

2nd Timothy Ch 3:14-17

“Essential Aspects Of God’s Word”

Vs 14-17

We left off last time in sober consideration of the fact that far from things getting better and better in this world, the bible teaches emphatically that things are going to get worse and worse before Jesus comes for His church. Not only on the global scale of political tensions as we see so prevalently today, or in the moral decay and declension and downward spiral of moral standards upheld on the social level, but on a spiritual scale as well. Evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But be that as it may as we read in vs 14, as for me, and as for you (read).

This is the position in which the child of God is to both maintain and persevere in, regarding this perpetual freefall away from any and all things good that seems to be picking up more and more speed in the culture and society in which we live today. You *must* continue in the things which you have both *learned*, and been *assured* of concerning Jesus Christ, and the Word of God

As believers one of the things that we learn which is of 1st and foremost importance is Christ Himself. Not so much learning *about* Christ, though that’s a commendable thing, but learning Christ *personally*. Remember how Paul rebuked the Ephesian believers because they’d begun to regress back into the tendencies of the flesh. and Paul there in the latter portion of ch 4 began to recount for them the futility of the lifestyle of the non-believer and he sort of culminates his thought progression by saying, “*But you have not so learned Christ.*” Eph 4:20 Not, “You have not so learned *about* Christ,” but learned Him *personally*. Understand that there’s a huge difference between learning *about* someone, and learning them, or knowing them *personally*. You see you can learn a lot *about* George Washington, or any prominent historical figure if you like by doing research on them and reading books and all, but you can never learn them, or know them personally because they’re dead. But Jesus Christ is alive, and so the believer is to have learned and to be learning consistently and continually Christ Himself through that personal and intimate on going fellowship and communion with Him. We learn His demeanor, His manner of life, His personality, His perspectives, the way He handles various circumstances, His love and grace and mercy, His holiness and righteousness, gentleness, forgiveness and compassion. and These are just but the surface of that which we’ve learned and are continuing to learn, and we’re to persevere in these things and *all* of the things of which the Word of God assures us of, and we spoke last time briefly on just a few of those things. Be it being born in sin and in need of a Savior, the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus Who is alone the way the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father but by Him. We’re assured of the fact that though the 1st time He came it was to cleanse sin, the next time He comes it’s to clean house because God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness. and Though that’s not even the beginning of things of which we’re assured of, the point is that we’re not to compromise these things but rather we’re to continue in them. We’re to continue in the solid biblical doctrines of the Word of God.

Vs15

Now there are a # of things that we want to pull out, and consider in this vs. 1st of all we read that from childhood Timothy has known the Holy Scriptures. and I would be doing you a disservice to gloss over this vs with out taking the time to point out to you the critical need to be sharing the Word, and the precepts and the principals of God with your child/children.

I'm sure that if we made a show of hands we would have in this room both those who've been fortunate enough to have been raised by godly parents who invested the Word of God into your lives. and Those who've come from families of total non-believers who just got fed up with the emptiness of this world, and through various trials or turbulent times, or maybe certain situations and scenarios brought you to a point of surrendering your heart to Jesus Christ

But in any case it's important that we see here that the responsibility of the Christian parent is to invest the Word of God into the lives of their children. So that maybe you didn't get that opportunity when you were a kid, but now that you know Jesus Christ the bible is clear that we're not to rob our kids of that opportunity. But rather we're to be faithful to teach them and to instruct them and to enlighten them as to the heart and mind of God through the Word of God. God has said, "*And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*" Deut 6:6-7 and It could be that you've neglected your responsibility to teach your children the ways of God, and to speak to them about God and the things that He's done in your life, and what His Word has to say about life. Then receive the exhortation of the Word of God by repenting today, and beginning to spend time in God's Word with your children. I can't stress to you enough how important it is to be spilling God's Word into these foundational and impressionable years of their lives when they will trust you and believe anything you say just because it's you that says it. The Psalmist declared, "*O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works.*" Ps 71:17 The word of God that was established in him as a child, carried him throughout his entire life, it anchored him during life's storms, it was his shield when being assaulted, his hiding place when his life was sought with out a cause.

"Well, when should I begin to read to them or share with them? What age is appropriate for their understanding?" That's a good question, but here's the fact, this word "childhood" in vs 15 speaks of infancy, or if you want to get specific it literally speaks of a baby still in the womb which is yet unborn. You've heard of people reading or reciting math problems to these babies in the womb and that's all neat and all, but how much better to be reading them the word of God? and Just saturating them from even before they're born with God's Word, this is why we've chosen to put this scripture in our nursery, because from infancy (if not before) we're to be speaking the word of God into our children's lives. Buy little toddler bibles, or the "My first baby bibles" and begin to peak their interest from the very beginning, not only so that they'll not be able to remember a time when their parents weren't instilling into them the scriptures, but because it's our God given responsibility.

You may think, “How does it benefit them to share with them something they can’t understand?” Well, I still don’t understand the digestive system, how it works, and how my body is able to absorb its nutrients, but I still need fed. I don’t understand the respiratory system, how my lungs utilize oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide or whatever, but it sure benefits me to breathe. Even so just because your child may not understand what it is you’re “feeding” them concerning God’s Word, believe me they still need to ingest it

He calls the Scriptures here, the “Holy” Scriptures. and Of course this word “Holy” means sacred, speaking of that which is consecrated and sanctified, that is, “Set apart” from other things. The bible is set apart from any other book on the planet in that it’s a “Holy” or “Sacred” book. Not that this bonded leather is sacred, or these pages and this ink is different, but that the Word of God is set apart from any other word spoken. It’s set apart from the Koran, it’s set apart from the book of Mormon, or the Watch Tower magazine or any other book ever written in that it’s “inspired” by God (and We’ll deal with that in the next vs).

But what we want to focus on here is that the Holy Scriptures are able to make you wise for *salvation*. These 3 vs have 3 primary points #1 Vs 15 “Salvation”, #2 Vs 16 “Inspiration”, and #3 Vs 17 “Preparation”.

#1 Salvation, and It’s important to point out here that when we read that the Holy Scriptures are able to make one wise for salvation, that what’s *not* being spoken of here is the NT. Now surely it includes the NT, but when this was written the NT hadn’t yet been canonized. and So what he’s saying here is that if studied carefully, the OT will impart to you the wisdom that will naturally lead you to Jesus Christ Maybe you’ve heard the phrase that the OT is the NT concealed, and the NT is the OT revealed. and It’s all about Jesus, the prophecy concerning Jesus, “*Then I said, 'Behold, I have come -- In the volume of the book it is written of Me --.*” Heb 10:7 Everything in the OT from Genesis to Malachi was written ultimately to foreshadow the substance which was to follow in Jesus Christ God’s holiness, His majesty, and lovingkindness is all there, His offer of forgiveness and plan of redemption from sin for those who trust in Him and seek His grace and mercy rather than trust in themselves is there. The birth of His Son through a virgin, the rejection, crucifixion, and resurrection of the Messiah is all laid out in the OT as a foreshadow so that as Jesus Christ came on the scene the fulfillment of it all would be seen in Him.

All the ordinances spoke of Jesus Christ God established His law *not* so that we could live up to it because we can’t. But rather as a measure of His righteousness that we can’t meet so that all of mankind could readily see their shortcomings compared to God’s righteousness and that they needed someone who could stand in the gap on their behalf. So God established the sacrificial rite *not* because that would somehow save them, it’s impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should atone for the sin of man. But it caused them to recognize the fact that only through the shedding of blood can come the remission of sin, and that the wages of sin is death.

Every single sacrifice made under the Old covenant with out exception was simply pointing to and testifying of the ultimate perfect sacrifice that would be found in the person of Jesus Christ He is our “Burnt offering” having been consumed as it were by the heat of God’s wrath. He’s our “Sin offering” He’s our “Trespass offering” He’s our “Grain offering” broken down and pulverized before God on our behalf, and of course He’s our “Peace offering” whereby we can have peace with God through Him. It all points to Him and finds it’s fulfillment in Him, that’s why Jesus said, *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”* Matt 5:17 The bible says that the Law is like a schoolmaster, or a tutor which leads us to Jesus Christ Ps 19:7 tells us, *“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul.”* The natural conclusion of the OT finds it’s resolve in Jesus Christ That’s why it’s so important to take in the Whole Council of the Word of God, because the better you know the OT the more effective you’ll be in your wielding of the New and visa versa. and We could spend a lot of time showing the endorsement by the NT of the sufficiency of the OT to lead someone to salvation. and Obviously whenever Paul would reason with the Jews from the Scriptures he wasn’t reasoning through the Gospel of Luke, he was taking them through the books of Moses, the Law, and the prophets.

When a certain lawyer stood up and tested Jesus, saying, *“Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”* He said to him, *“What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?”* Luke 10:25-26 In other words Jesus took him and pointed him back to the OT scriptures in order to unveil to him the way of salvation. and In that is a very important observation and that is this, the source of truth regarding eternal life is Scripture and only Scripture. In Luke 16 when Jesus was describing a conversation between Ab (who was in Paradise) and the rich man who was being tortured in hell prior to Jesus’ descending into the lower parts of the earth leading captivity captive and giving gifts to men.

We find there that the rich man being in torment lifted up his eyes and crying out to Ab he asked if Lazarus who had previously laid as a beggar as his gate could dip the tip of his finger in water that only a drop could be received on his tongue. Now as you know the answer was no, and even if he wanted to there was a great gulf fixed between them so that none could pass over from one side to the other. and Then he said, “Then send him to my fathers house because I have 5 brothers who need to know about this place lest they wind up here as well.” and Do you remember what Ab said? He said, *“They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.”* Luke 16:29-31 In other words if they’re not willing to hear God’s Word (in reference to the OT) to see their need for Jesus Christ Then they’re not going to be willing to listen to anyone else’s. Turn quickly to Acts Ch 8 (Vs26-38)

You see when read and understood properly the OT will make you wise for salvation, it leads you to Jesus, and before we slide into the next vs that's an important distinction that we need to make. The scriptures themselves don't save anyone, Satan can quote the bible better than any of us here, but he's not saved. It's the scriptures that give us the wisdom to see our need for Jesus so that we might inherit the salvation that is (notice) through faith which is in Christ Jesus. Salvation is in Christ Jesus and we inherit it through faith in Him, not by studying the bible, the bible points us to Him. This was a huge hang up with the Pharisees, Jesus said, (again in reference to the OT) "*You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.*" John 5:39-40 You see, he who has the Son has life, but he who does not have the Son, does not have life. Searching the scriptures is no doubt essential, but we understand that they're seeking to unveil to us Jesus, and in Him is eternal life. and Vs 16

Vs16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. If there's not some type of attention drawn to that portion of text in your bible make it so and circle that word "All." Every single word from Genesis to Revelation is inspired of God. Now many of you have no doubt heard what this word "Inspired" literally translated means, it's not speaking of what we might consider when we'd say, "Shakespeare sure was an inspired writer." This word literally means "God breathed" meaning that as it were God would "breathe" his words into the human writers that it might be recorded almost as dictation. with Jeremiah He said, "*Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.*" Jer 1:9 But that's not to say that God wouldn't utilize the minds and thought patterns and emotions of the people themselves to facilitate his Word. But the truth that's recorded in God's Word is God breathed, inspired by Him. Peter tells us, "*No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved (or brought along) by the Holy Spirit.*" 2 Peter 1:20-21 Now there are those who would have you believe that the bible is inspired, but not as a whole, but only in part. Part of it God spoke, but other things are the conjecture or input of man. Now the problem with that (outside of contradicting the very scripture we're studying) is then how do I determine which parts are inspired and which parts are not? and As soon as I through my fallen sinful nature seek to determine that which is holy and true, then I become the authority of God's Word, instead of allowing God to be the authority on what He's spoken. and I might say this portion is inspired, but that portion obviously isn't, and then the next liberal fella comes along and says, "He was wrong on that, we can clearly see that that portion is, but this portion isn't."

Pretty soon we all become so confused as to what's inspired and what's not that we don't know what we should read and what we shouldn't, and what's the point of reading it anyway if it's not inspired? All scripture is inspired of God, don't start messing around with it and seeking to cut out certain portions simply because they don't compute in your finite understanding. Or it's too difficult to believe, Jonah has provoked a lot of problems for people down through the ages. That someone could actually be swallowed by a great fish, taken down into the deep for 3 days and 3 nights and then coughed up on the shores of Joppa or whatever.

But if you can't buy that (not only is your God too small because you've stumbled on Genesis 1:1) but you stab a question mark on the entire ministry of Jesus because He based His entire credence on the validity of the sign of the prophet claiming that His death and resurrection would be likened unto Jonah being taken down for 3 days and nights but returning alive to the top side of the earth. So Jesus believed it, so if we don't we're saying Jesus obviously was clueless, and there's many things like that that we have to be careful what we're willing to believe and what we're not because if you start taking this out, and that out, then the whole thing collapses on you. The flood, Jesus referenced it as well, confirming the credence of the account of Noah. All Scripture is inspired of God, that doesn't mean we have to understand them all, but that's not going to stop me from believing it all. I know that God is bigger than my ability to understand, as far as the Heavens are above the earth so far are His ways higher than mine. So if there's something I don't understand it doesn't mean God is wrong it means there are things that I presently lack in order to comprehend it, but when I gain those insights and understandings I'll find that God has been right all along. Because All of His Word is inspired, and one of the ways that He proves His Word is through what Peter refers to as the more sure word of prophecy. He sites how he heard the very voice of God on the Mt of transfiguration saying, this is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. But he said, we have a word that's more certain than a voice from Heaven. He said, "*We have also a more sure word of prophecy.*" 2 Peter 1:19

The bible is the only book written over a period of over 1600 years with no less than 40 human instrumental authors covering every topic of man from one extreme to the other with such incredible continuity and no contradictions and on top of that dares to prove it's veracity or authenticity by stating things that are going to happen anywhere from days, to hundreds and even thousands of years before they take place and has never missed once. This book is set apart from every other book ever written. Now there are hundreds and hundreds of fulfilled prophecies to choose from but lets stick to the ones concerning Jesus Christ and You guys have heard me speak before about the mathematical principal known as the, "Law of compound probability." and This law calculates mathematically the random chance of any certain thing happening based on the odds. For example the figures presented in the odds of anyone winning the lottery are figured through compound probability.

Now we know that there are over 332 distinct prophecies made in the OT about the coming Messiah, be it concerning the fact that He'd be born in Bethlehem, of a virgin, the fact that He'd heal the sick, give sight to the blind, He be brought out of Egypt, come to His people lowly on a donkeys colt, be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, beaten, crucified, mocked, die, not see corruption, and rise again from the dead etc.

In his book, "Science Speaks" Professor Peter Stoner calculated the odds of any one man fulfilling just eight prophecies. Listen, The compound probability of these eight prophecies being fulfilled is 1 in 10^{17} . That is 1 followed by 17 zeros. To illustrate this, take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They cover the entire state two feet deep. Next, mark a silver dollar, fly over Texas, and drop it out anywhere. Then blindfold someone and let him parachute in anywhere he wants. He should take his time; he only gets one pick and the coin he picks must be the one you marked. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man. Jesus fulfilled them all. Now let's raise the odds using 48 prophecies. We find the chance of any one man fulfilling 48 prophecies to be 1 in 10^{157} . To visualize this the silver dollar we have been using is too large. So let's use an electron. Electrons are so small that it takes 2.5 times 10^{18} of them laid side by side to make a line, one inch long. To count the electrons in this one-inch line, you would have to count them at the rate of 250 each minute, day and night for 19 million years. If we had a cubic inch of these electrons, it would take us counting steadily 250 each minute, 19 million years or 6.9×10^{21} years. To create a 1 in 10^{157} situation, we need a mass of electron balls the size of our known universe. The universe is 12 billion light years in diameter. This number of electron balls will require 6 billion years of around-the-clock production. Mark one electron, in one electron ball and send it about 6 billion light years away from the earth. Then send a man in a space probe in search of the marked electron, blindfolded of course! The odds of this man choosing the marked electron on his first try are equal to the odds of one man fulfilling only 48 Bible prophecies. Jesus fulfilled over 300 Bible prophecies. Brings an interesting perspective on these words of Jesus doesn't it, "*Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.*" John 14:1 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, therefore it's profitable.

Whatever you're need may be, God's Word is equipped to meet it. and We see here a 4-fold benefit of God's word #1 in doctrine, teaching you and me what's right, #2 for reproof, showing us what's not right. #3 For correction, which is how to get right, and #4 instruction in righteousness which means how to *stay* right. All of these things are the essential aspects of God's Word in our lives, Salvation, it's inspiration, and finally preparation, (Vs 17).

The purpose of God's Word in our lives is to bring us into maturity, that we might be completely prepared for God's plan for our lives. The bible has proved it's claims, it's a reliable resource, scientist concede that anything that's 1 in 10 to the 50th power is a mathematical impossibility, given all eternity it would never happen. Did Jesus beat the odds? No, He shapes the odds, you can trust the word of God, read it, believe it, respond to it, and God will equip you and thoroughly prepare you for every good work.

Now with such overwhelming odds concerning Christ, it behooves me as to why anyone would gamble against the reality of the Word of God. Because the odds are definitely not in your favor. The bible claims that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God who came to the earth in order to lay down His life out of His love for the penalty of our sin. and God has said in His word which He has proven to be trustworthy, honoring His word even above His name, that all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. and I just encourage you today that if you've never called upon the Lord, you've never given your heart to Jesus Christ Don't take the chance, you'll never beat the odds, give your heart to Jesus Christ He love you so much, and He shed His blood for you, so that if you'll just believe upon Him, you'll never perish, but have everlasting life, old things passing away and all things being made brand new in your life. He'll forgive you of everything you've ever done, or even thought that was wrong and give you a new lease on life. He couldn't have made it any easier. He's said it, He's proved it, and now He just says believe it.