

## ~2 Timothy~

## Lesson 17 – The God-Breathed Word of Truth (part 2)

Let's begin by reading our text today- **2 Tim 3:10-4:5.**

We are continuing our study of 2 Timothy and the section we are studying is the pinnacle of the letter and the climax of the book. And today we are continuing our study of verses 16-17.

As we learned last week, these two verses explain the origin and purpose of the Bible. We learned that ALL of Scripture is God-breathed, theopneustos, θεόπνευστος, as men were moved about by the Holy Spirit. And we learned the difference between the Word, the logos, λόγος, and the Scriptures, graphe, γραφή.

The Logos, λόγος, is the Word of God Himself. The Word of Life that was sent by the Father, Jn 1; 1 Jn 1

The Scripture, graphe, γραφή, is the written record of the Logos, λόγος. It is how we comprehend and know who God is. The Scriptures are the 66 books of the Bible that we hold in our laps and these testify of the Logos, λόγος, John 5:39.

Now today we will continue to learn the purpose of the Scriptures. If I was going to put a subtitle on this message today, I would call it:

### The Transforming Work of the Word

Why do we have our Bible and what are the benefits and usefulness of the Scripture specifically for the man of God. We know the Scriptures make us wise unto salvation, 2 Tim 3:15, and the gospel itself, through faith in Jesus Christ, transforms the unregenerate sinner into a child of God, 2 Tim 1:10; John 1:12.

And after this wonderful transformation that we call justification, the Scripture has another purpose, and that is to shape the man of God unto righteousness through sanctification so that he can perform and complete every good work that God has planned for him.

... Lets read verses 16-17 again with this idea in mind...

2 Timothy 3:16-17- <sup>16</sup> †All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, †and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> †that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Scriptures are the written record of the word of God and in them there is life because the source of the Scriptures is life Himself. Now Paul gets very specific on the usefulness of the Scriptures concerning and combating false teaching.

The Scriptures, this written record, is meant to be useful in this temporal life, making known to us eternal life in Jesus. Paul is making it clear that the Scriptures are for the man of God in this life; that we might believe in the hope of eternal life in Christ, AND to be sanctified and fully equipped to perform every good work, and to bring people to Jesus.

The work of the Word in these two verses, 16-17, are examples and models of how the Word sanctifies us. John 17:17- *“Sanctify them by Your Truth. Your Word is Truth.”*

Sanctification toward God and separating and standing away from the wickedness and perversion of the world has been Paul's underlying theme in this entire epistle to Timothy. Paul has been exhorting Timothy to take the stance for Truth against the false teachers and heresies that were coming against the church of Ephesus for the purpose of building the church back up and standing it on the pillars of Truth.

Let's continue studying the remainder of verse 16...

† *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God... and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...*

- Look at the verse 17 for the reason and purpose:

<sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- “is profitable”- ophelimos, ὀφέλιμος. This is an adjective describing what Scripture is.... Scripture is “God-breathed” and Scripture is “profitable”.
  - This adjective is only used in Paul’s pastoral letters, **1 Timothy 4:8**; Titus 3:8.
  - Scripture is the written record of the Logos to mankind to make us profitable and useful in all God has planned for us, in this life, having the hope of eternal life in Jesus.
- “for...”- pros, πρὸς, I want to point out the preposition being used here. Its not really the word “for”. This gives the impression of “for the purpose”, but this preposition when used with the accusative case, as all these are, means “toward”. As in moving toward something.
  - Another way to say this is, “All Scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable in moving toward...doctrine, toward reproof, toward correction, toward instruction in righteousness...” (so that the man of God may be complete...)
    - This list is the purpose of Scripture for the man of God to be fully equipped and complete so that he might fulfill every good work God has prepared for him in this life.
  - His Word, manifested in Scripture, is guiding us toward godliness and holiness in this life, Ps 119:105- “*Your Word is lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*”
    - This list of four things that Paul is about to describe details what Paul has been exhorting Timothy in both his letters. This is the response to false teaching within the church.
    - Remember what Paul said just before in verse 13, “*but evil men and impostors will progress upon the worse, deceiving and being deceived*” This is how you respond to these who are deceived and trying to deceive others- Stand on the Word; Preach the Word! And shine the light on the darkness.

These next four descriptors in verse 16 detail what I am calling, “the Work of the Word” or more specifically “the Work of the Word though the Scriptures”

- “All Scripture is profitable... **toward doctrine**”- didaskalia, διδασκαλία. Paul used this same word in verse 10, “*you have carefully followed my doctrine*, didaskalia, διδασκαλία, my teaching.
  - Scripture is useful toward teaching the Gospel. Toward battling false teachings with the True teachings of Jesus Christ. Toward combatting the doctrine of demons, 1 Tim 4:1
- “All Scripture is profitable ... **toward reproof**”- elegchos, ἔλεγχος and elegcho, ἐλέγχω as a verb, meaning convicting proof.
  - Scripture has a convicting proof of Truth
    - A convicting work that shines the light on the darkness and exposes its evil deeds, **John 3:19-20, Heb 4:12, Acts 2:37-38**.
    - This is how we battle false teaching and heresy within the church. We take the stance for Truth and expose the darkness with the Word of God.
- “All Scripture is profitable toward...**correction**”- epanorthosis, ἐπανόρθωσις, to set upright again. Only used this once in the entire Bible. Compound of epi, ἐπί, (upon) + anorthao, ἀνορθώω, (to restore to straightness, straighten up, rebuild)
  - This is specifically directed toward those who have been led astray by the lies of the false teachers and to bring them back to the Truth, 2 Tim 2:18, 25-26.
  - The word exposes darkness and convicts of sin, that’s reproof, elegchos, ἔλεγχος, but it doesn’t just leave you like that. The Word rebuilds you and straightens you back up, by correcting and strengthening,
    - **Acts 20:32; John 15:1-3, Hebrews 12:12** anorthao, ἀνορθώω straighten back up the hands that hang down and make straight paths for your feet.
- “All Scripture is profitable ... **toward instruction**”- paideia, παιδεία
  - Those who were with us when we studied the book of Hebrews remember this word from Hebrews 12:5-14. We studied paideia, παιδεία in depth and saw this to be the loving hand of the Father as He

instructs His child.

- Paul uses this word in several other places of Scripture in the same way:

Ephesians 6:4 *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training (paideia, παιδεία) and admonition of the Lord.*

2 Timothy 2:24–25 <sup>24</sup> *And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, <sup>25</sup> in humility correcting (paideuo, παιδεύω) those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,*

Titus 2:11–12 <sup>11</sup> *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching (paideuo, παιδεύω) us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,*

- It is very clear to see Paul’s intent using this word as a father’s instruction toward his child.
- This word is translated completely wrong in Hebrews 12. In the book of Hebrews it is translated, “chastisement”, but clearly God is not beating us up to teach us a lesson. He is not physically hurting us to bring us closer to Him.
  - Absolutely not! He is a loving Father training us up, correcting and instructing us in Righteousness.
  - If you read Hebrews 12:5-14 with this mindset, it lines up perfectly with what Paul is saying to Timothy.
  - The end result of the work of the Word is walking in righteousness, that we might yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness and be partakers of His holiness, Heb 12:10-11.
    - That’s sanctification! Walking in His righteousness and holiness, apart from the world
- This is the work of the Word. Notice that Paul begins this list with didaskalia, διδασκαλία, doctrine or teaching.
  - In both letters, 1 and 2 Timothy, Paul has been encouraging and exhorting Timothy to keep and hold fast and teach sound doctrine and I believe Paul places sound teaching first because this is what is driving this list, 1 Timothy 1:3; 3:2; 4:11; 5:17; 6:2; 6:3; 2 Timothy 1:11; 1:13–14; 2:1–2; 2:24; 3:14; 4:1–2
    - Teaching rooted in the Truth brings you toward reproof, and correction, and instruction.
- It’s my conjecture that Paul says, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is profitable toward teaching, and teaching the Word of God leads toward reproof, toward correction, and toward instruction.
- Also, something else I want to point out: All the translations exclude the translation of a small Greek word. It is the relative pronoun τὴν in the Greek statement “πρὸς παιδείαν τὴν ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ”
  - All the Bible translations merely say, “for instruction in righteousness”, but they are excluding this relative pronoun τὴν.
    - τὴν is a pronoun that means “which”
    - This statement should read, “*toward instruction, which is in righteousness*” not just “*instruction in righteousness*”.
    - There is a difference between “instruction in righteousness” and “instruction, which is in righteousness”. To me, instruction, which is in righteousness, says that instruction is rooted in righteousness, not just instructing in it.
      - If so, then it could be read like this, “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is profitable toward teaching, (and teaching the Word of God leads) toward reproof, toward correction, toward instruction, which (this instruction, and the entire work of the Word is rooted) in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God might be complete...*”
      - It is the work of the Word in righteousness, manifest through the Scriptures that makes the man of God complete

† <sup>17</sup> *that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

- “that”- hina, ἵνα, “so that” is a better translation. This is the purpose of verse 16.

- Scripture was given to the man of God for his use to be complete in the ways of God.
- What a precious gift that God would breath on us His Word of Life so that we might be complete.
- “so that the man of God might be (subjunctive, being contingent on our yielding to the Scriptures)... might be **complete, thoroughly equipped**”-
- “complete” and “thoroughly equipped” come from the same root word: artios, ἄρτιος, meaning to be proficient, complete, equipped.
  - The word “thoroughly equipped” has a preposition in front making it more intense, thoroughly equipped, fully complete
  - This word is also in the passive voice, meaning this completion is being performed by the Word on the man of God. The Word is doing the work of the completeness.
  - We are not making ourselves complete. We just yield ourselves to His Word, we take the stance for Truth and the Word of God sanctifies us and makes us complete.
  - Notice what Paul is doing here because you miss this in the English. Paul is using the same word to make a point, “so that the man of God might be **complete, having been made fully complete outwardly** by the Scriptures... **for every good work**”
- <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped... **for every good work.**”
  - “**for every good work**”- πρὸς πᾶν ἔργον ἀγαθόν
    - Verse 17 makes it evident that the objective for the man of God in this life is to accomplish good deeds in Christ.
    - We don’t do good works to become a Christian, we do good works because we are Christian. Good works are the fruit of righteousness, the fruit of sanctification, Romans 6:22.
  - These good works were prepared before the foundation of the world and placed **in Christ Jesus** that we might walk in them, Eph 2:10.
    - Hebrews 13:20-21- “*that the everlasting covenant... make you complete in every good work to do His will...*”
    - 2 Timothy 2:21- “*...sanctified and useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.*”
- The NT is full of exhortations to do good, but not for a means to salvation, but because we love our Father so much that we would lay our selfish desires aside and do the good works that He prepared for us, **Matt 5:16, 11-12**; Lk 6:27-31; Rom 12:20-21; 2 Cor 9:8 Gal 6:9-10; Phil 2:12-13; Col :10; 2 Thess 2:13-17; 1 Tim 6:17-19; Tit 2:14; Heb 13:6; James 2:14-26, 3:13; **1 Pet 2:20; 3:13-17; 4:16, 19; 1 Jn 2:17; Rev 19:7-8.**
  - Being a Christian and displaying good works is being Christ-like. Shining His Light and displaying His glory.
    - This is why we are still on the earth. To be fellow-workers with Him in the plan of redemption and He has given us His Word manifested through Scripture to guide us into all Truth so that we might walk in the good works He has prepared for us, John 16:13.

In Closing:

Lets read these two verses again with my paraphrase of what we have just learned...

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is profitable toward doctrine by teaching the Truth; toward reproof by exposing the darkness and convicting sin; toward correction through the process of rebuilding and straightening back up and strengthening with Truth; toward the Father’s loving hand of instruction and training; which this instruction, and the entire work of the Word manifested through Scripture is rooted in righteousness. <sup>17</sup> So that the man of God might be complete, having been made fully complete by the Scripture for every good work which God has prepared in Christ before the foundation of the world that we might walk in them.