

God's Word Is Essential

Text : **II Tim. 3: 10 – 4: 4**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Like God's people of old, God has called Christians to be a nation of priests.

1. This is the fundamental basis of God's relationship with His called out people.
 - a. **Exod. 19: 5-6** “.. and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; **5** and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”
 - b. **I Pet. 2:9-** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
2. Being called as priests, we must function as priests of God in the world.

B. Priests are servants of God assigned to communicate God's will to the world.

1. All servants of God are responsible to Him for the completion of their assigned task.
2. As priests we cannot communicate that which we have not learned.
3. Our previous lessons in this series have reminded us that relationship with God requires knowledge. **Rom. 10: 17**

C. When God's people of old neglected His word, they fell away and were rejected.

1. **Hosea 4:6-** My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.
2. **Isaiah 5: 13-** Therefore My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge; And their honorable men are famished, And their multitude is parched with thirst.

D. When they were restored, they returned to His word.

1. **Neh. 8: 3-** He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law.
2. **Neh. 8: 8-9** They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading. **9** Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law.

E. The Lord God has been reaching out mankind from the very beginning.

1. He was able to walk with man in the garden.
2. He reached out to the fallen children of Adam. (*Cain & Abel*)
3. He directed the patriarchs. (*Noah, Abraham, etc.*)
4. He instructed His people through Moses and the Prophets.
5. In this last era, God has reached out via His Only Begotten Son, Jesus the Christ.
6. Jesus continues to reach out to the world through those who faithfully serve Him.

F. Some of God's dealings with man were written down as a permanent outreach to mankind.

1. During His ministry Jesus often referred others to God's written word.
 - a. **Matt. 4: 4, 8, 10** ... When tempted He responded "It is written."
 - b. **John 5: 39** ... He referred people to the written word to learn of Him.
 - c. **Luke 16: 29** ... He referred people to the writings of Moses and the Prophets to learn how to be saved from eternal condemnation.
2. The Apostles of Christ also referred people to the written word.
 - a. **I Tim. 4:13-** Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, ...
 - b. **I Thes. 5:27-** I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.
 - c. **Col. 4.16** - When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea.
3. Paul expected Christians to read his writings.

I Cor. 1: 13- For we write nothing else to you than what you read and understand, and I hope you will understand until the end;

As the Apostle Paul was preparing to leave this life, our text records His instructions to his friend and student to aggressively pursue the scriptures and to share them with others. Read ... II Tim. 3: 10 – 4: 4 In these verses we see some of God's intended uses for His written word.

I. Vs. 15 The scriptures are essential to give one "the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

A. The theme of the entire bible from the first word to the last is salvation in Jesus the Christ.

1. In the immediate context the prophets dealt with Israel, but their message was Jesus.

Acts 3: 24- And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days.

2. Jesus told us that the Old Testament was to teach us about Him.
John 5: 39- You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;
3. The Jews didn't understand the Old Testament because they didn't have the whole picture.
 - a. *It's like trying to put a puzzle together without the picture.*
 - b. We've all heard the old adage :
**"In the New Testament in the Old is concealed;
And the Old Testament is in the New revealed."**
4. The Old Testament is just as important to the Christian as the New Testament.
 - a. The scripture which Timothy studied were the Old Testament writings.
 - b. Philip taught the Ethiopian treasurer about Jesus out of the book of Isaiah. **Acts 8**
 - c. The Apostle Paul taught that the O.T. scriptures are still relevant to the Christian.
Rom. 15:4- For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

B. Salvation is by faith and faith can ONLY come through the word of God.

1. The Apostle John said he wrote his gospel so the reader would develop faith.
John 20: 30-31 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
2. The Apostle Paul teaches us that faith comes ONLY through hearing the word.
Rom. 10: 17- So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

C. Therefore, in order to lead someone to salvation we must lead them to the word.

II. Vs. 16 The Scripture are essential for doctrine, i.e., they tell us what to teach.

A. This word (*didaskalia*) refers to that which is taught by Christians.

1. The body of Christian teachings is sometime referred to as "the faith."
 - a. **II Tim. 4: 7-** ... I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;
 - b. **Jude 3-** Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.
2. There is but one faith (**Eph. 4:5**) so all Christians should be teaching the same.

B. Doctrine is important.

1. The first disciples were taught to remain steadfast to the Apostles doctrine.
Acts 2:42- They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' doctrine and to fellowship and to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
2. The Apostle Paul required Timothy to follow his doctrine.
II Tim. 3: 10- Now you followed my doctrine, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,

C. God's holy bible communicates the doctrine of Christ to man.

1. Thus, the bible limits the doctrine that can be taught.
 - a. **I Cor. 4: 6- Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.**
 - b. When everyone teaches ONLY what is written, there can be unity. (*not tradition*)
 2. All who teach in the church must speak only the words of God.
I Pet. 4:11- Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the Utterances of God (*the oracles of God* – KJV) ; ...
- D. One who says, "*I'm a Christian, but I'm not much into doctrine, church, etc. is grossly mistaken and his faith is suspect.*"**

III. The Scripture are essential for pointing out our mistakes, for "reproof."

- A. "Reproof" translates a word (*elegmos*) which means : "*refutation.*"
 1. No one is perfect so we all need a way to identify our mistakes.
 2. When one realizes he's off course, he must check the map.
The word of God is the Christian's map, his standard right and wrong.
 3. Reproof here indicates a self examination, **not** that it is used to condemn others.
- B. **When Satan draws people away from God, he first separates them from the word.**
 1. He floods their life with activities to make them "*too busy*" to read the word.
 2. Next, he lures him away from the assemblies of the church where the word is taught.
 - * 3. ***This is Satan's motivation in creating an atmosphere where entertainment is held as the most important value in a "worship" service.***
 - a. Worship is where man seeks after God.
 - b. Those who make worship a sensual experience accomplish the will of SATAN.

- C. Upon the instruction of a mentor I wrote the following in the front of my bible :
*“Either this book will keep you from sinning
 -or- sin will keep you from this book.”*

IV. The Scripture are essential to enable “correction.”

- A. “Correction” translates a word (*epanorthosis*) which means
“restoration to an upright or right state.”
1. It comes from the same root word as “orthodontist.” (*orthosis*)
 2. Correction and reproof go together.
 - a. Reproof identifies the problem.
 - b. Correction explains how to make it right again.
 3. When God reproves it is for the purpose of correction.
- B. Each Christian is obligated to participate in the correction of every other.
1. Elders must take the lead in this, but all other Christians must follow their example.
 - a. Elders must shepherd the flock which they oversee. **I Pet. 5: 1-4**
 - b. When a sheep goes astray, the shepherd (*elder*) must bring him back to the flock.
 - c. When a sheep keeps on straying, discipline is required to teach him to follow.
** Shepherds will break a lambs leg and then set it so the lamb cannot stray.
 As the shepherd carries it from place to place, the lamb learns to stay close.*
 2. Each mature Christian helps the shepherd with the lambs.

Gal. 6: 1-2 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. **2** Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

 - a. Not in a prideful, self-righteous way
 - b. Not in a harsh or judgmental way
 3. What is the proper way ? Lovingly seeking to restore him remembering the day will come when you need correction.

II Tim. 2: 24-25 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, **25** with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, **26** and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

V. The Scripture are essential for “training in righteousness.”

A. This translates a word (*paideia*) for which there is no direct English equivalent.

1. Strong's Enhanced Lexicon defines it as : “the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment) It also includes the training and care of the body.
2. The word is that which brings spiritual children to maturity.
II Pet. 2: 2- like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word,
 so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

B. The word of God is mother's milk to the Christian.

1. Children are not taught how to nurse, it's instinctive.
 - a. They're born with the ability, knowledge and desire to nurse.
 - b. Without any one of these an infant will not survive.
2. Imagine elders trying to care for a spiritual infant that did not want to nurse.

C. The true child of God will desire to be trained.

1. The Christian who doesn't want to grow is as abnormal as the infant who won't nurse.
2. The fate of the Christian who does not seek nourishment is the same as said infant.

D. The word of God has everything one needs to be fully mature in Christ.

1. **II Tim. 3: 17-** man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
2. **II Pet. 1:3-** ... has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness,
 through the true knowledge of Him

CONCLUSION :

- A. Only Jesus Himself is a greater blessing than His word.
- B. After the resurrection of Jesus, the bible is the second greatest miracle.
- C. Do not let this great blessing set and gather dust.
 1. Study it and meditate on it.
 2. Apply it as a guide for your life.
 3. Share it with others.
- D. One's relationship to God and his relationship to God's word are linked.

Lesson Text :

II Tim. 3: 10 – 4: 4

10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, **11** persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! **12** Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. **13** But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived. **14** You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, **15** 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. **16** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Chapter 4

1 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **2** preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. **3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, **4** and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.