

“Better Than Google: Where to Find What You Need for the Challenges of Life”

November 12, 2107

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV)

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

I. Where To Look for the Answers You Need to the Questions You Have

A. Recent Events Raise Questions

1. Violence against Churches
 - a. The conversation about church security
 - (1) Should a church follow the advice of the world about protecting itself?
 - (2) What values does the church follow when considering questions of safety?
 - b. Where can we go to find the answer we need?
2. Other Questions
 - a. How can I raise my children to know and love Christ in an increasingly secular world?
 - b. What can I do to divorce proof my marriage?
 - c. What do I say when someone informs me God has given them instructions for me that He has not yet given me?
 - d. What can I do when my job becomes just a job?
 - e. How do I handle the growing marginalization forced on me and the church as the culture I live in rejects the gospel and the claims of Christ that I live by?

B. The warning for Hezekiah

1. Hezekiah's temptation when threatened by Assyria
 - a. 701 BC
 - b. Assyria threatening the destruction of Judah and Jerusalem
 - (1) Egypt has horses
 - (2) Judah has only the LORD
 - (3) Judah plans to make an alliance with Egypt for protection and refuses to consider the role God might have in their lives
2. The warning of the LORD through Isaiah
 - a. **Isaiah 30:1-2 (ESV)** ¹ *“Ah, stubborn children,” declares the LORD, “who carry out a plan, but not mine, and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin; ² who set out to go down to Egypt, without asking for my direction, to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!*
 - b. **Isaiah 31:1-3 (ESV)** ¹ *Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the LORD! ² And yet he is wise and brings disaster; he does not call back his words, but will arise against the house of the evildoers and against the helpers of those who work iniquity. ³ The Egyptians are man, and not God, and their horses are flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD stretches out his hand, the helper will stumble,*

and he who is helped will fall, and they will all perish together.

3. If not Egypt, then where?

II. The sufficiency of God's word for the challenges of the day

A. The sufficiency of the Bible

1. **The Bible, God's word, God's own written self-revelation, provides, through direct assertion or derived principle, everything the believer requires to live a faithful, holy, God-glorifying life.**

2. Four Supporting Facts for the Sufficiency of Scripture

B. Four Facts from 2 Timothy 3:15-17

1. The Scriptures are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

a. This is the real need of every human being and must take priority in speaking of the sufficiency of Scripture

(1) While we may experience need for wisdom or comfort in the moment, our need for salvation has eternal significance

(2) The Scriptures (then just the OT but now both) are able to show you the way to salvation through faith in Christ

b. The need and the sufficiency

(1) All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

(2) All are subject to God's justice and wrath on account of sin

(3) None are able to save themselves or deliver themselves from justice

(4) God came and took on flesh, he became the man Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man to die on the cross for our sin

(5) God lays on Christ the sin of all those whom God chooses for salvation

(6) God, acting solely in grace and for His own glory, saves those who put their faith in Christ for salvation from sin.

c. The truth laid out in Scripture is sufficient to make us wise for salvation, but that is not all it is sufficient for!

(1) Many Christians today demonstrate through their choices and their actions that though they name the name of Christ they have no real faith that God will act on behalf of His glory and their joy in their lives

(2) They live dependent on the world and the world's resources and the world's ways giving little or no thought to God and His ways when they have to make choices, thinking the Bible speaks only to spiritual matters and not all of life.

(3) But they are wrong!

2. The Scriptures are "breathed out by God"

a. Adam: "became a living being"

b. God gives life to His word and through His word and thus His word reflects God's own credibility

(1) What we say about God we can say about His word

(a) God is true

(b) God is powerful

(c) God is reliable

(d) God is sufficient

(2) God's word reflects the character of God Himself

3. The Scriptures are "profitable"

- a. Word used 4 times in NT
- b. Used by Paul in letters to Timothy and Titus
 - (1) **1 Timothy 4:8 (ESV)** ⁸ *for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.*
 - (2) **2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)** ¹⁶ *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,*
 - (3) **Titus 3:8 (ESV)** ⁸ *The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.*
- c. Paul asserts, inspired by God Himself, that God's word is advantageous not only for the life to come, but for this life as well.
- 4. The Scriptures complete us equipping us for every good work.
 - a. **Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)** ¹⁰ *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*
 - b. How it works
 - (1) The Spirit enables and enacts
 - (a) **Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV)** ¹² *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*
 - (2) The Scripture informs and directs (2 Tim 3:17)

III. Final Word

A. The Bible is sufficient

- 1. Every ounce of wisdom you need to live successfully for the glory of God and the fullness of joy in these days is readily available for you in God's word
- 2. Every truth that confronts and dispels the lies of the enemy is laid out for you in God's
- 3. Every encouragement, every empowering, every directive and guide the challenges of life in this world require is already provided for you in God's word

B. You just have to look for it.

- 1. Like shopping: take what's easy or look for the deal
- 2. Systematic, habitual reading and studying God's word increases familiarity and ease of use.
 - a. Just as God has provided all we need for salvation in Christ
 - b. God has provided all we need for life in His word
 - c. **Do not neglect God or God's word in the course of life.**