

II Timothy, Sermon #26

II Timothy 3

We will close out Chapter 3 today.

As we have seen thus far, this chapter is crucial to our success or failure as believers.

II Timothy 3 tells us not only of the drift of Christians and churches, but outright rebellion/reprobate and then God tells us our recourse and our resource—the Scriptures – allowing us to overcome and be victorious in our living for Jesus in today's world.

Today's message is the final message of our ten-part series entitled "Living in This World"

II Timothy 3:15

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

II Timothy 3:15-17

Let us pray

You may be seated.

Living in This World

The Scriptures are holy – vs. 15

Lead us to salvation – vs. 15

Inspired – vs. 16

Profitable – vs. 16

V. Fifthly – the Scriptures mature us

Oh, the great need today is for mature believers in Christ!

Vs. 17 – *Anthropos*—generic word—regarding both sexes—“man of God” or “woman of God”

God is in possession of us.

I Corinthians 6:18-20, *“Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost who is in you, whom ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*

If we are saved, we are men or women of God.

Vs. 17 is the culmination of this chapter, the purpose of Scriptures

In vs. 17 we have the overriding purpose—the end in view for Scripture profitability—that something may take place in our lives from the Word.

The Scriptures instruct us regarding salvation (spiritual birth) and then they help us to mature (sanctification).

- I Peter 1:23, *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.”*

The Word of God is involved in salvation and sanctification

This process of sanctification – personal growth in the life of the believer

How does the Bible help us to grow?

- The Bible helps us to see what we are really like
- James 1 says the Bible is a mirror.
- If we were to just look in the Bible—we'd find out about ourselves.

The Bible is an illuminator:

Psalm 119:105, *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”*

The Bible is an enricher:

Psalm 19:10, *“More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold.”*

The Bible enriches my life.

If we need something to eat, Psalm 19—sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

I Peter 2—It is milk that I may drink and grow thereby

Hebrews 5—says it is meat – that I might develop to the place of eating adult spiritual food.

It doesn't matter what I need, the Bible is a nourisher for all the phases of spiritual development.

The Bible is a tremendous Book—food for the baby Christians

The Bible is more than just a history book, theology book, or a book of doctrine.

- Doctrine is not to be separated from life change in the believer and good works from the believer.

All Scripture is from God and is profitable – producing in our lives

What is it profitable for? Four things:

- Doctrine
- Reproof
- Correction
- Instruction in righteousness

But the Bible is also profitable for Christian perfection – vs. 17

- Perfecting is a process leading to consummation (an end).
- One day, we will be perfected, but right now a process called perfecting is taking place.

Matthew 5:48, *“Be ye, therefore, perfect, even as your Father, who is in heaven, is perfect.”*

The bar is set high for us.

God wants us to grow and has provided the means for it—the Bible, prayer, the Spirit, the Church, the brothers and sisters in Christ.

II Corinthians 13:9, *“For we are glad, when we are weak and ye are strong; and this also we wish, even your perfection.”*

Hebrews 13:21, *“Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”*

I Peter 5:10, *“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”*

- “Perfect” means complete, capable, proficient in everything we are called to be or do.
- We will never reach the kind of perfection where absolutely everything we do is right on this side of Heaven.

So, this does not mean sinless, but it implies fit for the Master's use.

Philippians 3:12-15

This word *perfect* means to grow to maturity—come to full age—adult Christians, if you will, not baby Christians.

I Corinthians 3:1, *“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.”*

The Scriptures “grow us up” if we will submit to the Truth.

When the Bible gets into our life, it does something that no other Book can do because it is the very Word of God.

- The Bible is our spiritual food—to nourish us, not only to grow, but also to serve God.
- Growth in the Lord and service to the Lord.

VI. Sixth Principle – the Scriptures equip and enable us – II Timothy 3:17

Two words in this verse are especially important: “perfect” and “furnished.”

- “Furnished” – “equipped for service; to fully equip.” We like to say: “We furnish our homes “furniture.”
- In other words, the Word of God furnishes and equips a believer so that he can live a life that pleases God and do the work God wants him to do and has called him to do.

The better we know the Word, the better we are able to live and work for God.

- The purpose of Bible study is not just to understand doctrines or to be able to defend the faith, as important as those things are.
- The ultimate purpose is the equipping of the believers who read it to obey it and apply it.

It is the Word of God that equips God's people to do the work of God.

We are able to meet the demands of the Christian life. The failures we are seeing in our own lives are often a direct result of ignorance and/or disobedience to the Bible.

- Not enough Bible
- No personal Bible
- We need the Bible

The Bible will cure our ills. This is what we need.

Sir Walter Scott, a famous poet and author (IVANHOE: “Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive.”) On his death bed, said, “Bring me the Book.”

- Lockhart, his son-in-law, asked which book? For he had a vast library. Sir Walter Scott said, “There is but one Book!”
- This Bible will get us ready even for death.

II Timothy 3: 17 says “that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

This verse demonstrates the goal of our Bible study, Sunday School classes, devotions, and personal reading.

Turn over to Ephesians 4:11-12, “*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ.*”

- We need to be in churches where the leaders of the church are in the business of maturing saints and equipping them to do the work of God.
- Our children and grandchildren need to be in youth groups and children’s ministries that are focused on spiritual growth and service to the Lord

Thoroughly furnished means properly adjusted

- If we have two people here in this assembly that can’t stand each other, they are out of adjustment and they need the Bible.
- If we have no heart for souls, for lost people, we need the Bible.

- If we live like unbelievers on Mondays, we need the Bible.
- If my wife and I are fighting, we need the Bible

We have to get the Bible into our life—investigate, meditate, incarnate (flesh it out in our lives). This will save us lots of problems and bring lots of blessings to our lives.

The Bible is a tool kit—for any work He calls us to do.

- The complete equipment is found in the Word of God
- It is our armor and our weapon to meet the declension of evil days

We, as Christians, can become better people, even in bad times.

We must separate ourselves from that which is false, devote ourselves to that which is true, and continue in our study of the Word of God.

Now, I ask once again: How important is our Bible? How is it with our Bible study?

The Bible is of great value for us.

God wants us to put His Word into our lives.

A Bible unread is a Bible unheeded.

Scripture is God's provision for spiritual growth and service in the life of His children.

Then God can equip us for ministry in these difficult days and we will have the joy of seeing others come to a knowledge of the truth; we get to see others mature in the faith.

Now, what is one of the greatest things a Pastor can do for his congregation?

Deliver the Scriptures

Teach the Scriptures

Apply the Scriptures

And what was Timothy to do as Pastor?

- He was charged by God in 4:1 to preach the **WORD. 4:2**

The Word of God must be declared among God's people – it leads from salvation of the lost to sanctification of the saints and this is how we live in this world.

Let us stand for closing invitation—every eye closed.

What role does the Word of God play in our life?

What is my daily relationship to my Bible?

Sin will keep us from this Book, and this Book will keep us from sin.

Is there spiritual growth taking place in my life?

Am I growing in the Lord?

Am I being prepared and equipped to do God's will and God's work?

Before we can have spiritual growth, we must make sure we possess spiritual life through faith in Jesus Christ.

Spiritual growth can only occur in a person who knows Jesus Christ as his Savior.