

2 Timothy 3:10-17

A letter from Paul to his mentee, Timothy

Timothy

- from Lystra; Jewish mother and a non-Jewish father
- Left in charge of church in Ephesus

Paul

- in prison in Rome
- not expecting to live much longer

A letter from Paul to his mentee, Timothy

- Written about 30 years after Jesus' death and resurrection
- Paul urges Timothy:
 - to remain strong in the faith
 - to persevere in the face of suffering
 - to continue his ministry after his death

Challenge of false teachers

Paul contrasts Timothy with false teachers

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance (2 Tim 3:10)

But as for you, continue in what you have learned (2 Tim 3:14)

*What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of **sound teaching**, with faith and love in Christ Jesus (1 Tim 1:13)*

Challenge of false teachers

Paul reminds Timothy of importance of Scripture

- for Timothy himself so that he can endure and persevere
- for the church that he's leading

*What had Timothy
learnt and why
should he believe it?*

What had Timothy learnt?

From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (v15)

- Been taught the Scriptures (Old Testament) by mother & grandmother
- Heard Paul explain how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies

How did Timothy know it was true?

*...what you... have become convinced of,
**because you know those from whom
you learned it (NIV)***

*You know they are true, for **you know you
can trust those who taught you. (NLT)***

- Not only heard teaching but seen those who taught him living out their faith day by day, even in persecution

Importance of people walking alongside us

- Teaching us
- Sharing their lives – living out faith
 - Confidence in what we've been taught
 - Teach & disciple others
 - Persevere even when it's difficult

Build our lives on Jesus & his teaching

What does Paul say about Scripture?

Scripture is God's words

- *All Scripture is God-breathed (NIV)
inspired by God (NLT) (2 Tim 3:16)*
- *no prophecy in Scripture ever came from
the prophet's own understanding, or from
human initiative....they spoke from God.
(2 Pet.2:20-21)*
- *"It is written...." (Jesus)*
- *the Jews have been entrusted with the very
words of God. (Rom 3:2)*

What is the purpose of Scripture?

..from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. (NLT)

- **To point to Jesus so that we can be saved through faith in him**

What is the purpose of Scripture?

To point to Jesus so that we can be saved through faith in him

- Jesus showed disciples how he had fulfilled OT through his death (Luke 24)
- Philip explained to Ethiopian official that Isaiah's prophecy was about Jesus (Acts 8)
- NT writers show how Jesus fulfils OT

What is the purpose of Scripture?

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for **teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness** so that the servant of God may **be thoroughly equipped for very good work***

What is the purpose of Scripture?

- Not an exclusive list
- *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the **encouragement** they provide we might have **hope**.*
(Romans 15:4)

What is the purpose of Scripture?

Teaching

- Timothy was a pastor
- Scripture must be basis of teaching for church, like Paul, like Jesus
- *preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine.* (2⁶

What is the purpose of Scripture?

Rebuking

- Pointing our error
- Exposing false teaching
 - We too need to check what we hear against Scripture
 - *Does it fit with the overall message of Scripture?*

Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all (1 Thess. 5:20-21)

What is the purpose of Scripture?

Correcting (behaviour)

- Scripture gives us a framework for living as God's people
- *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. (Luke 22:37-40)*

What is the purpose of Scripture?

Correcting (behaviour)

- God uses his Word to challenge our behaviour

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Heb. 4:12)

What is the purpose of Scripture?

Training in Righteousness

- Putting into practice what we read
- Becoming more and more like God
- Practice makes perfect!
- *so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for very good work*

Scripture is essential for all Christians

- Points to Jesus
 - leading to faith in Him
- Helps us grow in our faith and behave as God wants us to, through:
 - ❖ Studying it
 - ❖ Seeing others demonstrate its truth and trustworthiness

Scripture is essential for all Christians

- ❖ Many in French-speaking Africa don't have access to Scripture in a language they can understand
 - Evangelical Fraternity working on new translation in contemporary Wolof in Senegal
 - Pastors in Ivory Coast, Republic of Congo, and Togo involved in Bible Translation

What can we take away?

- Need to continually check what we hear against the Bible so we can hold onto the truth
- Teaching is not enough
 - Need to see faith put into practice
 - Need to demonstrate truth by our lives
- Need to be willing to let God speak to us through his Word & to be changed by it – put it into practice
- All people need God's Word

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