next time. God richly bless you.