

2 Timothy 3:14-17
October, 2021
Good Shepherd, Beaver Dam, WI

Who made the universe? Why is there so much suffering in the world? What happens when a person dies? What is "sin?" How can a person get to heaven? Who is Jesus Christ?

These are important questions. Without the Bible we wouldn't know the answers. That is why it is so important to read Scripture, to know what is written here, and to believe the truth found here.

In our text, Paul encouraged a young pastor, Timothy, to continue in the truth of God's Word as he had been taught by his grandmother and mother, and later on by Paul. The Church still needs parents, teachers, and pastors who are models of faithfulness to God to the generation that follows. **We must know the Scriptures!** Why? As Paul said, The Scriptures are able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. If the Scriptures are not known, the lies of Satan will be known and believed rather than the truth of God. Today God urges us to **Remain faithful to God's Word**.

The Bible is the best-selling book of all time. It has been translated into most of the languages of the world. The Bible is different from all other books. The Bible is God's love letter to a sinful world.

The Bible did not just drop down to us from the sky. God used human beings as the writers of His love letter to us. Scripture is given to us by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Old and New Testament, in the original languages, is the Word of God. Every word the writers wrote, the Holy Spirit inspired. Isaiah's words are God's words. Matthew's words are God's words. Paul's words are God's words. John's words in Revelation are God's words.

In God's Word there is law and gospel. The Law shows us our sin; the gospel shows us our Savior. Both law and gospel are God's words, written by human beings who were inspired to write those words by the Holy Spirit.

Why did God give us His Word? I will let St. John answer that: These words are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in His name.

There are some things we should remember about Scripture:

- No one has the right to add anything to God's Word.
- No one has the right to subtract anything from God's Word.
- No one has the right to change the meaning of God's Word.
- There is no authority greater than God's Word.
- We should not give our interpretation to God's Word; the Holy Spirit interprets Scripture!
- God's Word is so clear that even a little child can understand the basics of Jesus and His love.
- There is excitement in reading Scripture. Psalm 119:18 says, Open my eyes and I will see wonderful things in what You teach.

Have you ever thanked God for giving us the Scriptures? We should! Everything we need to know about faith and life is right here: the Bible tells us we are sinful, we can't get to God on our own, God sent His Son to be our Savior, Jesus paid the debt of our sin, we are forgiven, Jesus is the only way to heaven!

What a terrible thing it would be if something or someone confused the beauty of the gospel of Jesus! If that happened, the truth of Scripture would be changed in ways that could destroy the way of salvation. If the way to salvation was confused and Jesus' work destroyed by human thoughts and false writings that crept into Scripture, the beauty of salvation through the work of Jesus could be changed into the ugly lies of Satan and would destroy souls. Remain faithful to God's Word!

Satan is always trying to spread lies that confuse the beauty of God's gospel. About 500 years ago the church of that day was teaching error and mixing it with truth. The church taught that you could buy your way into heaven. It taught that the Bible could not be read by common people on penalty of death. That church taught that if people believed that they were saved only by God's grace they were damned to hell.

God sent a monk of the Roman Church who, after studying Scripture, said the church was wrong and God's Word was right. Martin Luther read the Truth, spoke that Truth, and preached the Truth of God's Word. It was not Luther who turned the religious world upside down, it was God's Word. Luther said, I did nothing. While I slept or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends, the Word greatly weakened the papacy. I did nothing. I let the Word do the work. We only spread the Word and let the Word do the work. The Word did everything! Thank God that He has given us the clear truth in Scripture that Jesus is our only Savior!

- May we always believe the gospel and proclaim it to others.
- May God bless us with a stronger faith and greater knowledge as we read His Word.

1116

Paul when he wrote to Timothy said that the Scriptures are useful. For what are they useful?

- The Scriptures are useful for teaching. Parents, pastors, teachers, Christians can know the basics of teachings that deal with Jesus and our salvation.
- The Scriptures are useful for rebuking, that is to convince someone of sin. What is sin? Sin is doing, or speaking or thinking anything contrary to what God's Word says. God determines what is right and what is wrong.
- The Scriptures are useful for correcting, that is bringing back those who have fallen away. The law convicts, but to restore the sinner, the gospel is necessary. Only God's Word has the gospel that leads us to Christ Jesus!
- Scripture is also useful for training in righteousness. Children need to be disciplined and corrected, guided and encouraged if they are to grow into useful citizens. Every Christian needs ongoing training in God's Truth to grow in faith in this world of sin. Scripture is useful because it reveals God's grace that brings salvation.

God has given parents, pastors, teachers, and Christians His holy, inspired, and powerful Word. Having this Word means that we have everything we need to carry God's saving message to the world!

- The Bible is God's inspired, true and powerful Word.
- May we hold on to the treasures we find in the Bible and pass them on to the next generation.