

The Word of God – Part 2.

How does the Scripture benefit us?

“The worth of a book is to be measured by what you can carry away from it.”

James Bryce

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Tim. 3:15-16

Four benefits are listed here:

1. The Scriptures equip us with the Truth.
2. The Scriptures confront us and help us to comply in our behavior
3. The Scriptures correct the course of our lives when we stray.
4. The Scriptures provide training in righteous living

J. B. Phillips translation:

All Scripture is inspired by God
and is useful for teaching the faith
and correcting error,
for re-setting the direction of a man's life
and training him in good living.

The scriptures are the comprehensive equipment of the man of God,

and fit him fully for all branches of his work.

God's Word equips God's children by supplying 'tools to do the job.'

On man wrote,

“I have read many books, but the Bible reads me.”

I. **The Scriptures equip us for life with the truth.**

...useful for teaching the faith... they give us tools for life

When Thomas Paine showed Benjamin Franklin the manuscript of *The Age of Reason*, Franklin advised him not to publish it, saying,
 “The world is bad enough with the Bible; what would it be without it?”

Ways to take in the Scriptures:

Reading

Studying

Memorizing

Meditating: “to ruminate, to chew the cud”

{Memorize, visualize (picture, conceptualize), personalize,
 Harmonize – worship}

How do we glean truth from the Scriptures?

First we read it then we seek to understand it.

Someone wrote,

“Those who spiritualize tell spiritual lies,
 because they lack spiritual eyes.”

Allegory – Dark Ages method of interpretation

Interpretation:

Historical/Grammatical

– takes into account words, in their historical and cultural context.

- **Inductive Bible Study** –

Observation: What does it say?

Questions: “Who? What? Where? Why? When? and How?”

1. Who is speaking? [God, apostle, angel, demon?]
2. To whom is he speaking? [Nation, men in general, an individual, or specific group such as the Gentiles or the Jews?]
3. What is the subject? [Commands, encouragements, warnings]
4. **What are some particulars or details?** [Note lists, Verbs, Names, topography, settings – in prison, on a boat, events – feasts, times, season of the year, particular road, or location, like the temple, or in a field, or on a mountain].

5. **Context.** Lineal, such as the flow of Scriptural context (Sermon on the Mount, what came before this context and how long of an interval)
6. **Grammar:** Meaning of the Greek or Hebrew, literally, then in context; then as it was commonly used in the day. Note ecclesia: Church.
 Lit. “- called out ones”
 Common use: “assembly” a gathering of some group or guild
 The assembly of believers “Whenever you assemble together...”
 “Do not forsake the assembling together as is the habit of some...”

Application: What does this say to me? Or to my situation?

This process is the correct approach to studying the Scriptures and is also difficult.

Paul wrote,

“Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

(1 Tim. 4:15-16)

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

(2 Tim. 2:15).

“to cut straight” – sawing straight, a farmer plowing a field straight...
 to rightly divide the word.

The Scriptures Equip us for life.

II. The Scriptures reprove us

...for reproof

confront us and help us to comply in our behavior

Swindoll writes of this word: Elegmos –

“...convinces us to behave differently by rebuking us, revealing areas that others may not see or that we prefer to ignore. The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to reveal the truth of sin or foolishness within.”¹

Jesus said,

“If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

(John 8:31-32)

Continue – meno – Abide -- Primarily a metaphor, “to remain connected”

– to remain” or stay in place,” often a reference to one’s home

“Where do you *stay*?”

In John 15 in reference to a branch that remains connected to the main grapevine. The theological concept of abiding in Jesus or His Word carries with it the significance of “positional truth” or “Identification” – being “in Christ.”

Truth – alathai – used three times here and is connected with “Word”

Know – ginosko – stresses understanding rather than sensory observation

Closely related to Heb. – Yada – “describes the most intimate kind of knowledge.”

Make you Free – Lit. “will free you” --

“made free suggests a release from indentured servanthood.”²

*If we live in the word, then we will know the truth,
and then His Word will give us freedom from that which enslaves us: sin.*

¹ Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll’s New Testament Insights (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus)*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010), p. 220.

² Charles R. Swindoll, *Swindoll’s New Testament Insights (Insights on John)*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010), p. 170.

The Scriptures equip us with truth; they reprove and rebuke us when we are wrong, and then they correct us, giving us new direction

III. The Scriptures Correct us

. for re-setting the direction of a man's life

Phillips version

Correction – It builds on **reproof** – It means 'restoration' or 'reformation'
When reproof reveals our sinfulness or foolishness, correction shows us how to straighten out what we're doing wrong.

Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal. 6:1-2)

The Psalmist wrote,

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

God's Word by the power of the Holy Spirit first reveals where we are wrong, Then how to change. Next it trains us by changing our character.

IV. The Scriptures train us in righteousness.

...and training him in good living.

Paideia – Eng. "Pedagogy"

Based on the idea of an instructor (pedagogue) assigned by the parents to train a child in manners, etiquette, protocol, - the correct way before mistakes are made.

Correction alone is like expecting a young person to learn to drive by looking in the rear-view mirror. This is a positive approach of **what to do beforehand**.

The Scriptures do not give us righteousness they train us to align our behavior so that it matches our new identity in Christ.

The scriptures are the comprehensive equipment of the man of God,

and fit him fully for all branches of his work.

Adequate/Equipped – expanded verb-form of the adjective rendered *adequate*

Not just mediocre ‘adequate,’ but an equipped and “**Qualified**”

“*an equipped one*” – [passive] – done by God to us.

We cannot simply have a casual friendship with the Word of God
and expect to live well and finish well.

“but be transformed by the renewing of your mind ... prove in practice...”

Rom. 12:2

Application:

1. “Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

(Col. 3:16)

“Let” means imperative – command.

“One another” means learning and growing together.

2. Own a study Bible to learn as you read. Be rich in Scripture knowledge!
3. Listen to expository preaching every chance you get.
 - a. Inductive Study Pastor’s are addicted to the process.

4. Preparation time to listen.

Be in prayer for your minister: Accurate exposition and relevant messages.

Be in prayer for yourself that you would be a hearer and diligent doer of the Word.

Come early to seek the Lord in prayer before the service starts. (15 minutes recommend) to quiet your hearts from the busy world outside.

During the message be sure to be attentive by turning off and putting away cell phones (unless your Bible is loaded.) Texting is distracting to others and the minister.

Treat church as a greater privilege and responsibility than any job, date, school classroom, or theatre setting.

Ask God to speak to your heart, along with the hearts of those around you.