

Message 2 in the Series: 20/20 Vision

2020 Vision: Biblical Perspective

Text: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ⁽¹⁶⁾ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ⁽¹⁷⁾ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

“All Scripture is inspired by God.” The word ‘inspired’ literally means “God Breathed”

Peter, in his epistle writes, *“No prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” - 2 Peter 1:21*

Jesus, Himself, charged His adversaries to,

“Search the Scriptures (for they) testify about Me.” John 5:39

The Bible is

- God’s book
- God’s revelation to man
- It is eternal

Matthew 24:35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

- It is God’s truth which makes it ABSOLUTE (aka: the “Bottom Line”)
- It is the measure of mine and your judgment

Therefore, it is **PROFITABLE** for us!

Our eternal perspective provides us with a point of reference to keep us spiritually oriented. An eternal perspective serves as our ‘spiritual horizon’.

A biblical perspective serves us in the here and now. It is our compass, helping us to navigate our life.

The word ‘profitable’ means very valuable. In fact, it’s net worth is eternal.

The word ‘profitable’ means advantageous. It gives us the advantage.

The word ‘profitable’ means useful. It’s worth and advantage is not realized until it is put to use.

What is the Bible to be used for?

1. Teaching or Doctrine

Have you ever wished that life came with instructions? Well, it does. It’s called the Bible.

Who better to get instructions for your life from than the one Who designed and created it?

For the Bible is God’s instructions; the Bible makes God our instructor.

If you fail the course, it will not be at the fault of the instructor.

God has given us the gift of the Bible to teach us. Which means, they are things we don’t know. In this case, what you don’t know can ruin you – ruin your life – and even, ultimately, cause your life to perish eternally.

Listen to the results of biblical deficiency.

Hosea 4:1-6 ⁽¹⁾ Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel, For the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land. ⁽²⁾ *There is* swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. ⁽³⁾ Therefore, the land mourns, and everyone who lives in it languishes (*mental and physical anguish*) Along with the beasts of the field and the birds of the sky, And also the fish of the sea disappear. ⁽⁴⁾ Yet let no one find fault and let no one offer reproof (*looking to place blame*); For your people are like those who contend with the priest. ⁽⁵⁾ So, you will stumble by day, And the prophet also will stumble with you by night; And I will destroy your mother (*Israel*). ⁽⁶⁾ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest (*The priests had not been teaching the people about God and his law*). Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

This goes for a nation – this goes for a home – this goes for the individual

We've not only taken the Bible out of the schools, but out of the churches as well, and consequently, out of the home.

The Bible provides true perspective. It gives a view unseen by the world.

In its absence, the god of this age has successfully blinded the hearts of men.

We need to bring God back as the instructor!

The Bible is profitable!

2. For Reproof

We live in a time when no one is willing to accept reproof. Woe be to us if we're offended.

My friend, God's word is offensive! It confronts our will, our values, our thoughts, our very being.

Romans 8:7 Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*.

A biblical perspective sees reproof as life-saving medicine. It's hard to swallow, but it cures us from suffering long-term self-destruction.

For out of God's love He corrects us as our faithful, heavenly Father. He reproves us, not for the sake of hurting us. He reproves us so that we can correct what needs correction.

The Bible is profitable for...

3. Correction

The Bible doesn't just reveal the problem, but it also provides the solution. It helps us navigate our way back to the right path, when or if, we get off course.

Knowing the bible allows us to keep our life in perspective of truth.

The Bible is profitable for...

4. Training in Righteousness

Training has to do with discipline, and discipline is not easy.

This training is the same as rearing a child. Children do not come pre-programmed for life. It falls upon us as parents to train them.

We, definitely, are not pre-programmed for righteousness. Our inclinations are toward unrighteousness. The wisdom from the Bible warns, "Lean not to your own understanding."

Righteousness is defined by what God determines to be right. It is our nature to do what we think is right.

A biblical perspective considers what God says concerning right and wrong.

A biblical perspective holds the bible as the standard.

The Bible is profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **training in righteousness**.

The Bible equips us for every good work.

Doing life with a biblical perspective produces right results in our life.

Can you think of any instance in your life that you acted without a biblical perspective and the results were less than desirable?

Do you want failure to be your instructor or God?

If so, you must develop a biblical perspective for your life.

You must adopt the heart of the psalmist –

Psalm 119:105

Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.