

2 Timothy 3 15-17

Good morning and thank you for joining us! We're resuming our study in 2 Timothy, so would you please turn in your Bibles to 2 Timothy 3?

Last time in our study we made it to v14, so we'll pick up in v15 and finish the chapter, which is all of 3 verses **SHOW PIC** as we do another deep dive in the scriptures. **CLOSE PIC**

Years ago a new term was coined that summarized the increased speed in which we operate as a society. **SHOW PIC** It's called multi-tasking. **CLOSE PIC**

But scientists are now realizing that in all actuality, it's nearly impossible to truly multitask. Only 2.5% of the population is found to multitask effectively, according to research.

"What most people are actually doing is task switching – going from task to task before finishing each one. Constant task switching negatively impacts overall efficiency. It diminishes focus, elevates stress levels, and contributes to impulsive behavior."

I mention that because amongst the noise, and the busyness, the constant stream of go, go, go, what an appropriate time for us to slow down, and camp out on these verses this morning, to remind us what it is we're holding in our very hands.

This morning we're going to finish chapter 3 by studying only 3 verses. Let's read them before we get started. **15 and that from**

childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The title of this morning's message is The Treasure in our Hands
Let's pray.

Ann Landers once published a list of real answers people gave to a Bible knowledge survey. Here's the Top Ten Erroneous Answers...

SHOW SLIDES

- 1) Noah's wife was Joan of Ark.
- 2) Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.
- 3) Moses went up Mount Cyanide to receive the 10 commandments.
- 4) The seventh commandment is "Thou shalt not admit adultery."
- 5) Joshua led the Hebrews in the Battle of Geritol.
- 6) Solomon had 700 wives and 300 porcupines.
- 7) The people who followed Jesus were called the 12 decibels.
- 8) Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- 9) The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
- And 10) A Christian should have only one wife. This is called holy monotony.

CLOSE SLIDES

And although this is a little humorous, it's actually far more tragic. Clearly, the world today suffers from acute biblical illiteracy.

This is no small matter. Of all the items in the world, the Bible is the outstanding marvel. No book in all of literature has approached it or can even compare to it.

God's word has reformed the character of countless millions and brought peace and holiness into their lives. No other book on earth can do what this does.

Every land where the Bible's circulation is unrestricted has been elevated and enlightened by it. The Bible holds first place in all literature for beauty and variety, strength and love. It's the book of truth and joy, and only the Bible reveals our future. You can't say that about the Koran or the 4 holy books of Hindiusm or any religious book..

SHOW SLIDE All this is true because the Bible is the revelation to mankind of the divine Savior, the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. **CLOSE SLIDE**

Now some critics mistakenly say that the Bible does not claim itself to be inspired, that it doesn't declare it to be God's word. This is absolutely not true.

SHOW SLIDE Here are some of the titles given to the Bible.

The Sword of the Spirit Ephesians 6:17

The faith once for all delivered to the Saints Jude 3.

The Oracles of God Romans 3:2.

The Living Oracles Acts 7:38.

The Holy Scriptures Romans 1:2.

The Scriptures of the Prophets Romans 16:26.

The Scriptures of Truth Daniel 10:21.
The Word of God Hebrews 4:12.
The Word of the Lord, 1 Peter 1:25.
The Word of Christ Colossians 3:16.
The Word of Truth James 1:18.
The Word of Life Philippians 2:16.
The Word of the Gospel Acts 15:7
The Word of Promise Romans 9:9.
The Word of Salvation Acts 13:26.
The Word of the Cross I Corinthians 1:18.
The Book Luke 4:20.
The Book of the Law Galatians 3:10. **CLOSE SLIDE**

But more than that, the Bible makes several claims as to what it does.

SHOW SLIDE

It makes wise unto salvation, **2 Timothy 3:16.**
It saves the soul, James 121.
Brings regeneration 1 Peter 123
Cleanses from defilement John 15:3
Converts the soul, makes wise the simple,
rejoices the heart and lightens the eyes. Ps 19-7-9
Effectively works in them that believe Thessalonians 2:13.

CLOSE SLIDE

So why is the Bible, even when it's read, oftentimes viewed as a task to accomplish, instead of viewing it as hearing the voice of almighty God?

And look, maybe you're skeptical, you're thinking, I don't know about all this Bible stuff, I'm not convinced.

40 different authors wrote the Bible over a period of about 1600 years. They were from three different continents, Africa, Asia and Europe. And it's an integrated message that was written in 3 different languages.

Some of the authors were farmers, some of them were fishermen, some of them were kings, some of them were physicians.

I dare any skeptic of the bible to try this today. Take 40 authors from the United States today that are all alive right now, and let those 40 authors in this one country all write something on religion and politics. And at the end of the writing, collect the writings and see if they agree on anything, let alone agree on everything.

What we have in our hands is a remarkable, supernatural collection of the very breath of Almighty God. 66 books, 1189 chapters. 31,175 verses 810,697 words 3,568,489 letters, perfectly sewn together so that we may know who our Creator is and His plan for our lives. Aren't we blessed?!

But to be clear, we don't worship the Bible, for 1 very specific reason...

15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. Scripture, God's Word, teaches about

salvation; but just knowing Scripture alone can't save a soul. Many Jews had known Scripture from childhood, yet had opposed Jesus and the salvation He offers.

The Scriptures show us our need for salvation and it points us to the person who alone can give it—Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

The issue isn't knowledge-the issue is surrender. It's yielding to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

We're gonna break v 16 down piece by piece

16 All Scripture Pause here. ALL the Bible – the whole enchilada – is important. Leviticus is as inspired as Luke, Ruth as God-given as Romans.

SHOW PIC Some folks have a “dalmatian” approach to Scripture. They pay attention to a spot here, and a spot there, and become the decider of what's important. **CLOSE PIC**

Notice, all Scripture is inspired! God's people need all of God's Word, not just bits and pieces!

And this has profound implications on how we read our bibles. This is why we spent 14 weeks in Leviticus back in 2020, talking about leprosy, menstrual bleeding, and what happens if a fungus gets into the walls of a house.

Trust me, I'd rather like to stay in the Gospel of John, or in Philippians. That would be much easier! But because I know "all Scripture" is both inspired and instructive, we tackle all of it.

God speaks lessons to us that we need to know, not only in the breath-taking narratives of the gospels, but also in the gnarly judgments of Isaiah and Ezekiel.

...16 is given by inspiration of God, Pause here.

Inspiration literally translated means 'God breathed'. And it's in a passive sense. It means we don't contribute to this, and we can't, because it's the very breath of God.

Inspiration deals with its origin. Where is it from?

Just as God breathed life into Adam's nostrils in Genesis chapter 2 and gave Adam life, God has breathed His own divine nature into the very words of Scripture.

Not just some scripture, it says here in 16 every scripture, all scripture, the greek words are pasigraphy. The idea is every book, every chapter, every verse, every word even the yod and the title.

Our bibles have a divine origin. It's from outside of time and space. It's the very breath of Almighty God gone to the page through the writer. It's ancient writing that isn't subject to cultural relevance.

But the danger we all face is letting this become a routine.

Think about a family in their living room, everybody has favorite seats where they like to park and crash. And we all do the same thing.

We have our seats here that we like to sit in. A visitor comes and your like-oh man they're in my spot, don't they know that's where I sit?

But we never want the fact that we have the freedom to come and open the scriptures to ever be routine. You know we've had the privilege for over 35 years at Calvary Chapel Cincinnati, week after week after week after week, to be in the Word of God.

We don't worry about other churches, no sense worrying about the government. We just go through the word of God.

The question is when we stand before the Lord on that day and we give an account for the incredible privilege that we've had with His word in our hand, what did we do with this?

SHOW SLIDE See our desire to follow Christ will be entirely dependent on our perception of this book.

We don't want that ever to be part of our routine. OK, we had another Bible study.

...16 and is profitable Of course, Old Testament Israel was an ancient, agrarian, eastern culture. Today, we live in a modern, urban, western culture. It certainly takes a little effort to see how laws that related to a neighbor's donkey impact us today. But it's doable! In fact, as Paul says to Timothy, it's "profitable!"

In Acts 20,26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

Paul believed it was his job to preach it all!

Profitable means it's beneficial. It's good for us. God doesn't say anything in His word to injure us, or to restrict us, or to hurt us. There's none of that. God gives us His word because it's profitable.

Which means, Satan will do everything he can to keep you from this Word. The devil knows that God's word feeds us and strengthens us internally and molds us and sustains us.

But we have a very real enemy who will distract, and disrupt, to keep you away from God's word. Whether it's your own bible time, whether it's coming to church. Any one ever feel like it's a fight to get to church sometimes? Of course it is!!!

I can't tell you how many sat nights Kim and I get 2 or 3 hours of sleep. We're more shocked now when the night is uneventful! There is a very real spiritual warfare around us-Expect a fight!

Don't let the devil punk you, or rob from you, or discourage you. Getting time alone with the breath of God is good for us.

Now there's 4 specific things here that the bible is profitable, good for us for:

profitable for doctrine, means the content and teaching of truth,

Profitable for reproof, confronting and rebuking sin

Profitable for correction, helping people straighten out mistakes

Profitable for instruction in righteousness, showing people how to walk in a way that pleases God.

So before we move on look one more time at v16

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

V 16 serves as a basic pattern for application of the Scriptures. Every time you open God's word you can go in with the assumption that what you're reading accomplishes one or more of the four purposes of Scripture in v 16:

SHOW SLIDE Doctrine—What basic truth does God want me to know from my reading today?

Reproof—What error in judgment, understanding, or behavior might this passage be reproofing in my life?

Correction—How might this passage correct, balance, or direct me?

Training—What's the lesson in my reading to prepare me for some future spiritual challenge? **CLOSE SLIDE**

Studying the scriptures is so important because...

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. There's a whole other way which the Bible transforms us. By a spiritual work, a spiritual blessing which God works in us as we come to His word and let Him speak to us.

This is a spiritual work that goes beyond our intellectual understanding.

This is so encouraging, because of this spiritual level on which the Word of God operates, we don't have to understand 100% of it all to have it be effectively working in our lives.

A lot of folks get discouraged because they feel like they don't get much, or don't understand 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.

I wanna pause and just zoom out for a moment. Remember, Paul is writing to Timothy as he pastors this church in Ephesus.

Rewind to Acts 19 and recall the HS through Paul births this church. Powerful things happen, but within one generation of handing the baton to Timothy, in one generation he's having to say, Timothy, you got to hold on to the things that you know. That's this whole letter right?

And look here's the tragedy. This church at Ephesus, Paul pastored it for 3 years, Timothy pastored it for years. This church, 20 years after this, we're told **Revelation chapter 2, 1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:**

2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Not lost their first love, left their first love. They wandered away. Jesus wasn't saying it to condemn, Jesus was saying it to provide a road map back to Him.

Jesus said. This is what you need to do. Three things. Remember from where you've fallen. Repent. Do the first works-get back to loving Jesus.

Look you don't have to have a theological degree to understand this, it's infinitely more powerful and more profound than that.

Here's the problem with our culture today. Imagine I said we have a wealthy benefactor who's contributed a couple million to us. So for every bible verse you memorize each week, you get \$5k. Imagine-each bible verse you memorize you get \$5k.

Would that change how we read our bibles?

Would that change how much time we spend in the Word?

Are motivated to read because we wanna hear from our creator?
Or is it something else?

The problem isn't that it's too hard to understand. The question is are we willing to meet what God says to us head on.

Because it speaks to us. God's word speaks to the deepest part of our being.

It will talk to you about your attitude. It will confront you about your unforgiveness, it will speak to you about your pride.

Wives, it will meet you head on and tell you how you're supposed to treat your husband, and parent your kids. Husbands, it will tell you how to be a husband, and be a dad.

You don't need the newest self-help manual. We have Immanuel-God with us, who's given us His word. Are we gonna heed it?

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Here's the problem, and I see it all the time. There are too many people around that are smarter than the Bible. Well this author says this, and that guy found this hole. Look here's the challenge. Commit to reading God's word, and submit to what it says for 30 days and tell me it doesn't change your life for the better.

Baptism