

# Equipped by Scripture

We grow when the Word of Christ dwells richly among us. God's word is the ultimate tool for equipping. Timothy lived in a time of deception, division, false teaching, and cultural pressure. And Paul, nearing his death, points Timothy to the one thing that would outlast every challenge: Scripture. In this lesson, we want you to see *why* the Scriptures are God's primary tool for equipping — and what that means for this congregation as we move forward in the coming year.

## I. Scripture Shapes Who We Become (3:14-15)

- A. 2 Timothy 3:14: *But **as for you**, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed.*
  - 1. Where is Timothy told to anchor himself? What he has learned from the Scriptures.
  - 2. Timothy's life had been shaped: slowly, steadily, and faithfully, by the word of God.
- B. Scripture is formational, not merely informational
  - 1. 2 Timothy 3:15: (The Scriptures) ...are able to give you **wisdom** for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- C. Before God uses us, He shapes us.
  - 1. *Is the Word of God actively shaping who I am becoming?*

## II. Scripture is God-Breathed and God-Powered (3:16)

- A. 2 Timothy 3:16: *All Scripture is **inspired** by God ...*
  - 1. Literally: "God-breathed."
- B. Scripture carries God's authority.
  - 1. 2 Timothy 3:16: **All** Scripture is inspired by God ...
  - 2. If God is the source, then God is the authority.
- C. God's Word does God's work.
  - 1. 2 Timothy 3:16: *All Scripture ... is **profitable** ...*,
    - a) "useful, effective, active."
  - 2. 4 ways Scripture does its work:
    - a) 2 Timothy 3:16: *for **teaching**, for rebuking, for correcting, for **training** in righteousness,*
    - b) Every one of these requires humility. *If Scripture is God-breathed, then we don't stand over it - we stand under it.*

## III. Scripture Fully Equips Us for Every Good Work (3:17)

- A. 2 Timothy 3:17: *so that the man of God may be **complete**, equipped for every good work.*
  - 1. Mature, not lacking
  - 2. Not perfection, but wholeness, or readiness.
- B. 2 Timothy 3:17: *so that the man of God may be complete, **equipped** for every good work.*
  - 1. Described: fully outfitting a soldier; preparing a worker with the right tools; furnishing something so that nothing essential is missing.
  - 2. Scripture gives us: what to believe; how to live, serve, correct, endure, and love.
- C. 2 Timothy 3:17: *so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for **every good work**.*
  - 1. Every act of encouragement, service, prayer, and speech spoken in love.
  - 2. Equipping means readiness for obedience.

## IV. As We Close

- A. *What work is He preparing me for next?*
- B. What does this look like practically:
  - 1. Everyone committed to word-shaped growth
  - 2. Use the tools God is providing you.
  - 3. Everyone moving from knowledge to ministry.
- C. What place does the word have in your life? Place yourself where Scripture can do its work.