



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

ALL SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE! - 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17, PART 2

COLORADO

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2 Timothy 3:16-17 gives testimony to the abiding character of Scripture; that it is inspired by God and profitable for all mankind. Our previous study focused on the fact that all of Scripture is inspired by God, is God breathed! It originates in God's mind and was communicated from God's mouth by God's breath or Spirit. God breathed His words into human writers, and divinely superintended the accurate recording of His divinely breathed truth by His divinely chosen human instruments.¹ Because all Scripture is inspired by God it is inerrant and infallible in all its words, it is absolutely and completely true and it is authoritative for all of life.²

I. ALL SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE!-2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

*(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."*² Timothy 3:16-17

Not only is all Scripture inspired by God, but secondly all Scripture is profitable. "Profitable" focuses on the absolute sufficiency of God's written word. God meant it for our highest good.

A. "ALL SCRIPTURE...IS PROFITABLE"- 2 TIMOTHY 3:16C

All Scripture is not only without error, but it is of supreme value for all mankind. "Profitable" is the second predicate adjective Paul uses to describe all Scripture.

"profitable" Greek **"ophelimos"** beneficial, productive, useful, complete, practical, an indispensable instrument and tool, comprehensive, sufficient.

It only makes sense that because all Scripture is inspired by God, it is profitable. Think about what God's Word lays absolute claim to! In God's Word, God not only instructs us in salvation through Jesus Christ but also Scripture gives us every truth, every truth, every principle, every standard every warning we will ever need for living out our salvation according to His will. Scripture is profitable in regards to creed and productive and practical in regards to conduct. Scripture shapes our beliefs as well as our lifestyle. God's Word is totally sufficient to shape us into the image of Jesus Christ. God's Word meets our deepest need and transforms us from the inside out. Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the entire Bible supremely affirms the absolute, total sufficiency of Scripture to meet the spiritual needs of all God's people. In Joshua 1:8, Joshua exhorts Israel with these words before taking the Promised Land, *"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."* In Psalm 19:7-13, David writes about the characteristics of God's Word: that it is perfect, sure, right, pure, clean and true. He writes

about the blessings of Scripture; that it restores the soul, makes wise the simple, rejoices the heart, enlightens the eyes, endures forever, and produces complete righteousness. And if that were not beneficial and comprehensive enough, David also extols the profits of God's Word in that it makes us rich (spiritually), it delights, it rewards, convicts and protects.

All Scripture is sufficient and comprehensive. God's Word is not only inspired and without error, but it is complete. Remember Revelation 22:18-19 that says we dare not add or take away anything from the all sufficient Word of God. Scripture gives us doctrinal truths for a solid foundation in life. Paul wrote in Acts 20:28-32 knowing that *"savage wolves will come in among you not sparing the flock"*, therefore he warned to be on the alert and commended them to *"the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified."* It is God's Word that is useful, beneficial and productive in the lives of all believers that can build us up and sustain us through life. Paul says that all Scripture is profitable in four distinct ways; teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness.

1. "PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING"-2 TIMOTHY 3:16D

All Scripture gives divine instruction and truth for life and godliness.

"teaching" Greek **"didaskalia"** refers to content and not process or method, here refers to specifically and exclusively divine instruction.

Psalm 119:104-105 says, *"From thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* Ephesians 6:4 tells us that Scripture gives us the divine truth necessary to live as God calls us to. 2 Peter 1:3 explains *"that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence."* Proverbs 3:5 tells us not to trust in our own wisdom but lean on God's wisdom which is found in His Word. Scripture gives us divine instruction and teaching for this life. But how can you believe, understand and follow what you don't even know. So many believers don't know God's Word let alone what they believe. Ephesians 4:14 describes these as children tossed here and there. God says in Hosea 4:6 that His people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Compare this to Job who, when he had lost everything he loved and was unable to see why God permitted such calamities, said this, *"Teach Thou me what I do not see."* (Job 34:32)

All Scripture is profitable, beneficial, completely sufficient and comprehensive to teach us what is most important in life. That is

BIBLE STUDIES

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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.”*

why Paul said in Acts 20 that he did not shrink from declaring the whole counsel of God. Ephesians 6:17 describes God’s Word as a “sword” and the only offensive weapon believers are given.

“sword” Greek “machaira” refers to a small sword used in close combat requiring skill to use and be effective.

“word” Greek “rhema” used in Ephesians 6:17 to refer to a specific statement or wording NOT a general truth as below.

“word” Greek “logos” as used in John 1:1 is used for general truth.

The use of wielding Scripture must be appropriate, accurate and precise. When used thoughtlessly, this creates hurt, confusion and uncertainty doing a disservice to our Lord and those we are attempting to help. We must handle God’s Word accurately as Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 2:15 in order not to be ashamed. Careless use of Scripture can cause great damage, but to use Scripture in an effective way we must know it. Colossians 3:16 exhorts us to let God’s Word dwelling richly in us, depositing into our hearts and minds. Scripture becomes an “asset” that we can draw from when confronting temptation, seeking God’s will and guidance for our lives.³

2. “PROFITABLE FOR REPROOF”-2 TIMOTHY 3:16D

Reproof is second work of the Word in the life of a believer.

“reproof” Greek “elegmos” a rebuke that exposes error, carries idea of rebuking in order to convict of misbehavior or false doctrine.

Paul isn’t saying that Scripture is valuable for finding fault but rather that God’s Word is valuable for convincing people of error in their way and pointing them to the right path. Scripture exposes sin such as Hebrews 4:12-13 referring to Scripture as a “two edged sword” the same word used in Ephesians 6:17. Scripture is a divine sword that exposes sin in the life of believers. It penetrates mind, soul and heart so it can be dealt with true confession and repentance. Therefore, Scripture is the divine plumb line by which everything is measured and it teaches the truth about God and about ourselves. It is a very honest book and never whitewashes anyone written in its pages. Their faults are clearly spelled out so that we can learn from them. When we read God’s Word, we can see ourselves for who we really are and who we are in God’s sight.

Psalms 119:99-100, 104-105 tells us that God’s Word steers us away from sin and towards righteousness. It is a believer’s responsibility to “reprove” as Paul will spell out shortly in 2 Timothy 4:1-2. But we must always reprove with humility, love and gentleness as Paul instructed earlier in 2 Timothy 2:24-26. And we must be able to receive reproof, graciously accepting that work of the Word. We can’t genuinely seek righteousness and truth if we do not hate and

renounce sin and falsehood in our lives as well. (Proverbs 6:23) It is in times when we are disobedient that we need God’s Word. A decrease in that desire for His Word, fellowship, to worship Him is credible evidence of unconfessed and unforsaken sin. That’s why the church is never a haven for the persistent sinner.⁴ (John 3:20)

3. “PROFITABLE FOR CORRECTION”-2 TIMOTHY 3:16D

Correction is the third work of the Word in the life of a believer.

“correction” Greek “epanorthosis” used only here in the New Testament, refers to the restoring of something to its original and proper condition, straight. To the Greeks it was used of setting upright something that had fallen down, thus helping a person back on his feet after stumbling.

Not only must the sinner be reprovved and warned to leave the wrong path but also directed to the right path and that is correction. Scripture restores the fallen sinner to an upright position. The Word provides the means whereby sinners (that’s all of us) are restored to God and set apart from sin to Him. (John 17:17) And it is through God’s Word that we put away sin and grow. (1 Peter 2:1-2) Scripture points the way back to godly living. (Psalm 119:9-11, 105)

4. “PROFITABLE FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS”- 2 TIMOTHY 3:16D

Scripture not only reveals sin and restores us, but God’s Word also trains us to walk on that right path in a manner that pleases Him.

“training” Greek “paideia” literally the word means child training. It was the idea of bringing up and training a child and came to be known and used with any sort of training. Directed at idea of instruction and building up.

Hebrews 12:11 says, *“All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”* God’s Word gives us a pattern of discipline that leads to a holy, righteous life. God’s Word shows from beginning to end how we please and glorify Him. And 1 Timothy 4:8 says that godliness is profitable for all things, *“since it holds promise for the present life and for the life to come.”* Whether young or old in the faith, may we have the same heart for Scripture as the Psalmist in 42:1, *“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.”*

¹Barclay, William, *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 1956, revised 1975 and 2003. Pg.102.

²MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.143.

³MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.153.

⁴MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.158-160.