

### *The Inspired Word*

The Bible has warned us: People will stray from the Word of God. People will stray from the Bible, and I believe what Paul wrote has come true.

In 2nd Timothy 3, it would appear that Paul is writing, "Timothy, I'm telling you right now, the world will stray. The world will stray from the message of the Bible, but listen to me very closely..."

#### **WHEN THE WORLD STRAYS, THE FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN STAYS**

Why? Why should the Christian stay focused on the Word of God when all around him, people are moving away from it?

Paul gives Timothy and us 4 reasons why.

#### **Reason #1 - The Word of God will show you God's message of salvation. 3:14-15**

Continue in what you have learned is where I get the word stay from. Timothy was Paul's choice man of faith. He was a man who was taught by his mother, his grandmother, and later by Paul. But we also recognize that Timothy was taught by the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit of God who teaches us the truth of Scripture through the instruments of other people.

Notice what Paul writes at the end of verse 15. Why should a christian stay focused on the Bible? Because the Bible will show you God's message of salvation. You walk away from the Bible, you walk away from the hope of salvation.

The Bible alone teaches that salvation of God is a work of God where He takes a dead and dying person and makes that person alive eternally through faith in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:1-10).

#### **Reason #2 - The Word of God will communicate God's heart to you 3:16a**

Let's define 3 theological terms: Revelation, Inspiration, and Illumination.

Revelation is God revealing truth to man. God revealing Himself and revealing truth through creation, His Word, and through Jesus.

Inspiration simply means that the Scripture is a product of God recorded by men. "The Holy Spirit moved upon human authors in such a way that he guided in the selection of words, yet the human authors style, vocabulary, and personal characteristics were used and a perfect Bible was given (John Miles *Doctrine I Notes* FSB)." The men who wrote were not the ones inspired. The writings themselves are inspired - God breathed. This allows for sinful men to record a Divine book. God made sure that sinful men wrote what He wanted to be written.

Illumination is when the lights come on. The Holy Spirit allows a finite and sinful human to listen to, comprehend, and understand the truth of God. It is God Himself who teaches ignorant people like us His truth through His Word.

When our world is straying from the Bible, why should a Christian stay in the Bible? Because that is where God will communicate His heart to you. Do you want to know God? Read the Bible.

**Reason #3** - The Word of God will profit you . **3:16**

I want us to note the four ways Paul said the Bible will profit us.

Teaching: The Bible is meant to be taught. The Bible will teach you everything you need to know to navigate this world in a way that's right before God. The Bible will structure your mind.

Reproof: The Bible will rebuke you. It will tell you where you are out of bounds. It will tell you when and where you are wrong. The Bible will profit you because it will convict you.

Correction: The Bible will tell you how to get right. It will help you clean out sin in your life. The Bible will teach you that you are in sin, but then it will teach you how to get cleaned up from sin through faith in Jesus if you're an unbeliever or confession of sin if you are a believer.

Training in righteousness: The Bible will show you how to live. The Bible tells you how to stay right.

**Reason #4** - The Word of God will complete you. **3:17**

In Paul's final letter he essentially communicates, "Timothy, to be complete, to be a man of God who is mature, to be full trained and fully prepared for every good work that God calls you to, you must purpose yourself to stay focused on the Word of God."

I love what David Thompson noted - "When the Word of God is accurately taught and it reproves and corrects and trains in righteousness, the end result is it takes one from childhood (v. 15) to manhood (v. 17), and enables the man of God to be adequately equipped for 'every good work' by classification of God."

Do you want to go spiritually from childhood to adulthood? It's the Word of God that will accomplish that in you.