

Unit I: Our Holy God and the Holy Scriptures

A Life Map

DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalm 119:105-112

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 1:8-9; 2 Kings 22:8-20; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Psalm 19:7-14; Luke 24:25-32; Acts 17:10-12; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

PRINT PASSAGES: Psalm 19:7-13; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

KEY VERSES

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, KJV)

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All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NIV)

Lesson Aims

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do the following:

- Discover the role of Scripture in revealing who God is and what God desires for your life.
- Listen to Scripture as though you were hearing God's loving voice.
- Look to God's Word for guidance in the choices you are making.

*KEY TERMS

Faith (2 Timothy 3:15)—Greek: *pistis* (pis'-tis): belief; trust; confidence.

Heart (Psalm 19:8)—Hebrew: *leb* (labe): inner man; mind; will.

Law (Psalm 19:7)—Hebrew: *torah* (to-law'): direction; instruction; teaching.

Learned (2 Timothy 3:14)—Greek: *manthanó* (man-than'-o): (to have) understood; (to have) increased in knowledge.

Reward (Psalm 19:11)—Hebrew: *egeb* (ay'-keb): a consequence or result.



The Biblical Context

Psalm 19, found in the first of the Psalms' five books, is a hymn of praise that magnifies God's glory as revealed through creation and His Word. This psalm is divided into two distinct sections. In verses 1-6, the psalmist proclaims that creation testifies to God's existence and majesty. The psalm then shifts to a focus on God's law—the perfect revelation of God and God's will—describing it as ideal, trustworthy, right, radiant, transformative, and more valuable than any material possession in verses 7-14. In this context, 2 Timothy 3:14-17 further reinforces the authority and reliability of God's Word, affirming its vital role in shaping believers' character and equipping them for God's work. Together, these passages confirm Scripture's divine authority, its transformative power, the necessity of God's Word for righteous living, and its role as the ultimate guide for every believer's life and service.

Righteous (Psalm 19:9)—Hebrew: *tsadeq* or *tsadoq* (tsaw-dak'): to be just or virtuous.

Scripture(s) (2 Timothy 3:16)—Greek: *graphé* (graf-ay'): letter(s); record(s); document(s) (i.e., Holy Writ [or its contents or a statement in it]).

**(Word Study Supplement—Refer to page 2)*

Introduction

Maps are powerful visual tools that help us navigate and understand the world. They clearly represent geographical areas, highlighting essential features like roads, buildings, and natural landmarks. Beyond their usefulness in navigation, maps reveal spatial relationships between places, giving us a broader perspective of our surroundings. Historically, maps date back to ancient Babylon, where they were etched onto clay tablets to assist with agriculture and land boundaries. Over time, maps have remained indispensable, serving purposes beyond simple navigation. They are critical in research, travel, urban planning, and emergency response. Even with the rise of GPS and digital technology, maps remain relevant in the twenty-first century, offering clarity in data visualization, aiding education, and proving invaluable when electronic tools fail or are not readily available. Spiritually, the concept of maps holds an even more profound significance. Just as physical maps guide travelers, Christians need a divine map to navigate life's journey. We need direction to help us make sense of the world's complexities, guidance in our daily walk, and a reliable source to turn to in times of crisis. God, in His infinite wisdom, has provided us with the ultimate map—His Word. The Bible is our unfailing guide, offering instruction, insight, and reassurance, ensuring we never lose our way.

ANALYSIS OF THE BIBLICAL TEXT

The Word's Glorious Character (*Psalms 19:7-9*)

KJV

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

NIV

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.

Psalms 19 celebrates God's self-revelation, first through creation (verses 1-6) and then through God's Word (law) in verses 7-13. The psalmist highlights the extraordinary character of God's Word, emphasizing why it is the ultimate source of a purpose-driven life. God's Word is perfect (complete) and reliable. The Word doesn't just inform—it restores, transforms, and renews the soul, imparting wisdom to the spiritually inexperienced and providing an unshakable foundation for life and spiritual growth (verse 7). In verse 8, the psalmist identifies God's Word as statutes and commandments, underscoring its moral uprightness, holiness, and righteousness. When received and obeyed, it produces genuine joy and spiritual insight, illuminating the path for those who follow it. Verse 9 uses "fear" as a synonym for God's law, highlighting its ability to instill a pure, undefiled, and lasting reverence for God. Unlike fleeting human opinions, God's judgments are holistically fair, righteous, eternal, and unwavering. Rhetorically, what does this description of the Word's glorious character mean for believers today?

The psalmist celebrates God's Word but also calls us to action. Believers must prioritize studying it daily because the Scripture transforms lives, imparts wisdom, guides in righteousness, and fosters spiritual insight and reverence. Christians must be teachable, allowing God's Word to shape their character, meditating on it, letting it saturate their hearts and minds, and obediently applying its principles in daily living. God's Word is more than a book and a temporary guide—it is His divine roadmap for purposeful living. In a world of shifting values and uncertainty, the Bible remains the only trustworthy, unchanging, and life-giving source of truth. The psalmist reminds

us that God's Word is reliable, illuminating, and righteous, and it continues to challenge us to anchor our lives in its glorious truth.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

In what ways should the psalmist's portrayal of God's Word shape the faith community's approach to ministry planning and priorities?

The Word's Immeasurable Value (*Psalms 19:10-13*)

KJV

10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

NIV

10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.

11 By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

12 But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

After declaring what the Word is, the psalmist emphasizes its immeasurable value. God's Word is more precious than the finest gold and more satisfying than the most delicious delicacies (verse 10). Its worth surpasses anything this world can offer because it grants something far greater—an intimate relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This relationship, described as "sweeter than honey," is the ultimate source of inner joy, spiritual nourishment, and lasting satisfaction, far beyond the fleeting pleasure of earthly indulgences. Because of this, a spiritually mature Christian does not need artificial or temporary worldly things to satisfy the soul. The psalmist continues exalting the Word's value by highlighting its practical necessity. Scripture warns those who embrace it, revealing sin and guiding them toward a life that honors God. Those who obey it reap the rewards of godly living consistently (verse 11). However, believers must understand that these rewards come not from merely hearing the Word but from faithfully applying it (see James 1:25).

Recognizing his human limitations, the psalmist humbly confessed that he could not fully discern his hidden faults. He prayed for God's cleansing from these unknown sins and asked

for divine restraint against presumptuous sins—willful and defiant acts of disobedience (verses 12-13). His honest plea reflects a deep desire to remain free from sin's grip, to walk in obedience, and to avoid deliberate rebellion against God. To fully experience the Word, we must commit to essential spiritual disciplines by (1) acknowledging the power of God's Word as it enriches our lives beyond any wordly measure and (2) seeking God's help through prayer to recognize our need for spiritual cleansing and tendency to sin, while striving to avoid willful disobedience.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How does this psalm's description of the Word's immeasurable value support the need for prioritizing biblical teaching and training?

The Word's Functional Usefulness (*2 Timothy 3:14-17*)

KJV

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

NIV

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,

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.

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

17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

In his final letter to Timothy, Paul emphasized the importance of remaining rooted in Scripture. Though evil and deception will persist (verse 13), Paul reminded Timothy that Scripture is the believer's primary defense against false teaching and apostasy. He urged him to stand firm in the truth he learned from childhood through the godly influence of his mother and grandmother, and Paul's instruction (verses 14-15). This lifelong exposure to Scripture laid the foundation for Timothy's salvation, reminding us that while salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit uses God's Word to bring it about (see Romans 10:14-17).

Paul then affirms Scripture's divine origin as "God-breathed" (verse 16, NIV), divinely inspired, trustworthy, and without error. This doctrine is essential, confirming the Bible as the ultimate and reliable source of spiritual truth and guidance. Paul also highlights its practical benefits: Scripture teaches sound doctrine, convicts of sin, corrects error, and trains believers to live righteously. Its ultimate purpose is to equip God's people to live faithful, fruitful lives (verse 17). For today's church, this passage calls us to two clear applications: immerse the next generation in biblical truth from an early age, and consistently equip believers for godly living and meaningful service.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What is the relationship between Scripture and a believer's ability to be "thoroughly equipped for every good work"?

A Closing Thought

Psalm 19:7-14 is a powerful declaration of God's self-revelation through His Word. Second Timothy 3:14-17 highlights the Word's usefulness in believers' lives and its divine origin. Three key principles connect these passages. They affirm the Scripture's divine authority and trustworthiness, transformative power when applied, and its necessity as the ultimate guide for righteous living. These passages remind us of the Word's significant role in shaping our lives and preparing us for God's work during these "last days" preceding our Lord's return.

Your Life

This lesson's Print Passages are a touching reminder that the only reliable, trustworthy source for living a purpose-driven, fruitful life is the divinely inspired Word of God. Therefore, every believer must assess the value they place on God's Word and the amount of time they invest in studying and applying it daily, and commit to prioritize using it as the primary guide for their lives.

Your World!

Timothy's lifelong immersion in the Word and its subsequent results emphasize the significance of using the Bible to teach and train our children and youth, beginning in the home and extending to the faith community. This week and in the future, consider how you and your congregation can be more intentional about sharing biblical wisdom with younger generations to prepare them to use God's Word as their life map.

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, thank You for divinely inspiring the writers of Your Word as the primary source for guiding, equipping, and preparing us to live purpose-filled lives—for Your honor and glory and our good. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Conclusion

(Preparing for Next Week's Lesson)

Next week's lesson explores Jesus' remedy for worry and anxiety—striving for God's righteousness (Matthew 6:24-34).

Home Daily Bible Readings

MONDAY, December 8	"The Father's Motherly Compassion"	(Isaiah 49:13-17)
TUESDAY, December 9	"The Father Seeks Authentic Worshippers"	(John 4:20-24)
WEDNESDAY, December 10	"The Father Strengthens the Powerless"	(Isaiah 40:27-31)
THURSDAY, December 11	"The Father Exacts Discipline"	(Isaiah 64:1-8)
FRIDAY, December 12	"The Father Blesses and Forgives"	(Psalm 103:1-5, 10-14)
SATURDAY, December 13	"The Father Gives Perfect Gifts"	(James 1:13-18)
SUNDAY, December 14	"The Father Cares for Our Needs"	(Matthew 6:24-34)

Notes