

That the Man of God May be Complete

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Introduction

1. The Bible is one of God's most wonderful gifts to mankind.
2. We have salvation through Jesus Christ, but it is the gospel message found in the Bible that reveals that salvation to us.
 - a. Through the reading and preaching of the Scriptures the Holy Spirit is able to “*convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment*” (John 16:8).
 - b. Without the Scriptures we would not be convicted.
3. In recent years the attack on the Scriptures as the sufficient and only guide for mankind has increased, even infiltrating churches that claim to be of Christ.
4. In this lesson we will consider Paul’s words in 2 Tim. 3:16-17 in order to see that the Scriptures are not only from God, but are totally adequate to make the man of God “*complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*”

Discussion

I. All Scripture Is Inspired of God

A. 2 Pet. 1:19-21: Prophets Spoke as They Were Moved By The Holy Spirit

1. Not men spouting own opinions.
2. God sent His Spirit, Spirit revealed God’s word, prophets wrote it down. “*Thus says the Lord*” (Jer. 2:2).

B. New Testament Scriptures

1. Most acknowledge the authenticity of the O.T. Scriptures.
2. When it comes to the N.T. Scriptures, some are reluctant to say that they include everything we need.
 - a. “Even though God did not include instrumental music in the Bible, there are secular records of 1st century Christians using instruments.”
 - b. “Just because God doesn’t say he wants it, it doesn’t make it wrong.”
 - c. “The New Testament is just a love letter, not a law that we have to keep.”
3. However, faith comes by hearing God’s word (Rom. 10:17).
4. If we walk by faith, then we must walk only in that which God revealed through His word.
5. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would reveal all truth (John 16:13).
6. In order to walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:25) we must walk in the truth revealed by the Spirit, but if we go beyond the Scriptures then we are no longer walking in the Spirit but in our own wisdom.

C. Authority of New Testament Scriptures

1. Heb. 1:1-2: God speaks through Jesus Christ.
2. John 14:26; 16:13-15: Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to reveal God’s word (1 Cor. 2:10-11).

3. The Holy Spirit revealed God's word through the apostles and prophets (Eph. 3:5).
4. The apostles and prophets recorded the revelation of the Holy Spirit for the churches so that Christians will always "*have a reminder of these things*" (2 Pet. 1:12; 3:16). See also 1 Thess. 5:27; Col. 4:16.
5. Therefore what is written in the New Testament Scriptures is inspired of God and able to make the man of God complete (1 Cor. 14:37; Col. 4:16; 2 Thess. 2:15; 3:24).

II. And Is Profitable

- A. The Scriptures are given for our use
 1. 2 Pet. 1:19: They are as a light in a dark place.
 2. Eph. 4:17-24: They are necessary for overcoming the ignorance in the world.
 3. Deut. 10:12-13: God's word is given for our good—but if we add to and do not abide in His word then it is for our judgment (John 12:48; 2 John 9; Rev. 22:18-19).
- B. For Doctrine:
 1. Doctrine is teaching—The New Testament is the teachings of Christ.
 2. Matt. 28:20: Jesus commanded that all of His commands be taught and kept by His disciples.
 3. John 8:31-32: In order for His disciples to be free in the truth they must be devoted to His doctrine.
 4. The Scriptures are our source for that doctrine—they the teachings of Christ revealed through the Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised "*He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you*" (John 16:14).
- C. For Reproof:
 1. Testing, proving, examining.
 2. We are commanded to examine our faith (2 Cor. 13:5)—The Scriptures are the standard for that examination.
 3. Testing all things (1 Thess. 5:21); testing spirits (1 John 4:1)—The Scriptures are the standard for that testing.
 4. Rom. 12:2: Proving what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- D. For Instruction in Righteousness
 1. Without the revelation of God, men are completely ignorant of the righteousness of God.
 2. But through the Scriptures the righteousness of God is revealed (1 Cor. 15:33-34).
 3. Rom. 1:16-17; 3:26: They reveal how God makes us righteous through Jesus Christ.
 4. 1 John 2:29; 3:7: They reveal how we can be righteous as God is righteous.
 5. Matt. 6:33: They reveal the kingdom of God and His righteousness that we may seek it first.

III. That the Man of God May Be Complete

- A. God's word makes us complete, because it is perfect.
 - 1. It gives us doctrine from which we have faith.
 - 2. It gives us weapons against error (2 Cor. 10:4-6).
 - 3. It corrects our error
 - 4. It teaches how to live righteous by God's standard.

- B. It reveals the good works that we are to do.
 - 1. Titus 2:14: God's people have been purchased by the blood of Christ for good works.
 - 2. Heb. 10:24; Titus 3:8, 14: When the church is together Christians are to exhort and instruct one another toward good works.
 - 3. 2 Tim. 3:17: God's word is the standard for that instruction.
 - 4. Not only is it the standard, but as Paul said in 2 Tim. 3:17, God's work makes us perfectly equipped for every good work.
 - a. Since the Bible makes us complete, it is complete.
 - b. In other words, THE BIBLE GIVES US EVERYTHING WE NEED TO ACCOMPLISH GOD'S WILL ON EARTH.
 - c. IF GOD DIDN'T PUT SOMETHING IN THE BIBLE, IT MEANS HE DOESN'T WANT IT!

Conclusion

- 1. As God's word, the Scriptures should be near and dear to the heart of every Christian. "I will write My law on their hearts" (Jer. 31:33).
- 2. We see what God says about His word, let us therefore be diligent to learn His word and to uphold it as the only standard for our life (2 Tim. 2:15).
- 3. Let us be content to "speak as the oracles of God" without going beyond God's word for our authority (1 Pet. 4:11).
- 4. In so doing we will have God in all that we do (2 John 9b).

*By David Phillips
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