

2nd Timothy Chapter 3 -- John Karmelich

1. I believe one of America's greatest contributions to Christianity is the expression:
 - a) "Put your money where your mouth is!"
 - i) What that expression means is that if you make a statement, and you mean it, put your money behind it.
 - ii) Let's say a golfer says to his playing buddy, "I know I can make that 30-foot putt".
 - iii) The buddy then says, "If you're that sure, put your money where your mouth is."
 - b) I am fond of that expression is that it separates the true Christian from the imposter.
 - i) There are multitudes of people who "claim" to be a Christian.
 - ii) The difference is between the "true and false" believer is you don't see any change in the behavior of those who claim they are Christians.
 - c) There was a popular bunker sticker some time back that said, "Honk if you love Jesus".
 - i) Personally, I preferred the one that said, "Real men tithe their income for Jesus, because any idiot can honk!".
 - ii) That is an example of your belief in Jesus changing your behavior.
2. This concept is what Paul is going to focus on in Chapter 3: That is the idea of separating the true believer from the false-believer.
 - a) The chapter only has 17 verses:
 - i) The first nine focus on the negative aspects of the false-believer.
 - ii) The last eight focus on characteristics to strive for as a true believer.
 - b) As a believer in Christ, we are actually "saved" three different times:
 - i) The first is when we first declared our allegiance to Christ and acknowledged Him as payment for our sins. That is when we became born-again.
 - a) At that point our salvation is guaranteed as long as we continue to believe those facts. (That's a good balance between "pre-destiny" & "free will".☺)
 - ii) The second is we grow in maturity as believers. During our lifetime here on earth, we seek God through prayer, through time with other believers and through saturation in his Word to grow and mature us as believers.
 - a) Paul said, "continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12b, NIV)
 - iii) The third is at our death we get "glorified" bodies for eternal salvation.
 - a) "For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality." (1st Corinthians 15:52b-53, NIV).
3. As part of the preparation for this summary, I heard another good summary of the Christian life:
 - a) We are to: 1) worship God; 2) love people; and 3) use things.
 - b) We get into trouble when we ignore #1 and worship people or love other things.
 - i) When we worship people, including ourselves (e.g., fame, ego, etc.) is where we get on the wrong path.
 - ii) When we worship things is a type of idolatry.
 - iii) "Worshipping things" does not necessarily mean bowing down before, say your car. The idea is to be given-over to them. The "thing(s)" becomes the all-consuming priority for your life.
 - iv) Everybody worships *something*. To find out what somebody's "something" is, look where they spend their free time and look where they spend their disposable income. You will find a person's "god".
 - a) By the way, I'm not "anti-hobby". The simple test is "If God asks you to give up that hobby or interest tomorrow, could you, or would you do it?"

4. Let's get started with Verse 1: But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.
- a) The term "last days" is a whole topic unto itself.
 - b) In the Old Testament, the "last days" usually refers to the end-times right before the second coming of Jesus.
 - c) In the New Testament, the "last days" refers to the whole time era between the time the Christian church was first formed until the time Jesus comes back for his church.
 - d) So the logical question is, how could the "last days" be a 2,000+ year period of time?
 - i) I believed Paul lived his life as if the 2nd coming of Jesus was eminent.
 - ii) I believe every believer should live his life as if the 2nd coming was eminent.
 - a) Why is that? It keeps our focus on God.
 - (1) Jesus said, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." (Matthew 25:10, NKJV).
 - (a) "Watch" is a command!
 - (b) It is what Jesus commanded us to do:
 - b) Getting on my pre-tribulation rapture soapbox for a second ☺, those who believe Jesus does not come until after the 7-year tribulation can't believe Jesus can come back at any moment because that view (the post-tribulation view) has the prerequisite that the Antichrist comes first.
 - (1) Personally I would rather live my life on the hope that Jesus' return is eminent versus the concept of looking for the Antichrist first.
 - e) Getting back to 2nd Timothy, Paul is saying that prior to Jesus return "terrible" times will come. The actual Greek work is better translated "violent" times or "turbulent" times, as if war conditions existed.
 - f) The debate question is, "Is Paul saying that this condition will exist for the next 2,000+ years or does he mean to watch out that it will exist right before whenever Jesus returns?
 - i) Personally, my view is that it refers to the whole 2,000+ year period of time.
 - a) Other commentators believe it means that this condition will exist just prior to the return of Jesus.
 - b) My view is that through the ear of church history, these conditions that Paul has laid out exist more than they did prior to Jesus' first coming.
 - ii) Consider the context of this verse within this whole letter to Timothy.
 - a) The purpose of the letter is to teach Timothy how to be a good pastor.
 - b) The letter focuses on how to conduct worship service, who to let be part of the church, the qualifications for church membership and leadership and a lot of verses deal with false teachers.
 - c) In context of that statement, I believe that is what Paul is teaching here.
 - d) From Paul's perspective, now that believing in Jesus brings salvation, Satan's plan is now to prevent or slow down Christian church growth.
 - (1) One of his methods is to allow false believers and false teachers to be "around" true believers.
 - (2) The goal is to make the true believers "bad witnesses" for Jesus.
 - (3) Given that reality, Paul is going to teach Timothy what to watch out for *in* the Christian church.
5. Verse 2: People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.
- a) Yeah Paul, but how do you really feel about these people? ☺
 - i) Sorry I couldn't resist doing that. ☺

- b) I'm going to take these four verses on a verse-by-verse basis. First I wanted to give you a flavor of the whole sentence and the tone of the message.
6. Verse 2 (again): People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,
- a) First of all, remember the context of these verses.
 - b) Paul is not talking about pagans or people who simply don't believe in Jesus; the focus is on those who "claim" to be believers in Jesus.
 - i) How do I know this?
 - a) Verse 5 says, "having a form of godliness but denying its power."
 - (1) This is a reference to those who "think" they are Christians.
 - b) Also, Verse 8 compares these people to Pharaoh's magicians in Egypt during the time of Moses. Those magicians did acknowledge the existence of God, but choose to serve Satan through his powers.
 - (1) We'll talk more about that when we get to Verse 8.
 - c) Why is Paul teaching all of this?
 - i) Notice the last phrase of Verse 5: "Have nothing to do with them."
 - a) Paul is teaching Timothy and us:
 - (1) The personality traits of this type of person so we can avoid them!
 - (2) That is another reason why I believe Paul is talking about those who "claim" they are Christians. It refers to those attending church service, but aren't part of the church.
 - d) With that stated, let's take a look at their characteristics:
 - i) "Lovers of themselves" – This is a good summary statement of all these characteristics.
 - a) It describes putting one's interest above God's interest.
 - b) The first characteristic of this false-believer is a big ego. Their pride prevents them from seeing the wrong of any action.
 - c) Remember my 3 principles of the Christian life: 1) worship God; 2) love people; and 3) use things.
 - (1) "Loving People" in the biblical idea of "love". It is the giving of oneself for others. It is through God's strength that we can have this ability to love others.
 - (2) This false-believer focuses on his or her needs before others' needs.
 - ii) "Lovers of money" is a natural outflow of those who are "lovers of themselves".
 - a) In order to satisfy their personal needs, they need money as a resource.
 - b) Money itself is not an evil. The love of money is quoted by Paul as being the root of all evil. (See 1st Timothy 6:10)
 - c) Remember that we're addressing "church-goer's". An example would be those who refuse to give their income to the church out of a love of money. This gets back to my opening premise of "putting your money where your mouth is".
 - iii) "Boastful" is the idea of loving to brag about oneself and one's accomplishments.
 - a) If one has an idolatrous love of oneself, they want to brag about it.
 - b) I have a personal disdain for fundraisers where they glorify the big-check givers. There are churches where round-of-applauses are given for those who write the big checks. My response is "enjoy it, it is the only reward you will get for that service. (See Matthew 6:2)
 - iv) "Proud" is also translated arrogant. It is another word for thinking more of oneself than of others.

- v) “Abusive” – can be either physically or verbally abusive to others.
 - a) If one desires to put themselves first, that person would get angry and abusive in a church setting where others are trying to glorify God.
 - b) I knew of a church elder who was abusive to the pastor because she was a major donor to that church. The good-news epilogue of that story is the woman ended up leaving the church, all for the better of that group.
- vi) “Disobedient to their parents”. This is self-explanatory.
 - a) It is a violation of one of the 10 commandments to “honor your parents”.
 - b) I talked a lot on this back in my lesson on 1st Timothy Chapter 5 where the church should not be burdened with taking care of widows who have supportive children. I covered the importance of believing adults taking the responsibility of supporting the parents.
- vii) “Ungrateful” goes with a big ego. It is the idea one *deserves* something and therefore should not be grateful for it.
- viii) “Unholy” – I should begin by explaining what is “holy”
 - a) The concept of holy is to “separate” oneself for use to God.
 - b) It doesn’t mean every Christian has to quit their job and go into professional ministry. It is the idea of whatever we do, we do it for God.
 - (1) Paul said, “For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. (Romans 14: 7-8, NIV).
 - c) Anyway, “unholy” is the opposite of that. ☺
 - (1) It is being in service for God and not for one’s own desires.
- ix) The good news is we made it to verse 3. The bad news is this list continues. ☺

7. Verse 3: without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good,

- a) “Without love” – Remember that this letter is written to believers.
 - i) How do people know we are believers?
 - a) “If we love other Christians, it proves that we have been delivered from hell and given eternal life. But a person who doesn’t have love for others is headed for eternal death.” (1st John 3:14, The Living Bible)
- b) “Unforgiving” – Part of being a Christian is we must forgive others.
 - i) Jesus said, “But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” (Matthew 6:15, NIV).
 - a) By the way, I don’t think that’s a salvation issue as much as a witness issue.
 - b) Part of the reason for this is for our own peace. Being unforgiving blocks our relationship with God as we are focusing on the pain of being hurt.
 - c) There are situations where I have given that “hurt” to God and let Him deal with the situation. I believe that is a big part of the forgiveness.
- c) “Slanderous” – This is about making false accusations. A synonym is a “gossiper”.
 - i) For what it is worth, I’ve personally seen more damage done to church members by this act than any other so far on the list. All it takes is one good false rumor to do horrible damage to someone’s reputation.
- d) “Without self-control” - Christianity does involve self-discipline.
 - i) I’ve lectured on this many times.
 - ii) There is the danger as a Christian of being dependant upon one’s self-discipline.
 - a) There is also the danger of not having any self-discipline whatsoever.
 - iii) In context of the “false believer”, since the priority is themselves, they follow whatever “whim” pops in their head. I believe that is what Paul meant here by a lack of self-discipline.
- e) “Brutal” – The Living Bible says, “rough and cruel”, which I think is a good synonym.

- i) As Christians, we need to be good “ambassadors” for Christ.
 - a) That often means handling difficult situations delicately.
 - (1) Jesus said, “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16 NIV)
 - (2) The idea is to be smart (“shrewd as snakes”), but act cautiously and delicately (“innocent as doves”).
 - (3) The opposite is one who acts brutally.
 - f) “Not lovers of the good” – An illustration of Jesus is appropriate here:
 - i) I believe Paul is focusing on the love of a material thing more than a love of God.
 - ii) Someone once asked Jesus, “Good teacher,” he asked, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good--except God alone.” (Mark 10-17-18, NIV)
 - a) Many misinterpret this verse by saying Jesus is claiming He’s not God.
 - b) The true point of Jesus’ response is that He is testing the man who asked the question to see if he was really willing to be Jesus’ disciple.
 - c) By Verse 21, you discover the man loved money more than God and was not willing to give that up to be Jesus’ disciple.
 - d) That is the concept being taught here. The idea of loving “things” more than loving God.
8. Ok folks, we made it to Verse 4. ☺
- a) If you haven’t figured it out by now, the reason I’m going detail by detail is that I want this lesson to be a self-examination report card (for me as well as you!).
 - b) Part of our maturity as a Christian is a good healthy self-examination every know & then.
 - c) My motivation is not so much to make us feel guilty as much as to improve our relationship with God.
9. Verse 4: treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.
- a) Treacherous - Other translations say “treasonous” or betrayer of friends.
 - i) This is similar to the idea of a church-going rumor-spreader.
 - ii) If one’s complete loyalty isn’t to God, then this will likely to occur.
 - iii) There is a psalm reference where David was betrayed by a close friend:
 - a) Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. (Psalm 41:9 NIV)
 - iv) The point is simply that the “Non-Christian-churchgoer” is not trustable.
 - a) If they don’t have a healthy fear-of-God, they won’t hesitate to betray someone else in the church.
 - b) “Rash” – I think of quick tempered. This is pretty self-explanatory.
 - i) One of the common traits used to describe God-the-Father” in the Old Testament is “slow-to-anger”. I counted 9 times where it is used in the Bible to describe God.
 - ii) If “Godliness” is being like-God, then it should be an attribute for us to shoot for.
 - c) “Conceited” – This is saying they have a big ego. There is not much more to add to that.
 - d) “Having a form of godliness but denying its power” – Here is the Living Bible translation:
 - i) “They will go to church, yes, but they won’t really believe anything they hear.”
 - a) This verse is my support that this whole section is about those who “think” they are Christians, but are not.
 - e) Paul concludes this list by saying, “Have nothing to do with them.”
 - i) Remember that the main topic of both letters to Timothy is his conduct as a church leader and how to conduct church affairs. A lot of this letter is warnings about what to avoid false teachers and false-believers.
 - ii) This half a verse has powerful implications: “Have nothing to do with them.”
 - a) Does it mean we are not to witness to everybody?

- b) Does it mean we are to outcast these types of people?
 - (1) The appropriate answer depends on how obvious the problem is.
 - (2) If a person just comes every Sunday and is not involved, you can still preach & teach to them as part of the audience.
 - (3) But if this person is causing division and harm in the church as indicated by these traits, then out they go!
 - (4) Getting on my soapbox, I find many churches are too soft on this issue. By wanting to “love and forgive everybody”, we turn a blind eye to troublemakers in order to be a good witness to them.
 - (a) One has to think of the good of the greater church versus that one person.
- 10. Verse 6: They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires,
 - a) Through most of history, through most civilizations, women have stayed home to raise children while men have worked.
 - b) This verse implies that these false-church goers take advantage of that act and seek to sway those women who are weak in the faith.
 - i) They seek after women who have a lot of guilt of sin, but don’t understand that God is willing to forgive them of all of their sins.
 - c) I don’t think this verse is talking about Mormon’s and Jehovah Witness’ who walk door to door during the daytime. The Bible says a lot about those types of false teachers, but I don’t believe that’s the context of this verse.
 - i) The subject here is “fake-Christians-who-still-go-to-church”, not cult members.
 - ii) Are you familiar with the expression “misery loves company”?
 - a) This describes the action here. People who desire attention and want to be loved crave others to follow them and join them.
 - b) Thus the desire to seek others to join their actions.
- 11. Verse 7: always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.
 - a) If you want to hear “wisdom” or advice contrary to the Bible, it is out there.
 - i) You find bookstores, TV shows and talk radio full of such advice.
 - b) In context of these false-believers, since their ego is not interested in serving God, but in serving themselves, there is a “learning need” particularly about things pleasing their ego.
- 12. Verse 8: Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth--men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.
 - a) OK, first question, who are these Jannes and Jambres characters?
 - i) If you remember the story of Moses facing the Pharaoh of Egypt, you will remember that the first few plagues performed by God through Moses were “duplicated” by the Pharaoh’s magicians. (See Exodus Chapters 7-8).
 - a) I found it interesting these magicians couldn’t stop the plagues performed by Moses, only duplicated it. It supports my theory that demonic power is used to “cause” damage, not “cure” damage.
 - b) Because they duplicated the plagues, the Pharaoh didn’t repent because he thought, “if my guys could do this, it is just some sort of trick”.
 - ii) It wasn’t until the 4th plague, which was “lice-everywhere” where Pharaoh’s magicians made the statement, “This is the finger of God” (Exodus 8:19)
 - b) The point is these guys acknowledged who God was, but didn’t follow Him!
 - i) Demons in hell are quite aware who and what God is, but choose to disobey.
 - c) Getting back to the false-church attendees, Paul’s point is that they know what is the right thing to do, but won’t do it. That is the comparison to Pharaoh’s magicians.
 - d) One trivial point before we move on. When you read Exodus, the names “Jannes and Jambres” are never mentioned. How did Paul know their names?

- i) “There was a Jewish tradition that they were two of the Egyptian magicians who withstood Moses and Aaron. They are thus mentioned in the Targum (a Jewish commentary on the Old Testament). It has been suggested that the names mean "the rebel" and "the opponent" (Lock, p. 107). Bible Expositor’s Encyclopedia.
 - ii) We as Christians believe that all Scripture is inspired by God.
 - a) We will discuss that topic more in Verse 16.
 - b) It does not mean all reference sources for Paul are inspired, just the words of the Bible. Therefore, I don’t believe the Jewish commentaries are inspired, but I’m sure they contain some principals of God’s truth.
 - c) Thus I accept by faith that these guys names are truly “Jannes and Jambres” no matter how Paul knew that information.
- 13. Verse 9: But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.
 - a) Remember when I discussed whether or not you should kick out people like this?
 - i) This verse says that sooner or later, what they do will be clear to everybody.
 - ii) There comes a point where this church-attender’s attitude is obvious and it is time to shun them from the church.
 - b) Jesus himself talked about how a person’s personality will become obvious. In this illustration, he compares people to “trees”:
 - i) “Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn bushes, or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. (Luke 6:44-45 NIV)
 - ii) The point is that we don’t have to be the “church-police” looking for these types. As Jesus taught in this illustration, they will become obvious by their deeds.
- 14. Verse 10: You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,
 - a) I stated in the beginning that this chapter could be divided into two paragraphs.
 - i) The first focus on the fake-believers.
 - ii) The second focuses on the qualities a true believer is to strive for.
 - iii) We are now on the second topic.
 - iv) Paul is changing his focus from the “negative” to the “positive”.
 - b) A big part of being a Christian is to “model”, and be like Christ.
 - i) A true saying is, “you are what you eat.” There is literalness to that saying.
 - ii) The same for what we worship. If we spend lots of time consumed with prayer, Bible study, hanging around other Christians, (i.e., “modeling” the Christian life) we will become like what we worship. Like “you are what you eat”, it will happen. The same principal applies to any false-god or passion one has.
 - a) A large part of our motivation as Christians to do these things is to be more “Christ-like”. What is our motivation?
 - (1) I always liked this illustration: Remember when you were a teenager and “fell in love” with somebody? You wanted to find out all you could about them. To learn all you could about them. To find any excuse to be with them. That should be Jesus and us!
 - iii) A lot of people wonder, “What is God like? Jesus answered that question:
 - a) Jesus said, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father; (John 14:9b, NIV)
 - b) “I and the Father are one.” John 10:30, NIV

- c) The point is when people ask, "What is God the father like"?
 - (1) The answer is to study the life of Jesus, and you will find out.
 - (2) When we turn our lives over to Christ, he becomes our "master" as to how to live our lives.
 - (3) Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. John 13:16-17, NIV)
 - c) OK, John, this is all well and good. What does it have to do with 2nd Timothy?
 - i) Let's read Verse 10: "You (Timothy), however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings
 - a) "My teaching, my way of life, my purpose, (my) faith, (my) love, "(my) endurance" all stem from modeling your life after Jesus.
 - (1) Remember the whole "negative" list that covered half of this lesson? Paul ends all of that with, "Have nothing to do with them."
 - b) Instead, Paul is urging Timothy "to be like me, as I have tried to live my life for Christ.
 - (1) It is a command to live one's life for Jesus.
 - (2) A very popular expression today is, "What would Jesus do?"
 - (a) Personally, I'm "mixed" on that expression.
 - (b) I would rather say, "What would Jesus want me to do?"
 - (i) That's a better question to ask in prayer.
 - c) I also can't emphasize enough the importance of letting God work through us to have the ability to teach, life this life, to have that purpose, to have that faith, to have patience, to be above to give of oneself (love) unconditionally and to have that endurance.
 - (1) If this is Paul's model for us to live by, it makes a pretty good prayer. If God the Father wants us to be more like Him, and He sent Jesus so that we may know what God expects of us, then we pray for God to give us these abilities, we study God's word to find out specifically what God has called us to do, and we work with people in order to help and strengthen & mature them as believers.
 - (a) This is what I get for studying Paul too much. Now I'm writing in very long, rambling sentences like him. ☺
 - (b) This is what I meant earlier by we are to:
 - (i) 1) Worship God; 2) love people; and 3) use things.
15. Verse 11: persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
- a) Paul finishes his sentence of all those positive aspects (teach, love, faith, etc.) with the negative Christian aspects that all Christians will be persecuted.
 - i) At any Christian bookstore, you can find little books of "God's promises".
 - a) They forget to include this promise about all of us will be persecuted. ☺
 - b) Most of Paul's life is taught to us in the Book of Acts.
 - i) Most of the Book of Acts covers the travels of Paul.
 - ii) For those who don't know, Luke was Paul's traveling companion on some of his journeys and a good historian. He wrote the Book of Acts.
 - a) When you read Acts, you will find the references to Paul's experiences in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra. (See Acts Chapter 14 for some of the details). In each case Paul barely escaped with his life. God rescued Paul to preach another day as stated in Verse 12.

- b) Remember that Paul wrote 2nd Timothy from a jail cell, near the end of his life. There is the possibility that Paul was having that same hope here.
 - iii) The late pastor and author Ray Steadman has a good summary of the Christian life that applies here.
 - a) A good Christian is:
 - (1) Completely fearless;
 - (2) Continually cheerful, and
 - (3) Constantly in trouble.
 - b) I think that describes the Christian life very well. He trusts in God and has the boldness to go forth into whatever God calls him or her to do; that person has a good attitude (continually cheerful) and suffers persecution (constantly in trouble).
 - iv) Let's face it, there are dark spiritual forces who don't want you in the ministry, who don't want you being a good witness for Christ on the job or at home, or don't want you praying for other Christians.
 - v) Every now and then when I do suffer hardships, it is sort of good reminder to me that all of this is very real. It is easy to have doubts about your faith because God is not visible to the naked eye.
 - a) Some of the best reminders of the reality of God is the persecution one gets in doing anything for God.
 - b) To remind you again of one of my favorite sayings, "If you don't think Satan is real, try opposing him for awhile."
 - c) Does this mean every tragedy and hardship is Satan inspired? I doubt that.
 - i) How does one tell the hardships that come from being a Christian from one that just comes from "life"? The answer is, "what difference does it make?"
 - a) Either way, the hardships are real.
 - b) Either way, it should drive us on our knees back to God.
 - c) Either way, God promises us comfort and strength during these trials.
 - d) Keeping the perspective that we are going to live and reign forever gives us peace during the difficult times of life.
 - (1) That is how we can have a good attitude during these times.
 - (2) That is how we are a witness to the world.
 - (3) People do watch you, especially when things are going rough, because everybody goes through some rough times.
 - (4) If you can be "constantly cheerful" during one's life as a Christian
 - (5) It doesn't mean you can't grieve, it just means you have a good eternal perspective during those times and it shows forth to others.
 - (6) That makes one is an outstanding witness for Christ.
16. Verse 13: while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.
 - a) If one turns away from God, one grows worse and worse in their behavior.
 - i) Study and observe people who have turned their back on God their whole lives.
 - ii) I always recommend spending some time with seniors. Look at the difference between those who have followed Jesus all their lives versus those who haven't. For those who haven't, you usually see bitterness and anger in their life.
 - iii) Most people turn their lives over to Christ at a young age.
 - a) This verse supports that fact. As people waste their lives on their own interest and own desires versus serving God, they go from "bad to worse". Statistically, the older one gets, the less likely it is for them to turn to God.

- b) There are older people who I pray for that God opens their heart. I know the odds are against it, but I care for them and love them and want them to change. One has to remember that God is in “the miracle business”. ☺
 - (1) “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said, “With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.” (Mark 10:26b-27, NKJV).
 - b) Paul categorizes this group as “evil men and imposters”. Who are the “imposters”?
 - i) I believe it is those people Paul focuses on in the first half of this chapter.
 - a) It is those who “claim” to be Christians, but don’t follow through.
 - b) Notice it says, “deceiving and being deceived”.
 - (1) It argues that those who attempt to be deceived will be deceived themselves.
17. Verse 14: But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,
- a) If you continue to grow in Christ, you will become a mature believer. A parent gives a child more and more freedom as they grow, because they want that child to grow up and eventually make decisions on their own based on what the parents taught them.
 - i) God is no different. I have found that most “baby-Christians” get more “miraculous guidance” than more mature Christians. God takes a more “hands-off” approach to mature Christians. By this, God lets us grow in our faith.
 - a) It doesn’t mean mature Christians should for example, “read the Bible less because we know this stuff” as much as it means there are periods in a mature believer’s life where God puts you through more trials, or you don’t sense His presence, or some other negative attribute.
 - (1) It is the idea that God is trying to mature us by saying, “Walk on your own, I’m still there with you, just continue to trust me.”
 - b) Notice the “charge” of Paul in Verse 14: “continue” in what you have learned”
 - i) This is a statement of encouragement to press on in one’s faith, despite the difficulties and hardships.
 - a) Personally, I have found that sin never dies of old age. ☺
 - b) Despite years of learning, years of praying and lots of time with God, a lot of bad habits are still there or are still just a temptation away.
 - c) The command to press on is that reminder that the sinful life is still there, the persecutions are still real, but what choice do we have?
 - (1) It is still far better to press on than to turn to anything else the world has to offer.
 - (2) God is always faithful, even when we are not. (See Psalm 33:4)
 - (3) God is always ready to forgive (See 1st John 1:9)
 - (4) The charge to press on is because there’s a tremendous life that God desires for us that is far greater than anything life on earth offers.
18. Verse 15: and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- a) Back in Chapter 1 of 2nd Timothy we talked about this verse.
 - i) Timothy was raised in a Christian household by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice.
 - ii) They raised him on the Scriptures.
 - iii) I’m sure they taught him by example and illustration as well as memorization.
 - iv) Lois and Eunice are great examples for all of us (men & women!) raising children

- b) I want to comment here on the usually false accusation that Evangelical Christians are accused of worshipping the Bible.
 - i) While it is true we revere the book as being the Word of God, we treat it as a book of instruction as opposed to the source of our affection.
 - ii) The purpose of the Bible is summarized in Verse 15: “make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”
 - a) That is why we study the Bible. To learn how to apply it to our life.
19. Verse 16: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,
- a) Verse 16 and 17 are special to most pastors and Bible teachers.
 - b) First of all, it says all Scripture. “All means all and that is all “all” means”.
 - i) That does not mean the Bible contains God inspired writing.
 - ii) It means all of the Bible is God-inspired.
 - iii) I take the view that the words of the Bible “in their original autographs” is God breathed, God ordained, and just plain the Words-of-God.
 - a) I take the view that most people knew it was the Word of God pretty fast after it was written.
 - (1) The next generation of pastors after Paul & Timothy distinguished their letters from “Scriptures” in their writings.
 - b) I believe the copies we have today are 99%+ accurate of the original. The only *possible* (I emphasize that word!) errors are the most minor or most trivial of things that have no affect whatsoever on any of the issues found in most versions of the Apostles’ Creed or doctrines of faith taught at conservative evangelical schools and churches.
 - c) Look at the first phrase of Verse 16: “All Scripture is God-breathed”.
 - i) The Hebrew word for “breath” and “spirit” are the same word.
 - a) It refers to being inspired by the Holy Spirit.
 - ii) I believe it is essentially to read your Bible prayerfully.
 - a) Let the Holy Spirit guide you as to its meaning:
 - b) Jesus said, “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26, NIV)
 - c) Notice the word “all”. That means the Holy Spirit can teach you all things of the Word. It is a great promise to apply:
 - d) Next time you come to a verse you don’t get, pray “Lord, you promised the Holy Spirit will teach all things. Well, I don’t understand this part right here, so I’m claiming that promise. Help me with this verse, Amen.”
 - e) Then watch God work in your life, to help you understand that verse!
 - d) The next phrase of Verse 16 says, “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”
 - i) I rarely go a day in my Bible reading where one of those things doesn’t happen.
 - ii) My fault is my short-term memory of what God has taught me that day! ☺
 - iii) Which is why it encourages spending time reading it daily.
 - iv) Of all the habits I have developed as a Christian, I can’t tell you of the one I enjoy more than my daily Bible reading. When I skip it, it is like skipping a meal, I will survive, but I feel weak for a time
 - v) “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews, 4:12, NIV).

20. Verse 17: so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- a) Why study your Bible? Verses 16 & 17 are your answer.
 - i) Not only is it personally good as described in the concepts of Verse 16 which again, are “teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”
 - ii) But it is also good for the external work as Christian as described in Verse 17.
 - a) Verse 16 describes how God’s word benefits you personally.
 - b) Verse 17 describes how God’s word benefits your relationship with others.
 - b) Verse 17 says studying God’s word makes you equipped for every good work.
 - i) I have yet to find an exception to the “every” part. ☺
 - ii) This applies to work, to family relationships, to my prayer life, etc.
 - iii) I said a few pages back (in so many words) that “you become what you eat and you become what you worship”. If you use the Bible as a model for your life you can’t help but have it influence every part of your life.
 - a) That is why it is such an essential part of the Christian life.
 - b) It is our instruction guide.
 - c) Prayer is our source of strength. The Word is our instruction guide.
21. On that note, we’ll wrap it up for this week. Let’s pray: Father, you have given us models for what you desire for us to become as well as for what you desire us to avoid. Help us to study both models, as we desire to become more like you in our daily lives. Lord, we who are yours all have tremendous power to do your will. Through your grace you have given us this power to boldly go out and be your witness. We draw upon that power for your glory. Show us this day what you desire for us, so that we, your ambassadors, may go forth and be your shining witness so that you may receive all the glory. For we ask this in Jesus name, Amen.

Bonus Material – Below is the class handouts. It is a “summary” version of this lesson.

Notes for 2nd Timothy – Chapter 3 (Page 1 of 6)

Introduction: The Difference between the “True” Christian and the “False” Christian

1. Remember the great American expression, “Put your money where your mouth is!”
 - a. It refers to putting money (or action) behind your statements.
 - i. There are multitudes of people who claim to be a Christian.
 - ii. The difference is between the “true and false” believer is you don’t see any change in the behavior of those who claim they are Christians.
 - b. There was a popular bunker sticker some time back that said, “Honk if you love Jesus”.
 - i. Personally, I preferred the one that said,
“Real men tithe their income for Jesus, because any idiot can honk!”
2. This is the focus in Chapter 3: How to tell the true believers from the false believers.
3. The chapter only has 17 verses:
 - a. The first nine focus on the negative aspects of the false-believer.
 - b. The last eight focus on characteristics to strive for as a true believer.
4. First, we need to define “salvation”. The concept of “salvation” has 3 meanings in the bible:
 - a. The first is when we first declared our allegiance to Christ and become born-again.
 - b. The second is we grow in maturity as believers. The word “saved” in the bible is often used to describe maturity as a Christian.
 - i. Paul said, “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12b, NIV)
 - c. The third is at our death we get “glorified” bodies for eternal salvation.
 - i. “For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.” (1st Corinthians 15:52b-53, NIV).
5. A good summary of the Christian life:
 - a. We are to: 1) worship God; 2) love people; and 3) use things.
 - i. The mistake is when we worship people or worship things.

2nd Timothy, Chapter 3, Verse 1: “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.”

1. Let’s talk about the term “The Last Days”
 - a. In the Old Testament, the “last days” usually refers to the end-times right before the second coming of Jesus. (This is the Christian view, not the Jewish view.)
 - b. In the New Testament, the “last days” refers to the whole time era between the time the Christian church was first formed until the time Jesus comes back for his church.
 - i. In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, (Hebrews 1:1-2a, NIV)
 - c. I believed Paul lived his life as if the 2nd coming of Jesus was eminent.
 - d. I believe every believer should live his life as if the 2nd coming was eminent.
 - e. Jesus said, “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.” (Matthew 25:10, NKJV). “Watch” is a command by our Lord Jesus.
2. Paul is saying that prior to Jesus return “terrible” times will come.
 - a. Is Paul saying that this condition will exist for the whole time Christian time era (2,000 years so far) or does he mean that it will exist right before whenever Jesus returns?
 - b. My view is that it refers to the whole 2,000+ year period of time.
 - c. Others believe it means that this condition will exist just prior to the return of Jesus.
 - d. Paul understood Satan was going to do all he can to slow down church growth, thus evil forces will allow persecution to exist in “the last days” (i.e., the Christian era).

Notes for 2nd Timothy - Chapter 3 (Page 2 of 6)

Verses 2-6: “People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,” ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

1. Paul is not talking about pagans or people who simply don’t believe in Jesus;
 - a. The focus is on those who “claim” to be believers in Jesus.
 - b. Verse 5 says, “having a form of godliness but denying its power.”
 - i. This is a reference to those who “think” they are Christians (or simply those who claim they believe in God, but don’t act like it.).

Character Traits of a False-Believer

1. Lovers of themselves	It describes putting one’s interest above God’s interest. (A big ego!) A false-believer focuses on his or her needs before others’ needs.
2. Lovers of money	In order to satisfy their personal needs, they need money as a resource. The <u>love</u> of money is quoted by Paul as being the root of all evil. (See 1st Timothy 6:10)
3. Boastful	The idea of loving to brag about oneself and one’s accomplishments.
4. Proud	It is also translated arrogant. You think more of yourself than others.
5. Abusive	It can refer to either physically or verbally abusive to others
6. Disobedient to Parents	One of the 10 commandments is to “honor your parents”. 1st Timothy Chapter 5 talked about how the church should not be burdened with taking care of widows who have supportive children. Believing adults should take the responsibility of supporting their parents.
7. Ungrateful	It is the idea one “deserves” something and therefore not grateful.
8. Unholy	“Holy” is to <u>separate</u> oneself (or something) for use to God. It is the idea of whatever we do, we do it for God. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul said, “For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. <u>If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.</u> So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. (Romans 14: 7-8, NIV) Anyway, “unholy” is the opposite of that. ☺ Unholy is fulfilling of one’s own desires instead of obedience to what God commands us to do.
9. Without love (Verse 3)	People will know we are Christians by our love for one another. Biblical “love” is to give priority to other’s needs over your own. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “If we love other Christians, it proves that we have been delivered from hell and given eternal life. But a person who doesn’t have love for others is headed for eternal death.” (1st John 3:14, The Living Bible)
10. Unforgiving	Part of being a Christian is we <u>must</u> forgive others. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus said, “But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” (Matthew 6:15, NIV). Being unforgiving blocks our relationship with God as we are focusing on the pain of being hurt and not focusing on God.
11. Slanderous	This is about making false accusations. A synonym is a “gossiper”.
12. Without self-control	In context of the false-believer, their priority is themselves. Therefore, they follow whatever “whim” pops in their head.

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Verses 2-6: “Character Traits of a False-Believer” (cont.)

13. Brutal	The Living Bible says, “rough and cruel”. As Christians, we need to be good “ambassadors” for Christ. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus said, “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as <u>shrewd</u> as snakes and as innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16 NIV)
14. Not lovers of the good	The idea of loving “things” or people <u>more</u> than loving God. “The good” is a reference to God and our Christian lifestyle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone once asked Jesus, “Good teacher,” he asked, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “<u>No one is good--except God alone.</u>” (Mark 10-17-18, NIV)
15. Treacherous (Verse 5)	Other translations say “treasonous” or betrayer of friends. The point is simply a “non-Christian-churchgoer” is not trustable. If they don’t have a healthy fear-of-God, they won’t hesitate to betray someone else in the church. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. (Psalm 41:9 NIV)
16. Rash	A synonym is “quick tempered”. A common expression used to describe God-the-Father” in the Bible is “slow-to-anger”. I counted 9 times where God is described that way.
17. Conceited	A big ego
18. Having a form of godliness but denying its power	“They will go to church, yes, but they won't really believe anything they hear.” The Living Bible (same verse as our text)

Verse 5(cont): Paul’s summary of what to do with these people: “Have nothing to do with them.”

1. Does it mean we are not to witness to everybody?
2. Does it mean we are to outcast these types of people?
3. The appropriate answer depends on how obvious or how bad the problem has become.
4. The answer is Verse 9 “But they (false-believers) will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.”
 - a. In other words, the problem will become obvious.
 - b. At that point we are called as Christians to ex-communicate them.
 - c. We can still pray for them and be a good witness to them, but at the same time they must be separated from the church for the good of the church.

Verse 6: “They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires,”

1. This verse implies that these false-believers seek to sway women who are weak in the faith.
2. False-Teachers prey upon the weak-in-faith.
 - a. Notice that this verse teaches they go to the homes of “weak-willed women”.
 - b. They prey upon those who feel guilty and offer false-solutions to alleviate that guilt.

Verse 7: “always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.”

1. In context of these false-believers, since their ego is not interested in serving God, but in serving themselves, there is a “learning need” particularly about things pleasing their ego.
2. They rely on “self-help” books and other education guides at the expense of ignoring God.

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Verse 8: “Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth--men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.”

1. OK, first question, who are these Jannes and Jambres characters?
 - a. If you remember the story of Moses facing the Pharaoh of Egypt, you will remember that the first few plagues performed by God through Moses were “duplicated” by the Pharaoh’s magicians. (See Exodus Chapters 7-8).
 - b. These magicians could not stop the plagues performed by Moses, only duplicate them. It supports my theory that demonic power is used to cause damage, not cure damage.
 - c. Because they duplicated the plagues, the Pharaoh didn’t repent because he thought, “If my guys could do this, it is just some sort of trick”.
 - d. It wasn’t until the 4th plague, (“lice”) where Pharaoh’s magicians made the statement, “This is the finger of God” (Exodus 8:19)
 - e. The point is these magicians acknowledged who God was, but didn’t follow Him!
 - f. Demons in hell are quite aware who God is, but willfully choose to disobey.
2. Getting back to the false-church attendees, Paul’s point is that they know what is the right thing to do, but won’t do it. That is the comparison to Pharaoh’s magicians.
3. In Exodus, the names “Jannes & Jambres” are not mentioned. How did Paul know their names?
 - a. We don’t know. I believe God simply gave Paul direct insight into some historical facts.
 - b. Thus I accept by faith that these guys names are truly “Jannes and Jambres” no matter how Paul knew that information.

Verse 9: “But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.”

1. There comes a point in time where this false-believers character traits are obvious.
2. It is at that time we should ex-communicate them from the body of Christ.
3. Jesus himself talked about how a person’s personality will become obvious. In this illustration, he compares people to trees:
 - a. “Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn bushes, or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.” (Luke 6:44-45 NIV)
4. We don’t have to be the “church-police” These people will become obvious by their deeds.

Verse 10: “You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,”

1. Instead of the “negative list” a few verses back we are now focusing on a “positive-list”
2. A big part of being a Christian is to “model” our life like Christ.
 - a. Paul said, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.” (1st Corinthians 11:1, NKJV)
 - b. Jesus said, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father.” (John 14:9b, NIV)
 - c. Jesus also said, “I and the Father are one.” John 10:30, NIV
3. When we turn our lives over to Christ, he becomes our “master”. We strive to be like Christ.
4. Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” John 13:16-17, NIV)
5. Paul is saying in effect, “(My) teaching, my way of life, my purpose, (my) faith, (my) love, “(my) endurance” all stem from modeling your life after Jesus.”
6. I also can’t emphasize enough the importance of letting God work through us to model our life like Christ as opposed to relying upon our own willpower.

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Verses 11-12: “persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹²In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,”

1. When you read Acts, you will find the references to Paul’s experiences in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra. (See Acts Chapter 14 for some of the details)
 - a. In each case Paul barely escaped with his life.
 - b. God rescued Paul to preach another day as stated in Verse 12.
 - c. Remember that Paul wrote 2nd Timothy from a jail cell, near the end of his life. There is the possibility that Paul was having that same hope here.
 - d. We don’t know God’s plans for our lives. Especially when things seem hopeless is when God can do his best work!
2. The late pastor/author Ray Steadman wrote a good summary of the Christian life that is similar to what Paul taught here. Ray Steadman says a good Christian is:
 - (1) Completely fearless;
 - (2) Continually cheerful, and
 - (3) Constantly in trouble.
 - a. A Christian trusts in God and has the boldness to go forth into whatever God calls him or her to do (completely fearless); that person has a good attitude (continually cheerful) and suffers persecution (constantly in trouble).
3. Paul finishes his sentence of all those positive aspects (teach, love, faith, etc. in Verse 10) with the dangers and warnings that all Christians will be persecuted.
 - a. Some of the best reminders of the reality of God are the persecution one receives in doing anything for God.
 - b. I like the expression: “If you don’t think Satan is real, try opposing him for awhile.”
4. Does this mean every tragedy and hardship is Satan inspired? I doubt that.
 - a. No matter the source of our hardships, they should drive us on our knees back to God.
 - b. God promised “He would never leave us nor forsake us” (Hebrews 13:5b)

Verse 13: “while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

1. If one turns away from God, one grows worse and worse in their behavior.
2. I always recommend spending some time with seniors. Look at the difference between those who have followed Jesus all their lives versus those who haven’t. You can usually see bitterness and anger in the lives of those who don’t.
3. Most people turn their lives over to Christ at a young age.
 - a. As people waste their lives on their own interest and own desires versus serving God, they go from “bad to worse”.
 - b. Statistically, the older one gets, the less likely it is for them to turn to God.
 - c. There are older people who I pray for that God opens their heart.
 - d. “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said, “With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.” (Mark 10:26b-27, NKJV).
4. Notice it says, “deceiving and being deceived”.
 - a. It argues that those who attempt to be deceived will be deceived themselves.
 - b. Paul is saying in effect, “These deceivers will get a taste of their own medicine”.
 - c. There is a Proverb that teaches the same idea:
 1. “If a man digs a pit, he will fall into it; if a man rolls a stone, it will roll back on him.” (Proverbs 26:27, NIV)
 2. I believe that Proverb is the basis of the “Roadrunner/Wile E. Coyote” cartoons. ☺

Notes for 2nd Timothy - Chapter 3 (Page 6 of 6)

Verse 14: “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, “

1. This verse is about encouragement. Paul is saying in effect, “keep focusing on your Christian faith and ideals”.
2. Remember that Timothy is facing a very-real Roman army. At this time it was a death sentence to practice Christianity. Paul is encouraging Timothy to press on during this time era.
3. Notice the “charge” of Paul in Verse 14: “continue” in what you have learned”
 - a. Personally, I have found that sin never dies of old age. ☺
 - b. The charge to press on is because there’s a tremendous life that God desires for us that is far greater than anything life on earth has to offer.

Verse 15: “and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

1. Timothy was raised in a Christian household by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice.
 - a. Lois and Eunice are great examples for all of us (men & women!) raising children
2. The purpose of the Bible is summarized in Verse 15: “make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Verses 16: “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,”

1. First of all, it says all Scripture. “All means all and that is all “all” means”.
 - a. That does not mean the Bible contains God inspired writing.
 - b. It means all of the Bible is God-inspired.
 - c. While the canon of the New Testament was not complete yet, it was close. Timothy had access to most books of the New Testament and believed they were Scripture.
2. Look at the first phrase of Verse 16: “All Scripture is God-breathed”.
 - a. The Hebrew word for “breath” and “spirit” are the same word.
 - b. It refers to being inspired by the Holy Spirit.
 - c. I believe it is essentially to read your Bible prayerfully.
 - d. “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26, NIV)
 - i. Notice the word “all”. That means the Holy Spirit can teach you all things of the Word. It is a great promise to apply to your daily bible reading.
3. The rest of Vs. 16 says, “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”
 - a. I rarely go a day in my Bible reading where one of those things doesn’t happen.
 - b. There is an old Swedish proverb about the bible that goes as follows:
 - i. “Sin will keep you from this book, and this book will keep you from sin.”
 - c. “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews, 4:12, NIV).

Verse 17: “so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

1. Why study your Bible? Verses 16 & 17 are your answer.
2. Not only is it personally good as described in the concepts of Verse 16 which again, are “teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”
3. But it is also good for the external work as Christian as described in Verse 17.
4. Verse 17 says studying God’s word makes you equipped for every good work.
 - a. I have yet to find an exception to the “every” part. ☺

Prayer is our source of strength. The Word is our instruction guide.