
LOVING JESUS, LOVING PEOPLE, PLOWING A COUNTER-CULTURE

TEXT: 2 Timothy 3:14–17

MAIN IDEA: God has given us the Scriptures to build us into faithful disciples.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Aside from Community Groups, the other big way we do discipleship at our church is through serving. Not only do we worship Jesus through singing, prayer, the preaching of the Word of God, and giving, but we also worship by serving one another and making sure that everyone who comes is blessed by being among God's people. **If you're looking to serve**, one way to have an incredible impact is in our children's ministry—e**Town** for birth through 2nd grade, as well as **3rd and 45th Street**, for 3rd–5th grade. You can sign up for more info by selecting the “serve” option under the “connect” drop-down menu on our website (emergence.church).
- Calling all families with children 5 years old or younger! We will be having a **Family Dedication service on October 23 and 26**. This is where families have the opportunity to formally pledge to raise their kids to know and love Jesus, and where we, as a church, commit to come alongside them to share that awesome privilege with them. Sign up on the Digital Bulletin.
- Our Student Ministry's Winter Retreat is happening this year from February 20–22 (okay, I guess that's next year :-/). This winter, we'll be rocking out at High Point Bible Camp in Pennsylvania. This is a great way for our teens to connect with each other, their leaders, and the Lord. Sign up on the Digital Bulletin.

GETTING STARTED:

- Watch this week's Community Extras Video.
 - **Optional Icebreaker:** What are the benefits of using a physical Bible?
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This week, we dip back into the end of 2 Timothy chapter 3 to reflect on one of the Bible's most important passages about ... the Bible!

Wise for Salvation

Read 2 Timothy 3:14–15.

- ☺ We learn here that Timothy was raised knowing the Scriptures. What was your view of the Bible growing up?
- ☺ How has your understanding of the Bible grown over the years?



We are saved when we respond to the gospel with repentance from sin and faith in Christ. If that makes us right with God, and if being right with God is what really matters, why do we need to know the Scriptures?

Read Jeremiah 23:16–22.



What are some characteristics of false prophets that you see in this passage?



Where have you encountered so-called “Christian teachers” who share these characteristics?

God-breathed

Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17.



In the Ringwood sermon, Ryan Franey reminded us that some prominent Christian leaders dismiss the Old Testament as unnecessary, or at least as much less important for the Christian life than the New Testament. How does this passage counter this idea? How have the Old Testament Scriptures contributed to your Christian walk?



What would you say to someone who claims that Paul is only speaking about the Old Testament when he says “Scripture,” since, when he wrote this letter, the New Testament had not yet been written?

Leaders: Here are some points:

- *“All Scripture” means that anything that can rightly be called Scripture has the qualities Paul speaks of here. So, even if some Scripture had yet to be written, it too would be “breathed out by God ... etc.”*
- *This is likely Paul’s final letter. Much of the New Testament had been written by this point—certainly his letters and also probably James. It is also possible that Mark, Luke, and Acts had been written by then.*
- *Even in the New Testament, there is evidence that the Apostles and their churches viewed New Testament writings as Scripture. For example, 1 Timothy 5:18 calls a saying from Jesus from Luke 10:7 “Scripture” alongside Deuteronomy 25:4. Also, in 2 Peter 3:16, Peter calls Paul’s letters “Scripture.”*
- *Other important New Testament texts suggests that the Apostles understood that their teachings were to be received as the Word of God (John 14:25–26; 16:12–15; 17:7–8; 1 Cor 2:10–13; 14:37; 2 Cor 13:3; 1 Thess 2:13; 4:8, 15; 2 Thess 3:6; Heb 1:1–2; Rev 1:3; 22:7, 10, 18–19).*



Ryan Franey suggested two ways to let Scripture teach us: studying it and meditating on it. What do each of these things mean, and how does each one look in your life?

Reproof, Correction, and Training in Righteousness

♡ The Bible reproves us—it shows us what we’re doing wrong. It also corrects us—it shows us the right way. What attitudes of the heart do we therefore need to have when we come to the Scriptures to receive both their reproof and correction?

🧠 Many of us read the Bible for what we need “in the moment.” This might look like inspiration when we are feeling spiritually dry. Or, it might be to calm our anxieties when we are in trouble or feel distressed. Certainly, there is nothing wrong with any of these approaches to reading Scripture. However, Paul says here that it is also for “training in righteousness.” How is this different than “in the moment” Bible reading?

♡ What habits should you cultivate so that you can be “trained” by Scripture?

Leaders: There is a reason Bible reading is considered a spiritual discipline. In fact, the word translated “training” is the same word used in Hebrews 12 to speak of the “discipline of the Lord” (Heb 12:5, 7, 8, 11).

Equipped for Every Good Work

🧠 What does this verse teach us about the purpose of Scripture’s teaching, reproof, correction, and training?

♡ What do we need besides Scripture to be “complete, equipped for every good work”?

PRAYER TIME

Praise God for revealing himself to us in the Scriptures.

Pray that God would give you a passion to live immersed in his Word.

Pray for God to surround you with a community of wise believers who can help you walk according to what the Bible says.