2 Tim. 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

What have you done with God's word. What place do you personally give the word of God in your life. This question is not how important the Bible was to your parents. The question is not, what has the church done with the word of God. The question is really not what others have done with the word of God. The real question that (each) of us should face is what we have individually, personally done with the word of God. Joshua was commissioned to take over the responsibility of leading the 12 tribes. And he was commanded and advised to give God's word a prominent place in every thought and in every action. Josh. 1:8. This book of the law shall not depart out of they mouth. Thou shall meditate therein day and night, that thou shall observe to do according to all that is written therein. Thou shalt make thy

World you can to real The Billy of Pray before Retring? The hoster would a se Chapy willy of the first would be glad a Re proving the daily said to him established in he home. Apan sorrowing her he would be glad a Re proving the daily said to much "her young son Bolly" go in Pre other roomed being That his Bosh mother pashly red so much "her young son Bolly" go in Prothes returned with se sears, Rocheck Catalog.

(Is the Bible a Tost book as far as you are conserved.

in 2 Kings 22, of finding the lost book. And of reading it.

The Dead Sea scrolls which were first discovered in 1947, by an Arab shepherd in a cave, are a thousand years older than any previous copy in existence. They were found in 50 earthen jars and contained the principle writings of Isaiah.

V.)

Scripture is given by inspiration of God. Paul has painted a picture for us — a large development of evil that was prospect in the world as well as in the church. He began the chapter by talking about periless days and times, in the last days, he said — an element of threat will come. Keeping the faith would call for effort and courage.

- v.(2-3) He says there will be those who would be lovers of themselves. They would oppose the Christian virtues.
- V 5 He said, there would be a form of outward likeness. Now they did not deny religion. But what he says is, they meant nothing by it.
- It is like V. 6 in which he translates how these falsehoods creep in and men and women are often the target.
- They actually withstood Moses. As to his divine character and his mission, and they probably said that Moses was a counterfeit.

These things characterize the dangers of faith in our day. He was warning his Disciples that they would need power of endurance.

He characterized the Godlessness. Almost shocking, the list of evils which he gives. It is sad to say, but they are familiar names that you and I have met. The first basic ones was lovers of there own selves and covetous.

What about self-love today, pride, greed, etc.

Another thing was these men spent their time in utter lack of respect for what is good and holy. The ordinary decencies by which human beings are moved. There is a surrender to the lower nature.

And of course, men were maintaining a religious form. Without any intention of allowing religion to control their lives. This is a sermon for you tonight. You may have religion, but do you intend for that religion to control your life. Do you intend for the Word of God to control the way you live.

What he is saying is, this group were actually using religion to lead people astray. It is easier to talk, than it is to walk like a Christian. And so, he says in V. 13 - they waxed - they make progress in the wrong direction. The Devil improves his inventions - just like men, improve inventions today for luxury and other things.

V 15 - The Holy Scripture is a sacred writing. And that all Scripture is inspired of God. And it is given for one purpose. That the man may be thoroughly furnished unto the man of God - unto perfection. Thoroughly furnished. He has a great example. And he is going to become something in the teaching as he fits into God's word.

Now we believe that the Bible was written by men divinely inspired. And it is a perfect treasure of Heavenly instruction. That it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its

subject matter. And that it reveals the principles by which God will one day judge us.

All of the supreme standards by which human conduct, creed, and opinions may be tried or found here in the Scripture.

The Latin word - scribo means - I write. From which comes the word - scriptura. Which means that which has been written. Among Christians, the word Scripture or Scriptures, refers to the writtings which are contained in the Bible.

The complete collection of sacred Scriptures are called the Bible. The word Biblion means a little book. The Scriptures are composed of 66 little books. And these 66 books are referred to - as in the group, the word Biblia, Bible.

We have this Bible because we have God. If there was no living God, or if God paid no attention to man, there would be no Bible. It is because God is interested in men that the Bible has been given. And if they are to be saved from evil, they must know many things. Which at the beginning, they did not know.

Many things that people need to know - they could not learn for themselves.

They could learn a great deal from study and from experience. But they did not know about the nature of God, God's will, and God's purpose, and grace, redemption

and forgiveness. And the life of Jesus outside of the Bible.

So men need to know more than they could learn just from themselves and from the history about them. Therefore, in the process of time, God enlarged the scope of his revelation. And he spoke through his word. He gave messages to men of old.

Now the men to whom God gave the messages, he required some of them to put down in writing. And these writings were selected with care. There was fitness of character of intellect. And these things were put together and a man who is to write a message, must have a certain relation to the age which God intended that particular revelation to be made.

And the message of the Bible is the message concerning eternal life.

And they wrote down what God had to say about life.

You can understand the Bible. It is not just a myth. A 17 year old young man went to church. Because the shoe salesman who led him to Christ told him he needed to learn more about the Saviour he just received. In the song service, the minister said, turn to 2 Tim. 5:12. The young convert turned to the first page of the Bible. Which his friend had given him. He thumbed through and he couldn't find Timothy. He turned to the table of contents. He found 2 Tim. was on page 325. He found that page number and he was in the book of Joshua. He looked again at the table of contents - and he discovered there were two basic selections. Two sections of the Bible - and 2 Tim. was in the second.

By the time the young convert found the text, the minister was finished with the sermon. Needless to say, he was a little bit embarrassed.

Have you ever felt like that. Don't be discouraged. Most new Christians start off the same way. And of course, years ago that young man became a preacher. And he established a Bible Institute. And Dwight L. Moody decided that everyone needed to knew how to study the Bible and to find out what God had to say.

Someone has suggested that success or failure in the Christian life is all dependent on how much of the Bible you get into your mind on a regular basis, and how obedient you are to it. It is true, you can go to Heaven with a little bit of knowledge. But in Rom. 19:9-10, John 3:16, - about God's marvelous salvation. John 1:12. How that God will freely forgive you. But if you are ever going to be a happy, successful Christian - it will be on regularly feeding on the word of God. And that takes work. The more you work at it, the more you will find that it is worth the price.

It is very unfortunate that many Christians believe that you cannot understand the Bible. They think it is only written for theologians, preachers, and ministers. Or maybe for Bible scholars or those who are going to preach. But if you will spend a little time studying the Bible, you will discover something. The sad thing is - that it wasn't written for just ministers or those who are going to study. It was written for people just like you. For example in John 1, he says I write unto you little children. Exactly, they were new Christians.

And you understand the Bible the same way.

in a magazine Learn English

in 15 minutes a day. Well now, for some people, there is nothing harder than English. But this man said you could master it in 15 minutes a day. Now he is exactly right.

Actually, the Bible You can master it if you would spend 15 minutes a day with a definite program of reading the Scriptures 15 minutes a day. If you will read it 15 minutes a day, if you have the time, spend about 15 more minutes for study and just searching around. And at the end of two or three years, you know what you will have done if you only ready 15 minutes a day. You will have read the complete Bible through. You will read some of the books several times. You will know more about the promises and the commands in the Bible. And the important chapters and the key verses. And you will sort of have a working knowledge of the Bible.

So you read and you study, and you think about the Scriptures.

That is why this text says, the word, the Scripture is given by inspiration. The word inspired comes from two Greek words — which literally means God breathed. The term given by inspiration teaches that the Scriptures are the result of some kind of influence which God exerted upon the writers. It means a conscious breathing according to this passage. Then inspiration means a strong conscious in breathing of God into men by which they are qualified to give utterance to truth.

It is God speaking through men, making the Scriptures as much the word of God, as if he had spoken it through his own lips.

If you will take the Old Testament, for example, and look for the phrases - thus saith the Lord. The Lord said unto Moses. The Lord spake saying. Ex. 24:4. Moses is told to write all the words of the Lord. The book of Joshua opens - the Lord spake unto Joshua. And he commands him according to all that is written therein. In the book of the law. Joshua 1:1,8.

You might go on with Samuel, Daniel, Isaiah. Well over 300 times the very words, thus saith the Lord, appear. No one can approach the Old Testament with an open mind without believing its own claim of divine inspiration.

When you turn to the New Testament the first chapter declares the authority of the Holy Chost. Matt. 1:18. The angel of the Lord, who told Joseph, of Mary. That all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophets. In Mark's gospel, he opens by saying the beginning of the Cospel of Jesus Christ, the son of God, as it is written in the prophets.

And then you come to our text that every Scripture is God breathed.

Look at what Christ said in his witness. It is written. He referred to the writings of Moses, Prophets, David. Matt. 5:18. For verily I say unto you, til Heaven and earth pass, one jot, a smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Or one tittle, a small portion of some Hebrew letters, shall in no wise pass from the law until all is fulfilled. Mark 13:31. Heaven and earth shall pass away. But my word shall not pass away.

Consider this - 66 books penned over 1500 years by 45 writers. Each book can stand alone. And each book fits exactly along besides the other.

And the writers the kings, the shepherds, statesmen, fishermen, physicians, tax collectors, poets, prophets, priests, and out-casts. And the whole unit tells the story of man's complete ruin in sin. And God's perfect remedy in Christ.

And humanly speaking it was impossible. But only writers inspired by the spirit of God could produce what we now know as the Bible. And archeology has confirmed thenthat the Scripture is inspired.

So this literary book - it is a record of man's search for God and God's search for man.

No wonder a great scholar, Kierkegaard says, it is a letter from God with our personal address on it. To be sure, it is more than a letter. It unfolds a drama that tells us about the creation. And it tells us that we were rebels and it tells us about a covenant. That brought about reconstruction. They need God to help them, and God who can do became one of them. They called him the Messiah, the Christ. And then the church was composed, and thus the Scripture. The Bible becomes a personal letter to ourselves from God. And we must answer.

Ann Southern, who was a mother and a T. V. star a few years ago had an illness. She was emmotionally broke. Her nerves were disturbed. She had ordinary fears of tortures. And she had doubts about ever facing the cameras again. She spent much time in prayers. And one of her sources was reading the Rible. The book of Proverbs, 3:6, in all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall



Neglected Bibles

In these latter days we have heard much about the baneful influences of destructive criticism, but is it not just as wicked to neglect God's Word as to mutilate it?

There is a story told of a young man who on leaving home for the theological school was given some good advice by his father. "Now, John," said the old man, "don't let them take away your father's Bible from you. Beware of higher critics."

When John returned, his father questioned him and, to his great joy, found that his son was all right. Then John went abroad for two years of study.

When he reached home again, his father said, "John, I hope you have not allowed them to weaken your faith in the old Bible. What about Elisha's axe? Did it swim? And did the fish swallow Jonah?"

"Oh, now, Father," said John, quietly, "you do not mean to say that you still believe that story about Jonah?"

The old man threw up his hands, horror-stricken. "Oh, John, you have forsaken your father's Bible. You have lost your faith!"

"Father, be reasonable," said John. "What about Jonah? Who was he? Is he still in your Bible?"

"Why, yes," said the old man, trembling with emotion.

"Have you read about him lately, Father? Get your Bible and show me where you find anything about Jonah."

With considerable indignation the old man took down his Bible and began to turn over the leaves excitedly, but could not find Jonah.

"Now, Father," said John, "I may be wicked, but when I was home two years ago, I took your Bible and cut out carefully the pages of Jonah, and you have never missed it."

The father's face revealed a peculiar mental struggle for a few moments. Then he said, "I see it, my boy. I am as bad as the higher critics. There has been no Jonah in my Bible for two years."

Is not a neglected Bible as bad as a mutilated Bible?

_J. W. Mahood

* Bible Searching

Luther said he studied his Bible in the same way as he gathered apples. First, he shook the whole tree, that the ripest fruit might fall; then he climbed the tree and shook each limb; and when he had shaken each limb, he shook each branch, and after each branch,

every twig, and then looked under every leaf.

Let us search the Bible as a whole; shake the whole tree. Read it as you would read any other book, then shake every limb, study book after book. Then shake every branch, giving attention to chapters when they do not break the sense. Then shake each twig by a careful study of the paragraphs and sentences. You will be rewarded if you will look under every leaf, by searching the meaning of the words.

—Selected

* Globe-Trotting

An account is given of a globetrotter who, with his daughter, came into the Sistine chapel in Rome. Stepping into the place where many have spent days without exhausting the materials for study and reflection, he looked around and said: "Well, girl, the Sistine chapel. Well, well, it is 11:30 o'clock. Let's go to lunch; we've seen the place."

There are those who attempt to skim through the pages of the Bible. Yet no profit can be derived from such a "globe-trotting" through the Bible. The godly man, the happy man, is the one who makes the Law of the Lord his daily delight and meditation.

-Selected

"T." and "P."

I have heard of a Christian lady whose Bible showed the following marks on the margin, over against some of the promises and truths of the word: "T." and "P." Here was only "T." There were "T." and

When asked what those letters meant, she said: "'T.' means I have tried that promise, and 'T.' and 'P.' mean that, having tried it, I have also proved it. There are many that I have only tried as yet, but when the answer comes, or the experimental knowledge of the truth comes, I make the completed note "T.' and 'P.'"

-G. F. Pentecost

* The Plain Man's Book

I am always suspicious of profound explanations of Scripture, explanations that require a scholar or philosopher to understand them. The Bible is a plain man's book (Matt. 11:25). In at least ninety-nine cases in a hundred the meaning of Scripture lies on the surface — the meaning that any simple-minded man, woman, or child who really wants to know and obey the truth would see in it.

-Dr. Torrey

* Want of Heart

The great cause of our neglecting the Scriptures is not want of time, but want of heart — some idol taking the place of Christ. Satan has been marvellously wise to entice away God's people from the Scriptures. A child of God who neglects the Scriptures cannot make it his business to please the Lord of glory: cannot make Him Lord of the conscience; a Ruler of the heart; the Joy, Portion, and Treasure of the soul.

-Robert Chapman

direct thy paths. She must now be honest and find Cod's will. And what makes you think he has deserted you, she thought—and it was that which brought her to a real truth.

A young Cornell student was confused about his abilities. He walked in the chapel one day and listened to a text repeated. He never forgot the words. He never forgot the location. And these were the words - urgent reply demanded. Seeking thou great things for thyself, seek them not. Jer. 45:5. John R. Mott became a world known Christian layman. In Y. M. C. A. work, in missionary work, these words changed the whole direction of his life because it was like a letter to his heart.

We might give just a thought to diberalism and its disposition toward the word of God. In declaring that much of it is just a myth. And the Bible, was then viewed as a divine book and as a human book. But the liberal is the man who considers himself to be wiser than God. Now he would never make that bold claim for himself but his actions and his words indicate that he thinks his wisdom is superior. When he comes to a passage of Scripture that he cannot understand, he will explain it away. Adam and Eve were not real people. They were just symbols.

The story of Noah is not the story of the world-wide flood. It is just one to illustrate a truth. Jonah and the whale are just myths and parables. But when it comes to Jesus, they would have you believe that he didn't perform miracles. If he did, it is not the important thing. And so the Bible becomes a allegory.

God's word rings with authority. It has God's stamp upon it. It's message has echoed through the halls of time. It brings conviction, brings courage, instills hope. Furnishes freedom, and puts a song in a person's song and life.

Now why do I believe the Bible is not a myth

First, it is the inspired word of Cod. All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God. God could give a book with a message that is adapted to all races, of mankind. The Chinese, the English man, the French man. It has an ageless message. It is worldwide in its approach and its appeal. It is age long.

If you give up the inspiration of the Scriptures - you dynamite the whole foundation on which Christianity rests. The only churches today that are really aggressive against sin, are those that believe, preach, and live the Bible. Any other would be Bible is weak and helpless, to help this world.

The authorship of men in deserts and tents, by green pastures, fishermen, herdsmen, and some of these men were trained and learned. Some were the best educated. Others were not. But the writings were independently done. And it has never and shall never be out of date.

Think about it - the Scripture is older than the church. It is truer than the tradition that we have. It is more learned than the great universities that we have in our land today. And it is more infallible than any prophet that

comes on the scene today.

It has been abused, hated, and talked about. But they have never dented it. Pharoah is buried in the sands of time. God's word survives.

Now man's achievement is temporary but God's is permanent.

The Bible, I believe, in it because it inspires men. Men are inspired by its warmness, by its history. By its mystery. By its simplicity. You take the Golden Rule or the prodigal son, or the 14th chapter of John. Or think about the lost sheep, the good samaritan. All of these are easily understood. It reveals God to men and men to themselves. It inspires men to go and plant the Gospel in other places.

Versions to go and plant the Gospel in other places.

Partor Prushed "The Handwrithing on Wall" Dan 5:25 Mene, Mene, tebel, highersin, little girl- at free asked What Sermon - " Meany, meany, tickle The Parson"

Now people discuss various versions of the Bible. I think, I prefer the King James for my part. Although, they say the revised version is more scholarly. There are others who prefer other versions. But I am very much like the man who when somebody asked him which version of the Bible is your favorite. And he smiled and says, I prefer my mother's translation of the Bible rather than any other version. Your mother's cried the other man. Why, what do you mean. I mean that my mother has translated the Bible into the language of daily life. For me, since I was old enough to understand it, she translates it straight and gives it full meaning. There has never been any obscurity about her version. Whatever printed version of the Bible I may study, mother's is always the one that clears up most difficulties.

Isn't that true. The Bible can be translated into life and you can see it in the lives of people.

The Bible is involved in destiny. The Bible tells us plainly that those on the right hand will inherit the kingdom of God. And those in the left will go to eternal punishment. According to the Bible - men go to one place or the other. Heaven or Hell. It is a sign board on the highway. It points to the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. And our destiny hinges upon the Bible.

One time Spurgeon told about an Illustration about the power of the Bible. He was having some work done in the tabernacle. And a painter was working high on a schaffold. Finishing some place up high. The preacher came in the building, not knowing that anyone was there, to test the acoustics of the job of remodeling. He stepped to the platform, and in his own impressive tones, repeated John 3:16. The words reached the ears of the painter, high up on the ladder. And it went straight to his heart. He tried to proceed then with his work. The Scripture struck his soul and convicted his heart. He dropped his brush. The man hurried home to his Christian wife. And he told her what he had heard in the tabernacle. It was a word from God, said the man, to my soul. And I want you to pray with me that God will forgive my sins.

Yes, it is sure, God's word produced conviction in that man's heart.

And it has the power.

I believe the Bible because it proclaims the Messiah. The Bible centers in Christ is the center of the Bible. The Old Testament points to his coming. Now the New Testament is the record of the fact of his coming. He was born of a virgin, lived among men, and died upon Calvary for the sins of the world.

He bore the imagine of God - he was the anointed. His name was above all names. Mighty God, everlasting Father, prince of peace, the liley of the valley, the fairest of 10,000.

The Bible proclaims God's message = and what a message that is. How life giving it is. It is needed. It is sufficient. Yes, 100 years ago, it proclaimed the same truth to the hearts of people who needed to hear that message. 100 years ago, people walked by faith. Today people everywhere, are trying to walk by sight, we walk by money, we walk by influence. But 100 years ago they preached and they depended upon God's word.

And now we must depend upon enterprise, our own. And we fail to reach out sometimes in our mission work because we lack the faith to believe God's word. There is a Bethlehem, there is a morning star. There is hope for the lost world. And there is Calvary. And think of the resurrection. Yes, this book has the message.

This book reclaims lost souls. It goes beyond the poor. It comforts the widows. It clothes the orphan. It protects the defenseless.

I want to suggest to you tonight that we ought to love the Bible. It is the foundation of our faith. The word of our God shall stand forever. It is not based on a sand bank - it is built on a rock. God's eternal, unshakeable world.

As the hymn says, how firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord. Is layed

for your faith in his excellent word. What more can he say, than to you he hath said. You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled.

Yes, it is solid.

An Irishman build a fence. 3 ft. high, 4 feet wide. And somebody asked why he built the fence wider than he did in height, and he said so if someone kicks it over - it will be higher than it was in the first place. Now the Bible has been kicked about. But what has resulted - it rises higher and higher in the estimation of man.

This Bible is the very fountain of life. John Wonamake) who was a companion to kings, rulers, and presidents - began to earn as a boy \$1.25 a week. And yet became one of the largest purchasers of merchandise the world has ever known. But when asked what did he consider his greatest purchase, he said - I of course purchased great things costing millions of dollars. Buildings, grounds, etc. And some have been valued at 20 billion dollars. But he said it was when I was a boy in the country at 11 years of age. I made the biggest purchase. A little mission Sunday School, I bought for my teacher a small red leather Bible. It was about 8" long and 6" wide. The Bible cost me \$2.75. Which I paid in small installments as I saved up my own money.

The Herald Tribune, New York, commented said, later deal in millions called small compared to buying holy rite at 11.

If more people really read the Bible, they would give such a testimony. The greatest investment is in the word of God.

Being Stanley, holding up his New Testment said, it contains all the wisdom of the world. It is the fountain of life.

When the prodigal son was being read, Coleridge said in his own heart, it finds me." This divine book is a mold that fits my heart.

When the queen was at the cornation in England (Queen Elizabeth) the bishop handed her a Bible. We present you with this book. This is the most valuable thing that this world affords. And the one who was moderating said, here is wisdom. This is the royal law. These are the living oracles of God.

Many have tried to kill the Bible, but it still lives.

No other book has the number of enemies. French infidels prophesied that 100 years ago the Bible would be forgotten. Englesoll went so far as to declare that in 10 years the Bible would not be read. In 25 years it would be forgotten after he published his treaties against it.

The Bible is active, it is like a seed. The seed is the word of God. Luke 8:11. A seed is something that has life in it.

A professor of botany told of a little brown seed that he held in his hand. He said I know the the exact composition of this seed. It has carbon, nitrogen, etc. And I know the exact proportions and he says I can make a seed that looks exactly like it. If I plant my seed, it will not come up. It will not germinate. It's elements will be absorbed in the soil. If I plant the seed which God has made - it will become a plant. Because it contains the mysterious principle that we call the life principle.

Now the printed words on the pages of this book may look common and ordinary like other pages. But there is a vast difference - the word of God has life in it. And it is planted on good soil.

The word is light. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105.

Robert E. Lee once said the Bible is a book in comparison with all others are of minor importance. And he says in all my perplexities, and distresses, have never failed to give me light and strength.

The Bible is a fire. Thy word, like fire, saith Jehovah. Jer. 23:29. Fire is an agent for cleansing. Where shall a young man cleanse his way. By taking heed according to thy word. Psalm 119:9. Jer. 23:29 - The word of God is like a hammer. And like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces - it has power to pound out and to break up our cold hearts.

The word is like a sword, the sword of the spirit. Which is the word of

God. Eph. 6:17.

So this is a weapon for defense and offense. It has power to cut through and to conquor.

The statistics of the Bible also tell us of its power. (39 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New. A total of 66 books. The shortest chapter is

Psalm 117. Ezra 7:21 contains all the letters of the alphabet, except "j".

Esther 8:9 is the longest verse. (ohn 11:35 is the shortest verse. There is no verse of more than six syllables, in the Bible. All very understandable.

No wonder Woodrow Wilson said, when you have read the Bible you will know that it is the word of God. You have found it the key to your own heart, your own happiness, and your own duty.

Perhaps the Bible needs less defense and more practice.

Dr. Heights C. Moore once said, the Bible is the water of life. Don't sweeten it, don't poison it, don't divert it, don't stop it, don't try to purify it, don't try to analyze it, pour it out and pass it on.

So we say, lead on, oh king eternal. The day of march has come.

A minister returned to his boyhood community to conduct a revival service.

Don'd macheman Minuters frank 1965 Revel W. Austen Tondervar . Pantors annol 1967 T.T. Erabtue Zordnom Surfors Emme 1973 moody Pun The Great portring of the Bible, wm. Evens Things Surely to be Belowd E. Schnight English - Our Hope Purs.
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