

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

God's Word Is Profitable

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Keywords: Bible, Word of God, Scripture, Inspiration, Authority, Spiritual Growth
PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE
SermonAudio Blurb:

- I. Introduction.
 - A. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
 1. Structure:
 - a. Two descriptions about the bible: inspired and profitable.
 - b. Two purposes: We might be complete and equipped.
 2. Last week I drove home the point that the bible describes itself as "God breathed."
 - a. We learned about autopistic and axiopistic approach to understanding the inspiration of the bible.
 - b. I challenged you to consider how you view yourself in relation to the bible. With a post-modern approach we set ourselves above the Word and treat it as a relativistic document rather than propositional truth that requires a proper response to it.
 - (1) In other words, how we feel about what the Word says means little.
 - (2) What matters is what the Word says because it is truth. So it is important that what we know rather than what we feel.
 3. Finally I walked you through several reasonable conclusions that we should embrace if we believe the bible is truly God breathed.
 - B. This lead to the second description that we will examine together is the profitability of the Word of God.
 1. The question last week was, "Do I believe the bible is God-breathed?" And if so, how then does my life express that fact?

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2. Now the question is, “Do I believe that the bible is truly profitable for me?” And if so, in what way?
 3. I cannot make you believe it is profitable.
 - a. But our passage tells us why it is profitable.
 - b. And I will argue that you will show that it is profitable by how or when you use it. In other words, you display confidence and conviction that the Word of God is profitable if you use it to teach, to reprove, to correction and to train.
 - C. The idea of its profitability should be obvious simply because it is God-breathed.
- II. The Profitable Word (16).
- A. Teaching.
1. Speaks to two aspects, the act of instruction and the development of doctrine.
 2. 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus are filled with references to teaching and doctrine.
 - a. Paul just told Timothy how he followed Paul's teaching.
 - b. There are the teachings of demons and they are anything opposed to the teaching of God our Savior (Titus 2:10).
 - c. Sound teaching (1 Timothy 1:10; 2 Timothy 4:3).
 - d. And doctrine that conforms to godliness (1 Timothy 6:3).
 3. When we consider what we are to teach ourselves and others it must begin and end with the Word.
 - a. The question is what areas of our life does the Word teach us? And answer is wherever the Word intersects with our life.
 - b. Obviously certain jobs would need to be abandoned once one became a Christian. Priest in a pagan temple, prostitution, drug dealing are obvious ones.

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- c. Such as open heart surgeon. Though it will not instruct you in the process of surgery it does direct you to so many aspects of your work that are easily lost.
 - (1) The purpose is to bring glory to God.
 - (2) That in a small way you are showing a rebellion against the effects of sin upon humanity.
 - (3) To work hard and faithfully before your Lord.
 - (4) To gain wealth for the purpose of being generous to those in need.
 - (5) To give an practical expression of the mercy that has been shown to you because of the gospel.
 - (6) To express the intrinsic value of humanity as the image of God by seeking to extend life.
 - (7) The list could go on.
- 4. The point to take here is that God gave us the bible so that it becomes the foundation upon which to build our life.
- 5. The challenge then is to come as a student to the bible and learn from it.
 - a. Again I make this point, we either come with a heart of submission or we don't.
 - b. Do not be foolish and come to use the bible for your agenda and your purposes.
 - c. If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. (1 Timothy 6:3-5)

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6. As we learn it then we in turn instruct others. Think 2 Timothy 2:2.
 7. One of the saddest things to watch is a household where the Word of God is simply not known well. It is like a ship without a rudder.
 8. Ephesians 4:11-15.
- B. Reproof.
1. This is probably the least popular of this list of things. But it is also one of the most needed.
 2. The bible serves not only as a means to build one up, but also as something that will tear down what needs to be torn down.
 3. Illustration of demolition before remodel.
 4. The bible is filled with examples of rebuke.
 - a. Genesis 3.
 - b. Genesis 11.
 - c. Exodus is filled with rebuke after rebuke.
 - d. We find the rebuke against King Saul, David and Rehoboam.
 - e. Jesus rebukes the disciples, the Pharisees and the Sadducees.
 - f. Peter, James, Paul all had to rebuke. You simply cannot escape it.
 5. The challenge is to have the right to rebuke and to have the correct rebuke.
 - a. This speaks to the character of the one who rebukes, having the right to rebuke.
 - b. And to the biblical education of the one who rebukes, knowing the Word of God well enough to use it wisely.
 - c. Timothy is commanded to be always ready and willing to do many things, one of which is rebuke (2 Timothy 4).

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- d. It is not fun and it can be very intimidating. But it is a necessary part of the Christian life.
 - e. A mature Christian is marked by the ability to receive a rebuke and obviously a fool is known by the opposite.
 - (1) A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding Than a hundred blows into a fool. (Pro 17:10)
 - (2) Strike a scoffer and the naive may become shrewd, But reprove one who has understanding and he will gain knowledge. (Proverbs 19:25)
 - 6. One of the things that happens as you privately read and consider the Word is the rebuking ministry of the Spirit Himself.
 - a. Your life is laid bare.
 - b. You realize that one thing or another is not right and you begin the process of confession and repentance.
 - 7. The Word of God is the tool God uses to break us down. And it is a wise person who patiently endures that breaking.
- C. Correction.
- 1. Once you are broken you then can be fixed and that is what is behind the term “correction.”
 - 2. It is a good thing to be broken but it is not a good thing to remain broken. Anyone who has had a bone broken understands this (think Bekah).
 - 3. Let me put three passages together to help make this point.
 - a. And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ (Colossians 1:28).
 - b. 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. (Colossians 3:16)

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c. Paul, speaking to the elders of the Ephesian church : "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (Acts 20:32)

4. Think of what we have just considered together: the Word of God is given by God to teach us; then as it is taught we are rebuked and broken before our Lord; then it takes what is broken and sets it into its proper place so that it can heal and grow.

5. And it is that very last part that then we see. . . .

D. Training.

1. The Word of God is profitable for training in the realm of righteousness.

2. Titus 2:11-12.

3. Notice it is "in righteousness" It is the type of training that leads us in righteousness, meaning it is God's way to bring us into maturity.

a. The word for training, paideia, is used to speak of the teaching and training of a child into adulthood.

b. Speaks of a father's discipline both of a human father or God our father (Hebrews 12:5-11 turn and note the chastening aspect).

4. To be trained implies that we do what I keep on saying that we must do, we submit ourselves to the Word.

a. I can do many things with a person who is willing to hear the Word, allow the Word to shine into their life, allow it to rebuke and correct them. These are the fun types of people to teach.

b. But, give me a person who fights under the yoke of the Word, who rationalizes and excuses. And I can only let them go and receive the fruit of their folly and then try it again.

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- c. The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth. I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth (3 John 1:1-4)

III. The goal of the profitable Word (17).

A. Make us complete.

1. God's Word is the primary means by which He fits us to carry out His will which means that to the degree we are ignorant of it we are not properly carrying out that will.
2. Here he directs it to the "man of God" which is a Old Testament term for one uniquely used of God, usually a prophet. But it certainly expands easily to encompass all who love Jesus and trust in Him as their Lord.
3. "Adequate."
 - a. Not exciting term but it is a good one.
 - b. We in America think too often in superlatives and this is not always helpful.
 - (1) superlative means something of the highest kind.
 - (2) The greatest. The strongest. The fastest.
 - (3) Who wants to be an adequate runner?
 - (4) But what it means is that your ability in running is sufficient.
 - c. Here is my point. Can you be content with being adequate. The Word of God has worked in such a way in your life that you are fully formed.
 - d. God is not calling us to some American ideal of greatness. Jesus is our champion. He is calling us to rest in the finished work of Jesus and then walk in His Word.

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- e. One of the very disturbing trend I see was the rise of the rock star preacher. Very disturbing.
 - f. We are called to be men and women who submit themselves to the bible, allow it to work in us as we cooperate with it until we are made complete.
- B. Make us equipped for every good work.
- 1. That word “every” is pretty all-encompassing.
 - 2. Consider Titus 2:2-15 (all people) are to be ready for every good deed (3:1). Good works apply into all avenues of life.
 - 3. It is a good work when it flows out of a conviction of the truth of the Word and the faithful application of the Word in life's situations.
 - 4. We are to be a people who do good in this world. To one another, to those who do not know Christ and even to those who do us harm.
 - 5. Goodness is to drip from our lips and hands.
- IV. Conclusion.
- A. Consider how much of your life is conformed and defined by the Word of God. When you instruct yourself, your wife, your children, your friends, is it driven by the Bible?
 - B. When you judge your maturity, or the maturity of others, is it by the way that you, or they, are conformed to the bible?
 - C. Fathers let me speak to you—one quality that I find consistent with fathers is a burden to feed and provide for their wife and children. May I challenge you to take that same burden and feed your family well with the Word of God.

Small Group Questions

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- Pick various positions/jobs and then brainstorm on how the Word of God informs/teaches us on how to do them.
- Describe a time that the Word of God rebuked and broke you and then how it turned around and corrected you.
- How do you help each other resist the temptation to pursue greatness rather than being complete/mature?