

Devotion to the Scriptures

2 Timothy 3:14-17



“I am a creature of a day. I am a spirit come from God and returning to God. I want to know one thing: the way to heaven. God Himself has condescended to teach me the way. He has written it down in a book. Oh, give me that book! At any price give me the book of God. Let me be a man of one Book.”

—John Wesley

2 Timothy 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work

Outline

- 1. The source of Scripture**
- 2. The function of Scripture**
- 3. Our engagement with Scripture**

1. The source of Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16

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- **See also 1 Cor. 2:12-13, John 16:13, 2 Peter 3:15-16**

Can We Trust the Gospels?

Peter J. Williams

“Did the Gospel Writers Know Their Stuff?”

- Williams looks at geography, botany, financial terms, Jewish names, etc. to show the historical accuracy of the four gospels
- Contrast with the later Gnostic writings like “The Gospel of Thomas”



The highest proof of Scripture derives in general from the fact that God in person speaks in it . . . the testimony of the Spirit is more excellent than all reason. For as God alone is a fit witness of himself in his Word, so also the Word will not find acceptance in men's hearts before it is sealed by the inward testimony of the Spirit. The same Spirit, therefore, who has spoken through the mouths of the prophets must penetrate into our hearts to persuade us that they faithfully proclaimed what had been divinely commanded.

—John Calvin

2. The function of Scripture

2 Timothy 3:14-17

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- **Salvation (v. 15) → *evangelistic function***



From every town, village, and little hamlet in England, wherever it may be, there is a road to London... and so from every text in Scripture there is a road to the metropolis of the Scriptures, that is Christ. Your business is, when you get to a text, to say, 'Now, what is the road to Christ?' and then preach a sermon, running along the road towards the great metropolis—Christ.

—Charles Spurgeon

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- **Training / Equipping (vv. 16-17) → formative function**

3. Our engagement with Scripture

2 Timothy 3:14-17



**Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy
Scriptures to be written for our learning;
grant us that we may in such wise hear
them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest
them; that by patience and comfort of thy
holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold
fast the blessed hope of everlasting life,
which thou hast given us in our savior Jesus
Christ.**

—Thomas Cranmer

3. Our engagement with Scripture

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- Inwardly digest → apply the Scriptures to your life

James 1:22-25

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.



The first requirement is that you must not look at the mirror, observe the mirror, but must see yourself in the mirror . . . The second requirement is that in order to see yourself in the mirror when you read God's Word you must . . . remember to say to yourself incessantly: "It is I to whom it is speaking; it is I to whom it is speaking..."

—Soren Kierkegaard

Summary

1. The source of Scripture: God-breathed
2. The function of Scripture: five-fold purpose
3. Our engagement with Scripture: *“hear, read, mark, learn, inwardly digest”*