

#### INTRODUCTION

Paul's final letter to Timothy, penned around AD 66-67 from a Roman prison, serves as an urgent charge to endure amid rising false teachings and persecution. Building on chapter 3's warning of perilous times marked by self-centered men who oppose truth yet hold a form of godliness (3:1-9), verses 10-17 now contrast Paul's faithful pattern of life and teaching with the deceivers. This equips Timothy to continue in Scripture, which is God-breathed and sufficient for equipping the man of God. Amid Nero's empire-wide pressures and Ephesian errors, Paul reminds Timothy of his heritage in truth, preparing him to lead with resilience rooted in God's Word.

Last lesson, we examined 3:1-9, where Paul described the "last days" as difficult times filled with lovers of self, money, and pleasure who infiltrate the body while resisting truth, likened to Jannes and Jambres. Timothy was commanded to avoid such men, clearly recognizing their error. This countered the destructive impact of false teachers, fostering discernment and endurance.

Now, in 3:10-17, Paul shifts to his own example of perseverance through persecutions, affirming that all Godly lives invite affliction. He warns of worsening deception but charges Timothy to abide in the sacred writings he knows from youth, which are inspired by God and profitable for every aspect of life and ministry. This section enables Timothy to equip believers amid trials, modeling reliance on Scripture as the ultimate authority for faith and godliness.

#### GRAMMATICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Paul uses contrastive words like "but" (de in Greek) in verse 10 to pivot from the false teachers' traits to Timothy's faithful following of Paul's example, highlighting a deliberate opposition.

The rapid list in verses 10-11, without connecting words (a style called asyndeton), builds emphasis on the qualities Timothy has observed. The same style is used for the 21 negative qualities. Paul is word playing here to contrast the two different lists of behaviors.

Commands like "follow" in verse 10 and "continue" in verse 14 call for active imitation and steadfastness.

In verse 16, the vocabulary and structure affirm that all Scripture is God-breathed, with its benefits listed in four parallel phrases that show its comprehensive role in teaching, reproof, correction, and training.

This underscores Scripture's sufficiency, leading into verse 17's purpose clause: so that the man of God is fully equipped for every good work.

#### EXPOSITION

#### Verses 10-11 – Paul's Pattern: Followed and Endured

Paul reminds Timothy that he has closely followed Paul's teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, and sufferings.

This draws on their shared history from travels together (Acts 16-20), standing in stark contrast to the false teachers' empty show from the previous verses. Paul points to specific trials in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, places where he faced stoning, plots, and near-death attacks (Acts 13:50; 14:5, 19), yet emphasizes that the Lord delivered him from them all.

This deliverance does not imply escape from all harm but rescue through it, preserving Paul's mission despite opposition, much like God's protection of Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 6:22) or the apostles in Acts 5:19, showing that faithfulness invites trials, but God's sovereignty ensures ultimate victory for His purposes.

This rescue theme echoes broader biblical patterns, like David's deliverance in Psalm 34:19 ("Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all") or Peter's persecutions in Acts, showing God's faithfulness sustains through opposition, not that it always prevents it.

If God gives a commission, then he will provide the means to carry it out.

#### Verses 12-13 – Universal Persecution and Worsening Deception

Paul states plainly that all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, a future-oriented promise that aligns with Jesus' words in John 15:20 ("If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you") and Paul's earlier teaching in Acts 14:22 about entering the kingdom through many tribulations.

This does not mean constant physical suffering for every believer but opposition, social, verbal, or otherwise, arising from pursuing godliness in a world hostile to Christ's standards, as seen in the early church's experiences in opposition to false Judaism or under Gentile rule.

Modern contexts like cultural rejection of Biblical ethics. At the same time, evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. This progression warns of intensifying doctrinal false teaching and error, much like the increasing opposition Paul faced in his missionary journeys or the false prophets' growth in Jeremiah's day (Jeremiah 23:14-17). Paul urges Timothy to expect and prepare for it without losing heart, anticipating the difficulty but realizing the faithfulness of God, His Word, and His promises.

### Verses 14-15 – Abide in What You Learned

This is what Paul prescribes for Timothy in anticipation of the affliction. Paul urges Timothy to continue in what he has learned and become convinced of (derivative of believe - πιστόω *pistoō*), knowing from whom he learned it. This is likely referencing his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5).

From infancy, Timothy has known the sacred writings, which are able to make one wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

These sacred writings refer to the Old Testament, which Paul affirms as pointing forward to Christ, revealing humanity's need for a Savior and God's redemptive plan. Genesis 3:15 - promise of the seed Isaiah 53 - suffering servant—the Messiah who comes and takes the punishment for sin).

This points to the Old Testament Scriptures' role in leading to Christ, as Jesus Himself noted in John 5:39 ("You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me").

The Scriptures ground Timothy's endurance in a lifelong foundation, countering the fleeting deceptions around him.

### Verses 16-17 – Scripture's Inspiration and Sufficiency

All Scripture is inspired by God (literally "God-breathed," emphasizing its divine origin like the breath that gave life in Genesis 2:7) and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. In this passage we need to carefully break this down:

All Scripture is inspired by God and *profitable* (ὠφέλιμος *ōphelimos* - useful, advantageous) for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

The term profitable underscores Scripture's practical value, a divine tool that yields real benefit in the believer's life and ministry. This advantage stems from its God-breathed nature, making it inherently effective for spiritual growth, much like the profitable words of wisdom in Proverbs 4:2 ("For I give you sound teaching; Do not abandon my instruction") or Titus 3:8, where trustworthy statements are profitable for emphasizing good deeds as a response to grace.

In Ephesus, where false myths distracted from God's plan (1 Timothy 1:4), this profitability redirects believers to Scripture's utility in countering error, advancing doctrinal maturity, and making sure that one lives from their identity in Christ.

For *teaching* (διδασκαλία didaskalia - instruction, doctrine):

This refers to the systematic imparting of objective truth, where Scripture serves as the authoritative source for conveying God's doctrines. It instructs by building a foundation of sound belief.

Romans 15:4 – the Scriptures were written for our instruction to produce endurance and encouragement through hope.

Ephesians 4:11-12 – Teachers equip saints for the work of service, leading to unity in the faith and maturity that withstands deceptive doctrines.

This breaks from views that prioritize experiential or mystical insights, affirming instead that teaching from Scripture alone fosters belief in grace as the basis for eternal life and godly conduct, without adding human traditions or experiences.

For *reproof* (ἐλεγχος elegchos - conviction, exposure of error):

This involves Scripture's power to expose wrongdoing or doctrinal error, acting as a divine mirror to reveal misalignment with truth. It is instructive by prompting self-examination and realignment

Ephesians 5:11-13 – Scripture is the tool to expose the deeds of darkness, because Scripture is light.

This challenges typical views that see reproof as punitive condemnation, emphasizing instead a grace-motivated correction that restores the believer. Our standing is secure in Jesus (Romans 8:1), leading to contentment through alignment rather than earned forgiveness.

For *correction* (ἐπανόρθωσις epanorthōsis - straightening up, restoration):

Here, Scripture functions to restore and realign what has gone astray, providing a path back to doctrinal alignment and upright living. It instructs by offering guidance for renewal.

Psalms 119:9-11 – Hiding God's word in the heart (inner recesses of the mind) guards against sin and corrects one's way

Galatians 6:1 – Believers are to urge restoration of one caught in trespass (doctrinal error and moral failure) with a spirit of gentleness.

This breaks from ideas that correction and restoration require external rituals or penance, this highlights Scripture's sufficiency in realigning believers with their identity in Christ, promoting growth in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and the truth of God's wisdom.

For training (παιδεία *paideia*) - discipline, upbringing. This is directed specifically to “in righteousness.”

This encompasses Scripture's role in training, so that the believer is spiritually mature and is encouraged toward righteous living. Nurturing habits aligned with God's character. It is instructive as ongoing education

Ephesians 6:4 – Fathers are to train children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord,

Hebrews 12:11 – Discipline yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Titus 2:11-12 – Grace trains us to deny ungodliness and live sensibly, righteously, and godly, showing this as a response to God's free provisions.

This shatters molds of righteousness as earned merit, affirming it as imputed through faith and pursued functionally by grace-equipped believers, leading to rewards without threatening eternal life or our position with God.

So *that* (ἵνα *hina* - in order that, purpose clause):

This connective reveals the ultimate aim of Scripture's profitability, linking its functions to equipping God's servant completely. It instructs by directing toward readiness to do the works of God in love.

The man of God may be *adequate* (ἄριστος *artios* - complete, fitted, capable):

This describes full preparedness, where Scripture renders the believer wholly sufficient for service. It instructs by ensuring no deficiency in doctrinal or practical readiness.

This again breaks from reliance on clergy hierarchies or extra-biblical authorities. This affirms every believer's potential completeness through the Word, grounded in grace.

*Equipped* (ἐξαρτίζω *exartizō* - fully furnished, prepared):

As a perfect passive participle (having been fully capable) it emphasizes a state of having previously being outfitted for action.

Notice that this is an emphatic word of the previous word for *adequate*. The literal translation of verse 17 is “so that the man of God would be adequate having been made fully adequate for every good work.”

It instructs through comprehensive provision, like equipping a soldier in Ephesians 6:13-17 with the armor of God, or 1 Peter 4:10-11, using gifts to serve as good stewards of grace.

*For every good work* (πᾶν ἔργον ἀγαθόν pan ergon agathon - all God deemed good deeds):

This culminates in Scripture's enablement for every act that glorifies God and benefits others. How, it provides the what, the how, and the why.

What – Good works are identified by God.

How – Believers are to function from identity and root themselves in the reality and promises of God.

Why – The grace of God motivates believers (not law or threat) to maintain alignment and do the good works while shunning sin and selfish ambition.

#### THEOLOGICAL IMPACT

For Timothy and the Ephesian believers, this provided a model of endurance amid persecutions and doctrinal error, urging them to hold to Scripture as the safeguard against deception.

In one word, Scripture is sufficient for everything (2 Peter 1:3-4).

Scripture originates from God Himself, ensuring its absolute reliability and authority, the Holy Spirit superintending human authors to produce exactly what God intended, free from error in all it affirms. The purpose is clear: so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Sufficiency here rules out the need for supplementary revelations, traditions, or experiences. Scripture alone provides all necessary for doctrinal clarity, moral correction, and spiritual growth, as illustrated in

This echoes the sufficiency seen in Psalm 119:105 ("Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path") or Psalm 19:7-9 where the law revives the soul, makes wise the simple, and enlightens the eyes or Deuteronomy 8:3 (man lives by every word from God's mouth), affirming that no extra revelations or human wisdom are needed for life, doctrine, or ministry.

As the letter circulated to other Asia Minor churches, it prepared wider communities for escalating trials, emphasizing Scripture's power to equip for godly living and service.

Today, as always, we need to depend on Scripture alone for correction and growth. In a world of relativism and distractions, abiding in the Word brings wisdom, peace amid trials, and readiness to do what is right, aligning our thoughts and behavior with our identity in Christ.

# Fully Equipped: The Power and Purpose of Scripture

**The Reality of the Struggle**

**The Promise of Persecution**

All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will face opposition.

**Paul's Pattern vs. Deceivers**

Modeled endurance through specific sufferings and divine deliverance.

Self-centered false teachers, deceiving and being deceived.

**Worsening Deception**

Evil men and impostors will progress from bad to worse.

## The Divine Solution

*Theopneustos: God-Breathed*

Scripture originates from God's own breath, ensuring its absolute reliability and divine authority.

## Sufficiency Over Tradition

Scripture alone provides everything necessary for doctrinal clarity and moral correction without extra biblical needs.

## The Path to Spiritual Adequacy

Consistent use of Scripture renders the believer "fully furnished" and capable for every good work.



**Profitable for the Believer**



### Teaching

Imparting objective, foundational truth and sound doctrine.



### Reproof

Acting as a divine mirror to expose error and prompt realignment.



### Correction

Restoring and "straightening up" those who have gone astray.



### Training

Ongoing education in righteousness to nurture habits aligned with God.