

Refocus Series
“Our Vital Need to Study God’s Word”
Sunday, January 12, 2014
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2 Tim. 3:14-17

INTRODUCTION

The sad truth is...we can well look at our study of the Bible in the same way we did – or still do – look at homework.

How do we view breaking open the Bible?
Is it drudgery? Is it a discipline? Or, is it a delight?

1. CONTINUE IN WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

This book – Paul’s writing to his young student Timothy – is set in a context of comparison – two streams best described as FALSE TEACHING, and TRUTH.

Paul was not wishy washy in his faith.

To **inculcate** is to chisel, as an artist would chisel an inscription in stone. The mark left behind is permanent. His heart for Timothy is that kind of serious.

Continue in what you have **learned**....and have firmly **BELIEVED**.

“Anything that we teach as important, and yet for those very things we lack passion in our own lives...those things will become **optional** to our children.”
~ *Lewis Seifert*

Even though he was young, Timothy had come face-to-face with WISDOM in those scriptures.

“In biblical terms, wisdom has to do with the practical matter of learning how to live a life that is pleasing to God...One can have knowledge without having wisdom, but one cannot have wisdom without having knowledge. A person without knowledge is ignorant. A person without wisdom is deemed a fool.”

~ *R.C. Spoul*

2. SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD

The Greek term for inspired is *theopneustos*. Precisely, the term would be translated “God-breathed.” Not so much breathed IN by God, but “BREATHED OUT BY GOD.”

“What Paul is saying to Timothy is that the Bible comes from God. He is its ultimate author. It is his word; it comes from him; it carries the weight of all that he is.”

~ R.C. Spoul

There is no other book, no other source, that has this claim.

3. RESPONDING TO GOD’S BREATHED-OUT WORD...

We apply the reality of God’s amazing gift of His word in many ways.

1. First, we see that the Word is PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING! The Bible is many things, but it is especially anointed to be an instruction manual on the things of God! It reveals to His character, His heart, His ways, and His desires for His people.
2. Secondly, Scripture, and its study, is PROFITABLE FOR REPROOF, CORRECTION, AND TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. We need reproof – everyone does. Romans 3:23 that “All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”

The writer to the Hebrews understood this:

Hebrews 12:7-8

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

CLOSING

2 Tim. 3:17

...that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Paul’s focus is first aimed at Timothy, and the desire that Paul had for Timothy to be mature and ready. Complete in his love for God, and his commitment to Jesus and the Gospel.