

2 Timothy 3:1-17 NLT Paul wanted Timothy to be aware of final times and encourages Timothy to not give up the call no matter how hard it gets.

Verse 14-15 *You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

There is a difference between knowledge and convincing. Knowledge without conviction is useless. Timothy has learned and been convinced mainly because of relationships. **2 Timothy 1:5** *For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelled in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.* We should not neglect the value we can have on a person's life simply by living our faith in the open, especially to young people. But when our words don't match our actions, then knowledge is produced without conviction. Timothy had faith lived out in front of him by his mother, grandmother, and others.

Paul is referring to the Old Testament as sacred writings. The Old Testament points to Jesus, what He was and what He was to become. Timothy is seeing the fulfillment of these prophecies of the OT.

Verse 16-17 *All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.*

The Validity of Scripture. Inspired means that God breathed out these words. The Bible was written by fallible men and some point out the inconsistencies of scripture. If you can accept the fact of Genesis 1:1, that God created the heavens and the earth, then you can also see that God could write a book. It is the most remarkable book. If we claim the conflicts in it and say that it is flawed then we have become a judge of scripture - meaning we are greater than scripture and we undo the authority of scripture.

This book...

- 66 books compiled
- 40 different authors
- written over a period of 1600 years
- the most printed and distributed book in the history of mankind
- translated into 2587 different dialects and languages

Jesus gives validity to scripture as He quotes scripture...

- When Satan challenged Him at the beginning of His ministry.
- **Mark 12:36** *David himself said in the Holy Spirit, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Until I put Your enemies under Your feet."' Jesus is saying that the words of David were given by the Holy Spirit.*

- **Matthew 19:3-5** *Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"*
- **Matthew 24:37-39** *For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.*
- **Matthew 5:17** *"Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke of a letter shall pass from the Law, until all is accomplished!"* Jesus takes the totality of the Old Testament and says it will all be fulfilled.
- **John 12:49-50** *For I did not speak on My own, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.*
- Jesus' own words claimed His words were from the Father.
- The Word has at least 300 messianic prophecies in the OT with the odds being astronomical for even one to be fulfilled.

The Purpose of Scripture. 2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and beneficial for teaching, for rebuke, for correction, for training in righteousness.* Yes, scripture is profitable to reveal, correct, get us back, and keep us there. Scripture is inspired and it is profitable for...

- Teaching - Scripture lays out the path for us, giving answers to our questions
- Reproof - Scripture show us where we get off God's path. **Proverbs 19:3** *The foolishness of a person ruins his way, and his heart rages against the Lord.*
- Correction - Scripture teaches us to get back on the path and how to get right with God, with others, and the conflict inside each of us. Scripture restores us to the right relationship with God and His path for us. It teaches how to overcome, how to break off harmful relationships, how to walk away from those who are destroying our faith.
- Training - Scripture teaches us to stay on the path and to continue in our progress. It trains us in all areas of life.

The Result of Scripture. Verse 17 *so that the man or woman of God may be fully capable, equipped for every good work.* If we adhere to what Scripture says, hold it up as vital to our lives, treasure it, and submit to it, then we become adequate. Adequate means complete and whole and then equipped for every good work. Charles Spurgeon says, "A Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to a person that isn't." Stand on truth. We cannot experience the results of God's Word if we don't realize its purpose. We cannot realize its purpose if we refuse to accept its validity. Begin with the validity of scripture.

Where does God's Word run against your own desires?

How are you using scripture to grow in righteousness?

How are you using scripture to be equipped for every good work?

How did you come to realize the validity of scripture?