

Title: Lesson 13: The Word of God Is Your Guide for Life!

Text: 2 Timothy 3:14–17

I own the most precious item one could ever imagine.

It is a life-giving treasure that changes lives.

It is the Bible.

A collection of 66 books from 40 different authors who lived in various parts of the world at different periods of history who were from different socio-economic backgrounds.

Some were kings, farmers, poets, prophets, priests, fishermen, and shepherds, yet God used them all to give us one unified message.

This book is not a scrapbook of human opinions.

It is the very Word of God, breathed out by Him, preserved for His people, and powerful to save, to sanctify, and to steady your soul.

It tells you who God is, who you are, what is wrong with this world, and what God has done in Jesus Christ to make it right.

The B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the book for me. I stand alone, on the Word of God. The B-I-B-L-E!

In the preface of Gideon Bibles is says...

This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character. Here paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object; our good is its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is given you in life and will be opened in the judgment and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

Did you catch the phrase, “It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass?” God gave us this book to show us the way for all of our life!

How can a book guide the entirety of your life? That is what we will focus on this morning as we walk through a very important passage of God’s Word.

Main Idea: God's Word Should Shape Every Season of Your Life!

God's Word is not just a book of helpful ancient sayings, it is a tool for life. Paul understood this and lived it out. Timothy must as well.

1. Continue Living Out God's Word (v. 14)

2 Timothy 3:14 ESV

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it

We spent last Sunday talking about following someone who loves Jesus.

Paul loved Jesus with all of his heart, mind, soul, and strength and Timothy, as best he could, through the power of the Holy Spirit, followed Paul as Paul followed Christ.

And now, in verse 14, Paul says to continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed...

Certainly, last week we learned from the text that Timothy was a great student of the Apostle Paul. Remember verses 10-11

2 Timothy 3:10–11 ESV

You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

Paul commended Timothy for following Him as he followed Christ.

But now, Paul is also recognizing that Timothy was a good student of others as well.

In particular his mother and grandmother. Two godly women that taught him the fundamentals of the faith.

Paul admonishes Timothy that although false teachers, evil people, and imposters will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived, he **MUST** continue to live in and live out the truth that he has learned from Paul, grandma, and mom!

What does it mean to live out God's word?

Well, at the risk of oversimplification, it's this.

Know what the Bible text means and then do what it says.

Do good Bible study.

Understand what the author of the text you are studying means by what he writes, and then obey it. Do what it says.

For example.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 ESV

Rejoice always,¹⁷ pray without ceasing,¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

What does Paul mean here?

What should we do in light of what he means?

What about another?

1 Thessalonians 4:3–5 ESV

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor,⁵ not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God;

What does Paul mean in these verses?

What should we do in light of what he means?

How about one more. This time it is directly from Jesus.

Luke 10:27 ESV

And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

What does Jesus mean in these verses?

What should we do in light of what he means?

Do you get the point?

We must understand God’s truth and then do it!

Admittedly these passages I just shared are easy to understand.

And I realize there are other passages that are more difficult.

But as children of the Most High God, we have a wonderful privilege to know God’s Word and do it.

Your conscience is not the rule of your duty, but God’s Word is; and if God’s Word commands it, whatever your conscience may say about it, you are sinning if you refuse to obey. - Charles Spurgeon “Tell It All”, Volume 9, Sermon #514 - [Mark 5:33](#)

Timothy had powerful examples in his life.

Just like Timothy, you have people in your life that have taught you the Word of God.

If not, we want to be a church that teaches you and disciples you in the Word of God.

Not just to increase your knowledge but that you, like Timothy would continue in what you have not only learned but firmly believed!

In order for you to ever change into the likeness of Jesus, you must believe Him and take Him at His Word.

Do you firmly believe God's Word?

Paul tells Timothy, *"continue in what you have learned and firmly believed."*

That means the Bible cannot be an occasional book for you.
It must be a continual book.

Not just something you open on Sundays.
Not just something you glance at when life gets hard.
Not just something you turn to when you need a quick answer.

God's Word must become the daily rhythm of your life.

Let me ask you plainly:

- Do you have a plan to read the Bible?
- Do you have a time to read the Bible?
- Do you have a place where you meet with God in His Word?

Most Christians don't struggle with understanding the Bible nearly as much as they struggle with simply opening the Bible.

If you want the Word to guide your life, you must give it access to your life.

A closed Bible never changes a life.

You are not too old and it is never too late!

The Word of God guided Timothy as an adult because the Word of God shaped Timothy as a child. Paul now points back to that foundation.

2. Raise Your Children with God's Word (v. 15)

2 Timothy 3:15 ESV

...and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Some people come to faith later in life and there is a lot of theological “catch up” they need to do.

But then there are those that are raised in and around the faith.

Sometimes these people become apathetic and ho hum about the Bible and God’s truth because they have heard it over and over.

But then there are those who grow up around the faith and then the faith grows inside them, grips their heart, and they are forever changed.

What a blessing it is for those who have been inundated by the truth of the Word of God from a young age.

Their early learning has provided for them a worldview that is thoroughly Christocentric - even if they haven’t bowed the knee to Christ in faith yet.

That was Paul’s story. When he was a little guy, he went to synagogue and started memorizing vast quantities of the Torah and other books of the Jewish Bible.

He became so proficient in his learning that he became a Rabbi.

And yet, even though he had all this great learning, he didn’t become a true, believing, follower of Jesus until his late 20’s or early 30’s.

Think about that for a moment.

Was all the investment by Paul’s parents, or Timothy’s mother and grandmother wasted because those boys were not believers at the time?

Of course not! Their faithful investment of biblical truth into the hearts and minds of these two young men eventually paid significant eternal value not only for Paul and Timothy, but for millions upon millions throughout history.

Yes, the sacred writings (the holy bible) made both Paul and Timothy wise for salvation, but all the investment benefited you and me as well.

Because of God’s work in Paul and Timothy, you heard the gospel.

Here’s the point, mom and dad, aunts and uncles, Grandmas and Grandpas, Church family!

Do the hard work of pouring the Scriptures into the hearts and minds of the children in your lives.

They may not be Christians yet, but that should not keep you from teaching them the truth.

Teach them diligently with a hopeful anticipation that one day God’s Spirit will convert them and they will become well informed followers of Jesus Christ.

The more truth they learn now, the less false information they will need to undo later!

Psalm 78:1–6 ESV

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! ² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, ³ things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. ⁵ He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, ⁶ that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children,

Deuteronomy 6:6–7 ESV

⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

I think Billy Graham hits the nail on the head when he argues that...

Many children are afraid to go to their parents for counsel. Parents many times treat children as children when they often need to be talked to like grown-ups. - Billy Graham

Talk about serious, scriptural ideas with your children. Either you disciple your kids or the world will. It already is.

If the Holy Scriptures can make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus, it makes sense to get them into the hearts and minds of our children from the time they are born and as they grow.

So, here is the question I have for you.

How much time are you spending with your children to ensure that they are receiving the Word of God in an understandable way?

You have a personal responsibility to teach your children.

Also, you have a church family that wants to come alongside you to help you with this monumental and sometimes overwhelming task.

We have many tools in our toolbox to help you raise your children in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Kidz Equipping – A weekly Sunday class where children are systematically taught the Bible and core Christian doctrine in an engaging, age-appropriate format.

Kidz Church – A Christ-centered worship experience designed to help children understand God’s Word while learning to love and follow Jesus.

Kidz Connect – A monthly time for the children of our church to engage with a special, kid friendly sermon. This is a public display of our love and appreciation for the children of our church.

Kidz Car Conversations – Simple take-home discussion prompts that help parents continue Sunday’s lesson with their children on the ride home.

ABC@Home Center – A family resource hub that provides parents with tools, books, and guidance to disciple their children throughout the week.

ABC Student Ministries – A ministry for middle school and high school students focused on biblical teaching, authentic community, and gospel-driven outreach.

On Goal Soccer - a strategic outreach ministry to our community for kids who are interested in soccer and get introduced to Jesus.

Trail Life – A Christ-centered outdoor adventure program that develops boys into godly young men through leadership, service, and character training.

ABC VBS 2026 – A high-energy summer outreach week designed to introduce children to Jesus and ground them in the life-changing truth of Scripture.

As the functioning Family Pastor, I am continually praying and exploring new ways we can partner with parents to help God’s Word take deep root in the hearts of the children of our church.

Are you taking advantage of these opportunities?

We are putting them on for you, to aid you and assist you with the monumental task of bringing your children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Allow me to be bold. These opportunities are not “extras.”

They are on-ramps to help you obey God’s call to raise your children in the Lord.

We can’t do it for you, but we want to come alongside you.

But you have to choose to engage.

Are you taking advantage of what God has provided through your church family, or are you trying to do this without support?

You and I have a holy responsibility and a holy privilege to raise our children with God’s Word.

Take it from an old guy whose kids are grown and gone, it goes by fast.

Eighteen years is a blink.

Be intentional, and don't go it alone.

And that brings us to the question underneath it all.

Why should we give ourselves to the Word like this?

Why build a home around it, and a church around it?

Paul answers that next, not by giving us a guilt trip, but by showing us the payoff.

In verses 16–17, he wants us to appreciate the value of the Scriptures.

3. Revel in the Profit of God's Word (v. 16-17)

This then in the crux of the whole situation. The Bible you hold in your hand has value. Far more value than any book that has ever existed throughout time.

Psalm 19:10 ESV

¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Church, treat your Bible like treasure, because God does.

Paul wants Timothy to appreciate the value of the Scriptures. Look at how he describes them.

2 Timothy 3:16 ESV

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable...

All Scripture = Sacred Writings

God has chosen to reveal Himself through the written word testifying about Himself to a lost world in need of rescue.

*God must reveal himself for us to know him. God has revealed himself as Creator through his works of creation and providence but has especially revealed himself as Redeemer through Scripture and its Spirit-inspired testimony to the saving work of Jesus Christ. **Lexham Survey of Theology The Doctrine of Scripture and Revelation***

And these Holy Scriptures are from the very being of God and because of this they have inherent value.

God is Holy so His Word is Holy.

God is Perfect so His Word is Perfect.

God is Powerful so His Word is Powerful.

God is True so His Word is True.

But Paul is clear in this verse that because they are **breathed out** by God himself (*θεό-πνευσ-τος*), because they represent the very essence and character of God, they are **profitable**.

Profitable = beneficial

God's Word is a precious, valuable, profitable, beneficial gift in the life of every believer.

I remember coming to faith in Christ.

Prior to being saved I tried reading the Scriptures and nothing resonated or struck fire with my soul.

Once God saved me and my heart was open, His Word became a beautiful comfort to my heart.

It was exciting to start to understand the mind of God.

It was thrilling to know that I could understand God's will for my life.

Before salvation I didn't recognize my need for God's word.

After Salvation, I came to understand how hungry I was for His truth.

My experience is not the standard for your hunger for the Word of God.

But hear me: if you have no desire for Scripture and no habit of being in it, you should carefully examine whether you truly know the God who wrote it.

Jesus said:

Matthew 4:4 ESV

⁴ But he answered, "It is written, " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Just as bread sustains the physical body, the Word of God sustains the soul.

If you stop eating physically, your body weakens.

If you stop feeding on Scripture spiritually, your soul withers.

So, what does the Word actually do in the life of a believer?

Paul tells us.

2 Timothy 3:16 ESV

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

Here are the benefits. Four letters. T.R.C.T.

Teaching - The Word shows us what is true.
It builds the foundation of sound doctrine.
It answers, “What does God say?”
It shapes our thinking so we see life through God’s lens.

That’s profitable!

Reproof - The Word shows us where we are wrong.
It exposes sin.
It confronts false beliefs and sinful behavior.
It says, “This is not aligned with God’s will.”

That’s valuable!

Correction - The Word shows us how to get right.
It does not just point out the error, it restores us.
It straightens what has been bent.
It leads us back to obedience.

That’s beneficial!

Training (In Righteousness) - The Word shows us how to stay right.
It disciplines and matures us.
It forms Christlike character over time.
It shapes habits of holiness so we can thrive spiritually.

That is precious!

The Word of God tells you what **is right**, shows you what is **not right**, teaches you how to **get right**, and trains you to **stay right**.

Believers in Christ. Stop looking to the world’s system and philosophies for answers for your life. Stop!

Instead read, study, know, and **BELIEVE** the Word of God it is your only hope of change.

The key is to BELIEVE what God says. It is that belief that is the beginning of change.

What could that change look like?

Look at verse 17...

2 Timothy 3:17 ESV

that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

The NIV translates this text to say the SERVANT of God, meaning every follower of Christ.

What about this word, “*Complete*”? What is Paul communicating?

Complete - to being well fitted for some function, *complete, capable, proficient* = able to meet all demands.

Arndt, William, Frederick W. Danker, Walter Bauer, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. 2000. In *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 3rd ed., 136. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Starting with Timothy, all those believers that look to the Word of God for their teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness will be capable, proficient and able to meet all demands.

How can this be? Because the Word of God comes from the all powerful, all knowing God of all creation.

If God is who He declares to be than His word is capable of maturing, you to completeness.

The next word Paul uses is equipped.

Equipped = to make ready for service. Furnish

In other words, God’s Word, if studied, learned, and applied will prepare you for service. It will furnish you with everything you need.

This is Peter’s point in 2nd Peter.

2 Peter 1:3–4 ESV

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

So...

God’s Word **completes** us.

God’s Word **equips** us.

For what?

Paul makes it clear - “for every good work.”

That’s great, but specifically what are these works?

These are Scripture-defined good works of obedience flowing from God’s revealed will.

Listen, you cannot walk in good works apart from God's Word, because you cannot obey a will you have never heard.

So, let me help you hear God's ideas of the works we believers are to walk in.

The good work of personal holiness and godly character

([Titus 2:7](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:3](#); [Hebrews 12:14](#))

The good work of obedience to God's Word

([James 1:22](#); [John 14:15](#); [Romans 6:17](#))

The good work of loving and serving others

([Galatians 6:10](#); [Hebrews 13:16](#); [1 John 3:17–18](#))

The good work of generosity and meeting practical needs

([1 Timothy 6:18](#); [Acts 9:36](#); [Matthew 5:16](#))

The good work of faithfulness in the home and daily life

([Titus 2:4–5](#); [1 Timothy 5:10](#); [Colossians 3:23](#))

The good work of prayer and intercession

([Colossians 4:2](#); [1 Timothy 2:1–2](#); [James 5:16](#))

The good work of hospitality

([Romans 12:13](#); [Hebrews 13:2](#); [1 Peter 4:9](#))

The good work of encouragement and strengthening believers

([Hebrews 10:24–25](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:11](#); [Acts 14:22](#))

The good work of forgiveness, reconciliation, and patience

([Colossians 3:12–13](#); [Ephesians 4:31–32](#); [Luke 6:36](#))

The good work of peacemaking and reconciliation

([Matthew 5:9](#); [2 Corinthians 5:18–20](#); [Romans 12:18](#))

The good work of gospel witness and evangelism

([Matthew 28:19–20](#); [Colossians 4:5–6](#); [Philippians 1:27](#))

The good work of defending and guarding the truth

([1 Timothy 6:20](#); [2 Timothy 1:14](#); [Titus 1:9](#))

The good work of serving and building up the church

([Ephesians 4:12](#); [1 Peter 4:10](#); [Romans 12:6–8](#))

The good work of submission to God-ordained authority

([Romans 13:1–3](#); [Titus 3:1](#); [1 Peter 2:13–15](#))

The good work of honest, excellent labor

([Colossians 3:23–24](#); [Ephesians 6:7–8](#); [Proverbs 22:29](#))

The good work of justice, mercy, and care for the vulnerable

([Micah 6:8](#); [James 1:27](#); [Proverbs 31:8–9](#))

The good work of endurance under suffering

([1 Peter 2:20](#); [Hebrews 10:34](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:11](#))

The good work of worship and thanksgiving

([Hebrews 13:15](#); [Colossians 3:16–17](#); [Psalm 100:4](#))

The good work of a life devoted to doing good

([Titus 2:14](#); [Titus 3:8](#); [Titus 3:14](#))

This is a full, but not exhaustive list of the good works we are to walk in.

Good works do not bring us into a right relationship with God, but instead they prove that we are in a right relationship with God.

Ephesians 2:8–10 ESV

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

Good works happen when a redeemed heart obeys the revealed Word through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We must be a people marked by good works as **revealed** and **defined** by the Word of God.

Friends, we must take great joy in the fact that God has not left us high and dry trying to figure out how He wants us to live our Christian lives.

He has revealed it to us in His holy Word, the Bible.

We are not taking any risks when we step out on the Word of God. - Vance Houston Havner

Step out then on the living breath of God. Do what He says because it is so good! Because it is profitable for you!

Your obedience to God's Word is living proof of your faith in Him!

Conclusion

So, it's true! God's Word, because it is from Him, will shape the entirety of your life! God's Word will change you for good!

Church - We must realize how important it is not only to recognize that this Bible we have is from God, but that it is given to us, not only to change our lives, but to show others how God could change theirs.

This is what I want you to do this week in light of what we have learned today.

Pray to the Lord and ask Him to give you an unrelenting hunger to know and obey His beautiful Word.

Seriously, that's it.

He'll answer that prayer with a big yes.

And don't be surprised when your life begins to slowly, powerfully, and irrevocably change.

Friends - God has written you a Love letter.

If you want to fall deeper in love with your creator, don't just read it, devour it!

I promise you, your heart will never be the same!