

Talk it over 2/11/2024

***** Leaders read through the notes below before your group meets to really press into verse 17.**

Prayerfully cast the distractions and anxieties of the day/week at Jesus' feet and read through 2Tim 3:1-17 as a group. Invite The Holy Spirit to speak and guide the conversation, spend a little time exegeting verse 17 (addressing any other verses that your group would like to talk over again is ok and encouraged. The hope is to get individuals into (or more into) The Scriptures personally.

g. That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work: Paul exhorted, "Timothy, continue in these things because the Bible makes you complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work."

i. **Complete** doesn't mean that the whole Christian life is about reading the Bible, or that the only important thing in good ministry is good Bible teaching.

ii. **Complete** means the Bible leads me into everything I need. If I will be both a hearer and a doer of the word, I will be **complete** as a Christian, **thoroughly equipped for every good work**. This reminds us that we are not in the business of building sermon appreciation societies, but in equipping the saints for the work of ministry.

iii. So, I don't ignore prayer, or worship, or evangelism, or good works to a needy world – because the Bible itself tells me to do such things. If I will be both a hearer and a doer of the word, I will be **complete**.

h. **That the man of God may be complete**: When we come to the Bible and let God speak to us, it changes us – it makes us **complete** and transforms us.

i. One way the Bible transforms us is through our understanding. **Romans 12:2** says, do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. When we let the Bible guide our thinking, our minds are renewed and transformed, so we begin to actually think like God thinks.

ii. But there is another level by which the Bible transforms us: by a spiritual work, a spiritual blessing which God works in us as we come to the Bible and let Him speak to us. This is a spiritual work that goes beyond our intellectual understanding. With great spiritual power beyond our intellect:

- The Bible gives us eternal life (**1 Peter 1:23**).
- The Bible spiritually cleanses us (**Ephesians 5:26**).
- The Bible gives us power against demonic spirits (**Ephesians 6:17**).

- The Bible brings spiritual power to heal our bodies (Matthew 8:16).
- The Bible brings us spiritual strength (Psalm 119:28).
- The Bible has the power to spiritually build faith in us (Romans 10:17).

iii. Because of this spiritual level on which the Word of God operates, we don't have to understand it all to have it be effectively working in our lives. Many people get discouraged because they feel they don't get much when they read the Bible on their own and so they give up. We must work to understand the Bible the best we can, and read it thoughtfully and carefully, but it benefits us spiritually even when we don't understand it all intellectually.

iv. A critic once wrote a letter to a magazine saying, "Over the years, I suppose I've gone to church more than 1,000 times, and I can't remember the specific content of even one sermon over those many years. What good was it to go to church 1,000 times?" The next week, someone wrote back: "Over the past many years, I have eaten more than 1,000 meals prepared by my wife. I cannot remember the specific menu of any of those meals. But they nourished me along the way, and without them, I would be a much different man!" The Bible will do its spiritual work in us, if we will let it.

v. Paul began the chapter warning Timothy about dangerous times. Some Christians are swept away by these perilous times and some others go into hiding. Neither option is right for us. We are to stand strong and stay on the Word of God.

Talk it Over Group Questions

Ice breaker: What is a talent or interest you have that not a lot of people know about and might even surprise folks that you have/do it.

Prayerfully read through 2 Tim 3:1-17 and discuss as a group the meaning, intent for verse 17 as well as any other verses in the reading the group may want to revisit.

1. **What does God breathed mean?**
2. **Name a time where the Bible was instrumental in forming your view of a specific relationship.**

- 3. Other places in scripture like 2 Peter 1:3-8 and James 1, speak to being complete and being godly. What does godliness look like?**
- 4. According to scripture, is godliness best displayed in private or publicly.**
- 5. Christ is the clearest example we have of living a godly life, name a time you feel you display Christ well. Name an area your group can pray with you to display Christ better.**

Homework/announcements

Brotherhood Breakfast (we will be talking about the importance of strong Christian Community) this Saturday both campuses 7:30 am

Annual Partner's Meeting at the Bethel Campus Sunday February 25 12:30

Remember to reach out via email, text or snail mail to someone who has encouraged you and/or invested in you spiritually