

II Timothy, Sermon #25

II Timothy 3

This is the last epistle (letter) of the apostle Paul.

He is writing this from a jail cell, days before his beheading in around A.D. 68, under the reign of Nero

It was a crime to be a Christian. Both Peter and Paul were killed in Rome at about the same time.

Peter was executed on a cross upside down, but Paul was a Roman citizen and he was killed quickly.

We may not be living in times like Paul, but we have our own diseases—materialism, humanism, modernism, communism—and entrapments—(vs. 2) selfishness, covetousness, proud, disobedience, hedonistic.

I've entitled this series "Living in This World."

II Timothy 3:13

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

II Timothy 3:13-17

Let us pray

You may be seated

Living in This World

This world is a dangerous place—even in Christian circles.

Cults, false teaching, sinful living—all dominating the Christian scene

But God has given us a lifeline so we don't drown—it is the Word of God

And the Bible says we are to continue (vs. 14) in the Scriptures.

This is to be a daily part of our lives—God tells us that.

1. The Scriptures are holy (vs. 15) —sacred, consecrated to God
2. The Scriptures lead us to salvation—deliver us from our sin
3. The Scriptures are inspired—God-breathed—God's Word

And then, God tells us that all scripture is – vs. 16

IV. Fourth – profitable—both the Old Testament and the New Testament

All Scripture is **profitable** (is useful); beneficial; helpful.

The Scriptures are not only profitable for salvation, but for sanctification—a road map for salvation, but also for the Christian life.

Scriptures not only brings us to birth, but the Scriptures are a good mother—to train us; to teach us.

Purpose – vs. 17

God declares that Scripture is **profitable** for believers in **four** important ways:

I. First, the Scriptures are profitable “for doctrine”— Teaching (vs. 16). The Scriptures teach us what is right

Doctrine is incredibly important. It is not a boring, dry topic but rather the excitement upon which we base our faith and our living.

To survive the dangerous days we live in, we must know what the Scriptures teach.

A good number of Christians are ignorant regarding the Word of God.

Biblically untaught believers are easy prey (pickings) for false teachers and everything else that comes along.

Hosea 4:6, *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge . . .”*

Ephesians 4:14, *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.”*

The Scriptures are not to be ignored or disregarded.

The reason we are having all these problems is that we have not obeyed the Word of God.

Disobedience to the Word of God will bring problems in our life and home, in our family and church, our workplace and our country.

We are living in an age of religious tolerance—if one loves Jesus, all is okay.

Doctrine does not matter as long as Jesus name is used or Jesus is lifted up—that is called “ecumenicalism”—love each other, love Jesus, compromise the Word of God

Jesus said we must worship Him not only in spirit but also in truth—without truth all we have is religious exercises (orthodoxy, going through the motions), extremism (health, wealth gospel; can't drive a car or use electricity), and experiences (speaking in tongues; dancing, wild and disorderly; all show, entertainment).

We must regularly and systematically, and thoroughly study the doctrine in God's Word.

It is imperative for God's people—II Timothy 2:15.

1. Seeker sensitive – give the people what they want, glorify man, please man
2. Purpose driven – anything that brings success is good
3. Lite Gospel – easy believism
4. Cult churches—Jehovah Witnesses—deny Jesus’ Divinity

Mormons – Mormonism considers *The Book of Mormon* to be as divinely inspired and authoritative as the Bible, in fact more so, because they view that book as being a latter-day updated revelation from God. Their commercials on TV are wonderful.

Seventh-Day Adventists – Some people claim to have received special revelations from God that carry the same divine authority as the Bible

Christian Scientology – Tom Cruise, Kristi Alley, wealthy man’s religion
 Baha’i faith – they believe everything

5. False religions—worship of Mary, New Age Movement, Islam sweeping

The Apostle Paul said:

Acts 20:18, *“And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons.”*

Acts 20:20-21, *“And how I kept back nothing [some ministries today that will not be negative—Joel Osteen] that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance [we have a Christianity today with no repentance; we have a Christianity that embraces everything with no apologies] toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Acts 20:27, *“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”*

The Bible is profitable for doctrine.

It then goes without saying that, in order to use Scripture in an effective way, we must thoroughly know it and understand it.

We must *“let the word of Christ dwell in [us] richly in all wisdom”* (Colossians 3:16).

The truths of God’s Word are spiritual wealth that we should continually be depositing into our minds and hearts.

How many of us like to make deposits at the bank?

Deposits of divine truth become spiritual assets that we can draw on, make a withdrawal readily (bankrupt Christians), when confronting temptation, when making choices and when seeking God’s specific will and guidance for our lives.

II. Secondly, vs. 16, the Scriptures are profitable “for reproof”— Rebuke. The Scriptures teach us what is right but it also teaches us what is wrong.

Doctrine is what is right – Reproof is what is wrong.

Reproof carries the idea of rebuking us in order to convict us of misbehavior or false teaching, but that is not popular among the church masses today.

No Bible – No Conviction

Scripture has the ministry of tearing down and destroying that which is sinful then rebuilding that which is righteous.

Pornography, foul language, drug addiction, sex outside of marriage.

“Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, wrath, strife, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like:”

Scripture has the ministry of exposing sin, shedding light on the wickedness of our hearts.

The Bible is right and what I am doing is wrong—what I am participating in is wrong; what I believe is wrong.

Regular and careful study of Scripture builds a foundation of truth that exposes sin in a believer's life with the purpose of bringing correction, confession, renunciation, and obedience.

The Word of God is able to cut to the heart—brings conviction.

So if we are not in the Word of God, or under sound preaching—no conviction.

Hebrews 4:12, *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

Scripture—like a surgeon—precisely and thoroughly penetrates the believer's mind, soul, and heart, and it shines the light on the problem area.

Every Christian who has been saved for any length of time should have experienced times of being sharply and deeply convicted by the Word of God.

The reason so many people skip church or go to a liberal one is that they do not want to be bothered by the Bible. “Don't bother me with the Truth.”

That is why Timothy was told to be strong in preaching the Word.

II Timothy 4:1-4

Every believer knows that during times of disobedience, we are strongly tempted to forsake Bible study and church.

We find that fellowship with faithful believers becomes less attractive and comfortable.

The last place a sinner wants to be is in a church or in the Bible.

The Scriptures are profitable for reproof and we need it.

God takes his finger by the Holy Spirit, the Holy Scripture, and puts it right on the sin.

That brings us to the third one—the Scriptures are profitable “for correction” (vs. 16). The Scriptures teach us how to make the wrong right

★The Bible shows me the standard (doctrine). Convicts me of the standard (reproof), and then it restores me to the standard (correction).

- **Correction** refers to the restoration of something to its proper condition.
- **Correction** is taking that which is crooked and straightening it out.
- **Correction** is Scripture’s provision for those who accept its reproof.

Psalm 119:9-11, *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word.”*

The Scriptures help us in the area of correction.

1. The first part of making any sin right with God and others is **confession**.

If we confess our sins, if we agree with God

Humility is involved.

I was wrong (it is hard to say) for this specific sin—it brings humility.

Pride does not want to accept consequences or responsibility for our actions.

The result of confession is reconciliation.

It is a primary theme of the Gospel and all of the Scriptures.

Proverbs 28:13, *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*

2. The second part of correction is forsaking. Jesus said, “Go and sin no more.”

It is making the 180-degree turn from sin to righteousness. Turn my body away, turn my eyes away, change of direction

3. The third part of making any sin right with God and others is **restitution**.

A willingness to make restitution. I was wrong; now what do I need to make it right.

Zacchaeus—Luke 19:8 – Restore what he stole – give half my goods away, restore fourfold to these I deceived and cheated

IV. Fourthly, the Scriptures are profitable “for instruction in righteousness” vs. 16—this is learning the easy way—teach us how to keep right

This means that the Bible trains me. It literally means “child training.”

- It is how we raise our children – We are constantly teaching them.
- Children do not effectively raise themselves.
- A child left to himself will bring shame to the mother.

Instruction in what? “Righteousness”—we can receive instruction but not any old instruction will work.

You sit today in a church that believes the Bible is God’s Word and it is man’s authority. There are many who sit in places that do not believe that.

Where should we receive instruction in righteousness? Home—Mom and Dad;
Church—preacher, Sunday School teachers.

Not going to get it from the government, certainly not the public schools

We need Training in Righteousness

- This is the building up.
- His Word is to continue **training** us in **righteousness**.

To equip us for righteous living and for faithful service to the Lord

One cannot help wondering why so many evangelical pastors of our day, like many Christians throughout history, have lost sight of that foundational truth.

Every church, everywhere and in every time, should be totally committed to preaching, teaching, and implementing the Word, thereby instructing their people of what God desires.

Every parent should desire to have his children under the instructions of God's Word.

- Parents choose entertainment for their kids. They even choose churches because that is what the kids like.
- That is like giving them candy for breakfast, lunch, and supper. They like candy, but we don't give that for breakfast.

Parents choose TV, sports, and host of bad and good things and limit the instruction time of their children and themselves.

The Scriptures are profitable for *doctrine* (the Bible tells us what is right), for *reproof* (what is not right), for *correction* (how to get right), and for *instruction in righteousness* (how to stay right).

A Christian who studies the Bible and applies what he learns will grow in holiness and avoid many pitfalls in this world.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Every eye closed, no one looking around

Doctrine – how are we being taught the Word of God?

Am I putting myself under the instruction of God's Word? Personally and corporately?

Am I reading, studying? Do I, each day, continue in the Word?

Is there any wicked way in my life?

God has put His finger and I have not confessed and forsaken

We must agree with Him about our sin and forsake it.

We cannot be the people God wants us to be without the profitable Scriptures.

Have I trusted the Scriptures where it says that salvation is through faith in Christ
Jesus?

1st – We don't deserve to be saved

2nd – It is a gift of God

3rd – Jesus Christ provided salvation

4th – Have we received and believed on Jesus Christ to save us from our sins?