

Scripture: the Disciples' Anchor



“And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:15-17

GOD'S FOUNDATION STONE FOR MANKIND

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TITLE: SCRIPTURE: THE DISCIPLES' ANCHOR

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Leadership Series

Book 5

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PREFACE

Welcome to the discipleship / leadership series. These little booklets were designed to give basic information concerning various topics about our Christian faith in Christ Jesus.

The purpose of this series is to stimulate thought and to foster a clearer understanding of discipleship and servant leadership. These booklets can be used as a discussion tool for personal study, family devotion, youth meetings or in cell groups. Our hope is that this information will stir the readers and encourage them to go deeper into personal research and study.

Our desire is that these booklets will be a blessing to the reader and a tool that can be shared with others as a gift of encouragement.

Please feel free to mail or e-mail us for more copies or to just write to us with any feedback concerning the content of these studies. We hope you enjoy this offering of knowledge and experience. We pray that Christ will draw you into an ever deeper personal relationship with Himself as you study.

Your servants in Christ,

Rev. Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

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INTRODUCTION

*"And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **training in righteousness**; so that the man of God may be adequate, **equipped** for every good work."*

2 Timothy 3:15-17

When we study theology of Scripture we see how Scripture is God's Word, the authority that we are to follow and live by, that Scripture is truth, and how God inspired the Word for us as a divine tool for instruction and encouragement. The Old and New Testaments together are a testimony of God walking and working with Mankind. It is a history of His grace, mercy and love for us. It is a redemptive story that gives hope and freedom to mankind. It is the true foundation that we are to build all our lives upon and Scripture provides the road map and instruction manual for everything in life.

It is amazing how what we are anchored to in life comes out in our character, attitude and action. When our lives are held by anchors other than God's Word (such as culture, ideologies, etc.), we become hindered as disciples from following God fully. Therefore, we are going to study the centrality and importance of Scripture to our lives.

FOCUS AND TARGET FOR TEACHER AND STUDENT

TEACHER: Communicates the reasons why Scripture is so central and vital to the Christian's life and walk with God, so that

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the students learn how to use it as their daily spiritual food and guidance in all areas of life.

STUDENT: The student will come to anchor his life in God's Word, as the authoritative basis for every area of experience by beginning a lifelong practice of its study and application to all he does.

DEFINITION AND SYNONYM

Understanding the meaning of words is the heart to understanding Scripture. Words are the bridge that can help us to understand more about ourselves and about God and the Bible. Please take time to meditate and reflect on the broad and narrow view of each word as defined, along with its synonyms.

Word: One or more sounds expressing an idea, object, or action; used as a title of Jesus Christ. Synonyms: words are used for conversation, consultation, discussion, talk, declaration, expression, communication, oath, promise, vow.

Scripture: Holy Bible, Holy Writ, The Bible, The Book of Books, The Gospels, The Word, The Word of God, sacred writings from God.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The Bible is made of sixty-six books; thirty-nine are what is known as the Hebrew Scripture or the Old Testament. The New Testament has twenty-seven books written mainly in Greek. These books were written over thousands of years by a number of authors who were moved by the Holy Spirit to record facts and truths so that man could become acquainted and have a personal relationship with God Himself. The Bible as a whole was

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canonized by the church fathers around 300 AD. Today it is translated into hundreds of languages worldwide.

SCRIPTURE

Study 2 Timothy 3:15-17, it is the key to a good biblical foundation and it is the next step to helping you as a disciple understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Please look up and read it in its entirety. Take into account the author who wrote it, who it was written to and the context in which it relates to the other verses and chapters around it.

STUDY

Scripture is the foundation to life and ministry and Paul wanted Timothy to know that he had a heritage through his grandmother and mother that bore testimony to the importance of Scripture and how it impacts one's daily life. Scripture is inspired by God for a purpose – to help the disciple grow into a place of maturity. God uses Scripture in our lives for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. Why? So that we may be people of God adequate and equipped for every good work. God's Word is there to help the disciple walk a life of service for Christ Jesus.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

The Bible is full of illustrations showing what God wants us to understand about the importance of Scripture for the disciple. Take time to look up in the Scripture these biographies and reflect on how God called these people to be His vessels for service. Notice how God calls everyday people to Himself and to His Kingdom.

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David: The Psalms to God express the words of David from his heart in a relationship of worship and dependence.

Solomon: Asked God for wisdom and the Lord poured Proverbs into his heart.

Ezra: Taught God's word to the people in Jerusalem and a revival broke out.

Jesus: Used the Word and was also the Word Himself.

Peter: Used God's Word to show how the gospel was for both Jews and Gentiles.

Paul: Carried the Good News of Christ's grace to the Gentiles.

KEY OBJECT LESSON

Roots: When it comes to a tree we often do not see much of the root system. But we are told that the root system is the same or larger than the tree itself. The roots are what anchor the tree to the ground. Their job is to give stability and food to the rest of the plant. Life first starts in the root system, for without it the tree dies. It also gives firmness and stability during the time of storms. The Word of God is to be the same for the disciples. The Scriptures are to root us and feed us for our everyday pilgrimage.

Transition

What follows are ten different pictures that are given to us in the Word about the importance of the Scripture in the daily walk of disciples.

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1. THE WORD AS INSPIRATION

Everything that God has made has come from God speaking it forth. From the first day of creation to the present day, God speaks into the hearts of men and women. His words have inspired countless numbers of people through the ages. The Bible is known as The Word or The Scriptures given to us by God, who moved upon people to write down what He had spoken into their hearts.

DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

Inspired: God-breathed; prompted by or emanating from a supernatural source. Synonyms: prompted, gave rise to, animated, breathed out, influenced.

SCRIPTURE

*“All Scripture is **inspired** by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”* 2 Timothy 3:16-17

CONTEXT: 2 Timothy 3:1-15

- Paul wanted Timothy to know that they were in the last days and there were some difficult times ahead.
- Paul described what people will be like in the last days, that they will be lovers of themselves.
- Paul warns that people will be promoting their own ways and weighing people down with all kinds of sin.
- Paul encouraged to keep following his teaching, conduct, faith and perseverance.

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- Paul reminded Timothy of his own personal testimony concerning the Word of God.

INSIGHTS

God's word speaks directly to the heart of man. It gives life to those who obey it and live by it. God's word brings us back into a personal relationship with Him. It also shows us the way out of a life of sinfulness and bondage. The Word has been described by many other names, but most importantly is that it has been and still is inspired by God. One author has said, *"In the production of Scripture both God and man were active participants. God was the source of the content of Scripture, so that what it says is what God has said. But the human author also actively spoke; he was more than a recorder. Yet what he said came from God. Although actively speaking, he was carried along by the Holy Spirit."* (p. 1823 of the New American Standard Study Bible footnotes)

The Old and New Testaments carry the stories of thousands of people, spanning thousands of years and relating to the reader the message of God's grace and love for mankind. It is a redemptive story that includes laws, commands, promises, poetry, letters and biographies. It is also full of prophecy that was spoken to His people and fulfilled by God. Scripture points to two climaxing events. One was the first coming of Christ as Messiah and Servant to a lost world, His crucifixion and resurrection from the dead. The second will be His coming back as King of kings to judge and then to set up His Kingdom here on earth.

The inspired Word of God is also truth and hope that we can live by. It has the power through the work of the Holy Spirit to break the cords of this world that bind, as well as defeat the enemy

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of this world. Satan and his entire host cannot stand up against the inspired and anointed Word of God.

Over history many have tried to destroy the Bible and those who proclaim it, but all they have succeeded in doing is fanning the flames of revivals for God. The harder people have tried to stamp out God's word, the more it has persisted and spread.

RELEVANCE

The Scriptures are still relevant for today. They bridge time, culture, tradition and race. No matter who you are or where you live or what you struggle with, Scripture is inspired by God for us. The Word is there to remove fear and build faith. Where we feel weak and helpless it will make us strong and bold. It will take our dead heart that is full of sin and mould it into the likeness and the image of God. It is also a mirror that will show us our true reflection.

REFLECTION

How are you letting the Word of God inspire and change your life? What truths does it speak to you on a daily basis? Do you trust in God's Word as the inspired word of God?

RELATED SCRIPTURES FOR THE LESSON

Exodus 34:27-28 ... **write** down these **words** ... he **wrote** on the tablets these words of the covenant

Joshua 24:26 ... and Joshua **wrote** these words in the book of the law of God ...