



Sunday, June 23, 2019
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to 2 Timothy 3:14-17

The Bible and prayer are our only tools for ministry. Ultimately, everything comes down to that. It is somewhat lamentable that we have come to a place in Christianity today where we think that something else might be necessary to accomplish the ministry God has entrusted to us. Certainly, it is likely that Timothy in the 1st century faced a similar temptation to rely on something other than God's word to accomplish God's mission. But Paul knows that temptation well, and so exhorts Timothy to remain faithful to the one thing that can help us accomplish what God has called us to accomplish.

The Bible is essential not only to introduce us to the basic truths about salvation in Christ, but it is able to do so much more. The progression of Paul's description in verse 16 is telling. The Bible is able to teach (to counteract ignorance). It is able to rebuke (to counteract wicked behavior). It is able to correct (to counteract wrong thinking). And it is able to train in righteousness (to promote right behavior). So, since it is able to help us present one another mature in Christ (Col. 1:28), we ought to be diligent not only in knowing it but living it out too!

Context

This passage is key for a number of reasons. Paul has just finished explaining to Timothy that there will be all kinds of evil springing up *in the church* (3:1-9), and in fact it's only going to get worse (3:13)! How can Timothy, the pastor-shepherd of the church at Ephesus, guard himself and his people? The answer is simple: the word of God! The Bible is not only our individual tool for growing closer to God, it is our only tool for ministering to others to build them up in the faith as well.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17

“The Amazing Word of God”

- I. Personality of Scripture
 - (16) God-breathed

 - (15) Holy

 - (16) Useful

- II. Profitability of Scripture
 - (15) Eternal salvation

 - (16) Life transformation

 - (17) Ministry preparation

Discuss

- 1) If someone asked you what you believe about the Bible, what would you tell them?
- 2) How closely does your discipline of taking in the Bible (via sermons, personal reading, small group discussion) match what you believe about the Bible?
- 3) How have you been “rebuked” or “corrected” by the Bible recently?
- 4) What kinds of good works has Scripture convinced or equipped you to participate in recently?
- 5) Have you ever considered asking a non-Christian friend or family member to read the Bible with you? What might prevent you from doing that? And how can you overcome that obstacle?