

2Timothy 3:16–17

God's Word for God's Work in God's Man and His Good Works

Thursday, July 27, 2023 • 2Timothy 3:16–17

Questions from the Scripture text: How much of Scripture is v16 talking about? How did it come to be? What is the primary characteristic that it gets from this inspiration? For what four things is it profitable? For whom is it given (v17)? What does it do to him? What does it equip him to do?

Why can Christians be sure that the Scriptures will make them wise unto salvation? 2Timothy 3:16–17 looks forward to the second serial reading of in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **Christian's can be sure that the Scriptures will make them wise unto salvation, because they are God's Word for doing God's work in God's man for God's man's works.**

God's Word. Why can the Christian be sure that the words inscribed (inscripturated) on the pages of the Bible will make him "wise unto salvation" as v15 said? Because it is God's. It was Christ from Whom he learned (v14), whether by use of an apostle (v10), or by use of grandparents and parents (v15a), or by use of whomever the Lord used to bring that Christian to faith and grow him in faith.

The Scriptures will work because they are His; they will work because all Scripture is God-breathed (a more literal translation than NKJ's "inspiration"), God-Spirited (same word as "breath"). God the Holy Spirit has produced Scripture from God (particularly from God the Son, the Word, cf. Jn 1:1–14). It is as much His direct speaking to us as if He were physically with us, breathing out words the way that we each speak words to each other. It is as unbreakable as His Word, as truthful as He is (cf. Jn 10:35; Titus 1:2). Inerrancy and authority belong to God's Word, simply because it is His.

For doing God's work. The God-breathed words of the Bible are living and active (cf. Heb 4:12). The Word of God effectively works in those who believe (cf. 1Th 2:13). So, v16 gives us not just how to employ and respond to the Bible, but the certainty that it will work, the certainty that Scripture that will be useful, the certainty that Scripture will be (in the very words of v16) "profitable" in precisely the ways that v16 says. God's Word. God's work. God's way.

So first, we are to develop teaching from the Bible; we are to form doctrine. Let this verse end all complaints about forming a system of teaching from the Bible. The Scriptures are God's Word, and His way of working is to make them profitable for doctrine. Second, we should be reproved by the Bible. It painfully tells us where we are wrong, and we receive that painful identification of the ways that we think wrongly and act wrongly. But the Scripture doesn't merely point out where we are crooked in "reproof"; it also sets us straight in "correction." And once we are straight, it directs us in the way that we are going in "training" (a more literal rendering than NKJ's "instruction") in righteousness. As the old saying goes, "the Bible is a doing book" (cf. James 1:21–27). The Lord Who works in us by His grace has designed to do that Scripture-work by way of doctrine, reproof, correction, and training.

In God's man. v17 begins, "that the man of God" ... it reminds us that we have more reason to use the Bible in this way than just that it is God's Word. The Christian must use the Bible in God's way because he is God's man. We do not belong to ourselves. This is not only obligation (it most certainly is obligation!) but encouragement. God, Who has taken me to be His, will surely provide for me according to the same love in which He has been pleased to take me as His own. It's not just me attending to His Word; it is He, using His Word to work in me! His desire is that "the man of God may be complete." He Who has begun His work in us will be faithful to complete it.

For God's man's works. What is God's purpose for the use of the Scripture, as He "completes" the man of God? His purpose is that the man of God would be "thoroughly equipped for every good work." God has prepared good works for His man to walk in. This is the purpose for which He has saved us by grace, the reason that He created us in Christ Jesus, that we would do "good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (cf. Eph 2:10). God's man doesn't exist for himself; he exists for God's works, for good works. But where will he learn what these works are? From Scripture, he can learn the principles that will identify for him every good work. And how can he prepare for these good works? For every singly good work, the Scripture will thoroughly equip him. Scripture is sufficient because the Lord has decided that it would be.

What a wonderful Scripture is! It is God's Word, working in God's man, and thoroughly equips him for every good work!

When and how do you receive the Scripture? Who has spoken to you the words in the Scriptures, and Who speaks to you by those words? What four ways should you be responding to the Bible? In which of these do you most need to grow? What's the point of all of this attending to Scripture and being reprov'd, correct'd, and train'd by it?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You that You have given us Your own words in the Scripture. We are desperately in need of reproof. Forgive us for how we resist the smarting pain of that reproof; forgive us for not wanting to make the corrections when Your word sets us straight. Forgive us for wishing that Your word would give us what we want, rather than training us to do what You want. Grant that we would not only be thoroughly equipped for every work, but that we would also pursue doing every good work. Make us to think of ourselves as Your own people, we ask in the Name of Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP19B "The Lord's Most Perfect Law" or TPH119E "Tell Me, O Lord, Your Way of Truth"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Second Timothy 3 verses 16 and 17. These are God's words. All scripture. Is given by inspiration of god. And is profitable for Doctrine, for a proof. For correction. For instruction and righteousness. That the man of god, may be complete. Thoroughly equipped for every good work.

So far, the Reading of god's inspired. And there aren't worked.

If you remember from last week and verses 14 and 15, Paul had told Timothy that as someone whom god had saved someone who in God had brought. To the saving knowledge of christ. So that he not only has the form of religion in which he calls jesus lord, but also has the power of religion and which jesus has taken his heart taken timothies heart as his own and changed his life.

That timothy must continue then. As someone whom the lord has brought to this saving knowledge. Uh, those who are reprobate, those who are disqualified, put into the faith, the evil men and imposters. They go from bad to worse. Believers, go from. Uh, good to perfect. They are good in the lord, jesus christ.

This is one reason, of course why if Um, if you ask, Uh, if someone asks you how you're doing? You say i'm good. And they say no one is good but god you say, i absolutely i'm good. I am united to jesus christ by faith. I'm good. And lord jesus christ.

But we go from good. Uh, to perfect not only Um, does the Lord start a work in us, but he brings it to completion. And so he had told Timothy that he must continue in the things he had learned and been assured of knowing from whom he had learned them.

And we already kind of. It's not really cheating, but we answered the question from whom he had learned them by looking forward to these two verses versus 16 and 17 and noting that that solves the question whom does. He mean Because Timothy didn't meet paul till he was an adult.

But paul, but timothy had known the scriptures. From his childhood from his babyhood, he had said, So this from whom he had learned, does it mean Louis and

Eunice Or does it mean paul because up in verse 10, He said, Timothy had carefully followed his doctrine manner of life, purpose, faithful and suffering, etc.

And of course the answer from whom had he learned them was neither of them although it was sort of both of them instrumentally then. But ultimately the lord Jesus. And notice that the word doctrine or the word teaching, That he mentioned. In verse 10, you have carefully, followed my doctrine.

Is the first thing in the list in verse 16 is profitable for Doctrine. And so Timothy must continue in what he had learned. Which means? He must continue in the scriptures, god had taught him. And now paul tells Timothy and no uncertain terms. The scriptures. That is the words printed on the page.

Inscribed in script or rated? On the page. Are breathed out by god. They are god's words. God's own words, too. Timothy personally, just like Timothy had heard paul breathe outwards. And Timothy had learned and followed those things and even gotten to participate in persecutions. And Timothy had heard louis and eunice, breathe out words to him.

But the bible was every bit as much. The script on the pages of the bible was every bit as much the words of god. As low as his words, were lost his words and unuses words, were unuses words and paul's words or balls words. Isn't this exciting for you?

My dear. Children, my dear wife. That you can have a copy of the word of god open. And the script on the pages. Is the very words of god. And there's no doubt you don't have to. Um, wish that you could find out somewhere that you could know, god's will?

No. Is told you. He loves us and in his love he has not spoken obscurely in a place. That's hard to find that you have to ascend into heaven, to get it. Go down to the edbest to get it. No, like he said in Deuteronomy his word had come near us.

And not only can we have as words on the page, we can have his words in our heart and his words in our mouth. God's words. But that since their god's words, we don't get to use them however, we want to use them. Their god's words and so they have to be used for god's work.

This means that as we read the bible, we need to Uh, c. And look for seek from god. Take to heart. The bible in the four ways that he describes here. First of all, The scriptures he has given us to be used. To be profited from by. By way of doctrine.

God has given us a theological book. The stories are interesting stories but they are theological stories. He's teaching us about himself, he's teaching us about ourselves, he's teaching us about his church teaching us about sin. He's teaching us about salvation, he's teaching us how we come to salvation. He's teaching us how it is worked out in the life and heart of a christianity.

He's teaches us. What it looks like to serve and me teaches us. What will happen to us for serving him? He teaches us how he's sustains us. He teaches us all these things teaches us how to worship. Teaches us how to repent, which is important. Because the second thing, The second use.

That he gives us for his word is reproof. So it teaches us what is true but it especially teaches us what's wrong with us. That teaches us. Where we are thinking, wrongly where we are speaking wrongly? We? Run ourselves through the the scripture scan machine. And we get that.

Uh, we get that full soul mri. That were proves us. And also teaches us. Correction, it's useful for correction. It doesn't just say poor. You are really messed up. You should just feel horrible. No, it teaches us. What to do? That teaches us not only how to come to the lord and confess it and receive that immediate and complete release and relief of his forgiveness.

Like Psalm 32 teaches us about and we're just That he forgives us. But also teaches us what corrections to make in life. How to do better? What to do better. It's not only for teaching and reproof and correction. But also for training. And righteousness. I know. It says instruction here versus the last part of verse 16 but it's There are lots of instruction words and this instruction word, especially means Training.

For the building up and strengthening and sharpening skill, building and habit forming. And more, you know, the the vivification of the life of christ in the believer. That makes them mortification stick, so that the weakening of sin and every part is Greater and, and greater and sin becomes weaker and weaker at us and, and righteousness in our thinking and in our desireing, and in our motivation, and our action, our speech become stronger and stronger.

Training. Trains us up. And so it's God's words. For doing god's work in us. Like the Evening speakers and saying can't use. You can't come to the prophets. To satisfy vein curiosity about future events, their intentionally designed Not to give us. Uh, Clarity about the future events so much as instruction try to live in light.

Of those future events. God's word for doing god's work in. God's man. What a wonderful. What a wonderful encouragement. The. First half of Verse 17. That the man of god, may be complete. Yes, complete for And thoroughly equipped for every good work. But first, first of all, Complete in ourselves.

That we are gods work. That we are has new creatures. His workmanship created in christ Jesus. Yes to do. Good works and we'll talk about that in a moment. For just a man. Think about it. God has taken you to be his own. And he's given you the scriptures, which are his own.

To do the work in you, which is his own. So that you may become. A. Uh, masterpiece. Of the lord. Uh, something that he in which he takes great pleasure and makes great display. Of himself and his glory. The hold, it's complete. A man of god. And so we're all masterpieces and progress, aren't we?

Some of your artists and someone wants to look at something you're not satisfied with it yet. You're like don't look it's not done. Well. The lord is not embarrassed of his work. A work in progress is still a work of the lord. And it will be done. He has begun it.

Will complete it. And, This. Continuing in what we have learned as a finish that is perfection. What a great encouragement. So, god's words. That must be used the way he says, because it says for god's works. In god's man that he's going to complete. And part of that, completion.

Uh, one of the ways we see the increasing levels of completion, is. By how the scripture thoroughly equips or thoroughly furnishes? This man of god, for every good work, He's prepared. The good works. Beforehand for us to walk in. We started to allude a few minutes ago to Ephesians 2:10.

And there's not a single good work. That he will ever call us to. That we are not. Furnished. And Equipped. Entirely for by the bible. The bible tells us everything we need to know for every good work that the Lord will ever call us to. Which we call, of course.

The sufficiency of scripture. Not just it's inerrancy. It can't make any errors. It's God's own words. He cannot lie. He says, His scripture cannot be broken, he says, It is authoritative, of course, because Every time you read, The the inscripturated words, the script on the pages of your bible, It is the saith the lord.

But it's not just an Arrington authoritative. It's sufficient. The teachers us everything we need to believe. And to do, For everything, the lord will. Ever call us to. This marvelous gift. And so, let us Continue in. The bible. God's work. God's word to do God's work and god's man.

For. God's man's works all of them. It's perfect. Father, we thank you for the bible, we thank you for the scriptures. We thank you. For. Lovingly. Being clear in your speech to us. We pray that you would, A train, our hearts by your spirit to handle the bible. In a way that corresponds to what we Have just been learning and

thinking.

About it from these verses to what you say. About your word. About the scriptures. And these verses. Right, it's true is on our hearts. We pray for, we ask it. In christ's name. Amen.