

**Running the Race of Faith  
2 Timothy 3:16-17 (Week 09) 06/21/2026  
The Nature and Value of Scripture**

This is my message written prior to being preached. Please excuse the bullet point format and any grammatical mistakes. This is meant to be spoken.

***<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)***

### **Introduction & Review**

- **Happy Father's Day.**
- Today, as we continue our study through **2 Timothy**, we come to **two very familiar verses**.
- **Verses many of us have studied and even committed to memory.**
- **Why?** Because, more than any other **passage in Scripture**,
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** provides the basis of our belief that the **Bible is the very word of God**.
- So, **every time** we read the Bible, these verses are in the **background**,
- proclaiming that what we're reading does not come from the mind of man but **from God**.
- So needless to say, this passage is crucial to our understanding and application of all Scripture.
- But we must also understand that **these verses** come in a **specific context**.
- Often times when **we read** a familiar or **crucial passages** like **John 3:16** or **Matthew 28:18-20 (the Great Commission)** or **Jeremiah 29:11** (I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans for your welfare...)
- We tend to **isolate the passage** from the **book it is found in**.
- But to better understand any verse (**or passage**) in the Bible we need to understand its context.
- **And 2 Timothy 3:16-17** is no exception.
- These verses come in the **midst of a letter from Paul to Timothy**.
- A letter in which Paul is seeking to **encourage and instruct Timothy** in a **difficult ministry**.
- Timothy is **pastoring the church in Ephesus** which is **struggling with false teaching**.
- People are **taking the word of God** and **perverting it to their own purposes**.
- And so, **throughout this letter, in different ways, Paul addresses the subject of God's word**.
- From **Chapter 2 verse 14 to chapter 3 verse 9**,
- Paul **relates** how different people **receive God's Word**.
- Some **quarrel and fight over it**, they swerve from the truth and teach falsehood.
- But Paul tells Timothy to...

***<sup>15</sup> Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)***

- Timothy and all believers must work hard to correctly understand and apply the word of God.

- Paul also commends Timothy, saying in **verse 10 of Chapter 3...**

***10 You, however, have followed my teaching... (2 Timothy 3:10)***

- Timothy has followed Paul's teaching of **the scripture, the word of God.**
- And then Paul **encourages him to...**

***14 ...continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:14-15)***

- Timothy had learned and believed the **sacred writings, the Scripture,**
- and Paul says that **in the midst of these quarrels over words, and meaning...**
- Timothy must **hold fast to what he has learned from the Scripture.**
- Don't be diverted from the truth of **God's salvation giving Word.**
- **And that leads to our passage for today.**
- Again, throughout this letter...
- Paul has been encouraging Timothy **to proclaim, to guard, to follow, to understand and apply the Scripture.**
- In **verse 15 of Chapter 3** he has stated that Scripture **presents the way of salvation.**
- And then he seems to pause, **wanting to emphasize just how important Scripture is.**
- And so, what he writes in **2 Timothy 3:16-17** is meant to encourage Timothy (and all of us) to trust in **the Scripture.**
- As we live the Christian life, as we seek to minister in the church and the world...
- We have a spectacular, indispensable, 100% reliable resource in **Scripture.**
- And why is that? Well, that's Paul addresses in these verses.
- And the **First thing he makes clear is that...**

**1. Scripture is Inspired by God**

- Paul begins,

***16 All Scripture is breathed out by God... (2 Timothy 3:16)***

- This speaks to **the nature of Scripture**, what it actually is...
- Now we should understand that when Paul uses the word **Scripture,**
- He is first, **speaking** of what we call the Old Testament.
- The OT is the **sacred writings** that Timothy had learned since childhood,
- and the OT is what Paul's teaching is based on.
- So, the **Old Testament** from **Genesis to Malachi** is breathed out by God.

- But what about the New Testament.
- Well, even though, at the time **Paul wrote 2 Timothy**,
- The **New Testament** had not been formed,
- There is **ample evidence** to believe that **the New Testament** (From **Matthew to Revelation**)
- is to be included in **all Scripture** and is **therefore also breathed out by God**.
- In fact, based on this evidence, the church, **since the 1<sup>st</sup> century**, has taught that certain writings of **the apostles** (and a few others directly linked to **Jesus** or **the apostles**) **are considered Scripture**.
- **And what evidence am I talking about?**
- Well, first **there's the authorship of the 27 books** of the **New Testament**.
- **21 of these books** were written by **an apostle**.
- And just as a reminder, **the apostles** are those that Jesus specifically appointed as his **ambassadors or messengers (that's what apostle means)** to proclaim the gospel (the word of God) to the world.
- So, most of the New Testament was written by these Jesus appointed apostles.
- **Matthew** wrote the Gospel of Matthew,
- **Peter** wrote 1 & 2 Peter
- **John** wrote the gospel of John, 1, 2, 3 John and Revelation
- And **Paul** wrote most of the rest.
- And even though the other six books were not specifically written by apostles they are linked to Apostles or Jesus Himself.
- **James and Jude** are thought to be half-brothers of Jesus.
- **Luke** (who wrote the gospel of **Luke and Acts**) was a **companion of the Apostle Paul**.
- **Mark or John Mark** (who wrote the gospel of **Mark**) was a companion of **the Apostle Peter**.
- And **Hebrews** whose author is unknown,
- but from its content scholars believe the author was either the Apostle Paul himself
- or someone linked to the Apostle Paul.
- Now you might ask why is this important?
- Well, because of what is **called apostolic authority**.
- And what that means is **because Jesus chose these men to be apostles** (messengers) to proclaim his message to the world.
- He gave them **special authority**.
- Therefore, their words, what they said and wrote, **have the authority of Christ backing them up**.
- Which would **certainly imply that like the OT, the NT is Scripture**.
- And we find **this confirmed** by what some of these apostles wrote.

- **First, we see that Paul** assumes that the teaching of **Jesus and Moses** have the same authority.
- In **1 Timothy 5:18** he wrote...

***18 For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,”***

- Which is a quotation from **Deuteronomy 25:4**.

***and, “The laborer deserves his wages.” (1 Timothy 5:18)***

- Which is a quotation of Jesus in **Luke 10:7**.
- So, Paul believes the teachings of Jesus are **equal to OT Scripture**,
- Therefore, Jesus’ words are breathed out by God.
- Which should be **obvious since Jesus is God the Son**.
- But what about **the teachings of apostles** themselves.
- Peter says that Paul’s **epistles are Scripture** when he writes...

***15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,<sup>16</sup> as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters.***

- **First**, Peter says that Paul was given wisdom (by God) to write his letters.
- **Then he adds...**

***There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. (2 Peter 3:15-16)***

- **Here Peter** equates Paul’s writings with the other Scriptures, **that is the Old Testament**.
- Paul also understood that **his writings have authority**.
- He may not explicitly claim that his words are Scripture, **but he comes close**.
- For example, **to the Corinthians he writes...**

***17 Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. (1 Corinthians 7:17)***

- Paul understood that he had been given wisdom by God
- and therefore, he had the authority to instruct the churches.
- Also, later in **1 Corinthians** he writes...

***37 If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 14:37)***

- Paul is clear, what he writes is from the Lord.

- And in **2 Corinthians** he says...

***17 For we (Paul and his companions, like Luke and Barnabas) are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ. (2 Corinthians 2:17)***

- There is something special about the teaching of those who are commissioned by God.
- They speak in Christ, their words come from Christ.
- And, to **the Galatians**, speaking of the gospel he preaches, Paul wrote...

***12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. (Galatians 1:12)***

- Just like **the Apostles who walked with Jesus** when he was on the earth.
- Paul also received the gospel, **his teaching, directly from Jesus Christ.**
- And finally, to the **Thessalonians** Paul writes...

***13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, (1 Thessalonians 2:13)***

- Here Paul asserts that his message **is the word of God.**
- He **understood that like the OT, his teaching is Scripture.**
- So, we have the teachings of Jesus and the Apostle Paul covered,
- **that's most of the New Testament.**
- But what about the other epistles, **written by the other apostles.**
- Well Peter, speaking about himself and the other apostles writes...

***19 And we (the apostles) have the prophetic word (of the Old Testament) more fully confirmed,***

- What the Apostles have written **more fully confirms** what the **OT prophets wrote...**

***to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture (from the prophets or the apostles) comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:19-21)***

- Both the Old Testament prophets and apostles wrote what they knew,
- **yet better than they knew, for God perfected their writing as they wrote.**
- **AND all the that to say, when Paul writes...**

***16 All Scripture is breathed out by God (2 Timothy 3:16)***

- We can apply this to both **the Old and New Testament Scriptures.**
- What we have contained in our Bibles is **“breathed out by God”**

- And what does that mean?
- Well, the phrase “**breathed out by God**” translates the Greek word *theo-pneustos*,
- **Theyop-news-tos**
- **Theos** which is God.
- And **pneustos** which is **to breathe**.
- And what this means is that **All Scripture originates with God** and is breathed out comes forth from God.
- **In Genesis 2:7** we have another example of God’s breath.

**7 ...the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and *breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (Genesis 2:7)***

- Life originates with God and **he then breathed it into man**.
- And in a **similar way God’s word originates with God**,
- and he **breathed** it into **the minds and hearts** of the Biblical authors.
- And their words became Scripture, **the very word of God**.
- Now this act of God breathing his word into the heart and mind of a man is what **we call inspiration**.
- In fact, **the NASB translates** the beginning of **2 Timothy 3:16...**

**16 All Scripture is *inspired by God... (2 Timothy 3:16)***

- God **inspired** the Biblical authors **to write his word**.
- Now what does this **inspiration (breathing out)** involve?
- Or we could ask, how did God communicate his **word to the Biblical Authors**.
- Well, Scripture tells us that on occasion God **gave visions or dictated specific** words to a writer.
- We see this a few times in **the OT Prophets** where we read things like...

**1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: 2 “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: *Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you. (Jeremiah 30:1-2)***

- So, God told Jeremiah exactly what to write down.
- Also, God could even write the words himself.
- As he did with the Ten Commandments.

**18 And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, *written with the finger of God. (Exodus 31:18)***

- So God could have dictated his word or even written it down himself.
- But that was not God’s normal or standard methods of communicating his word.
- Ordinarily, **the Lord inspired**.

- And what that means is God used human authors to write down his word,
- but these authors were not just God's human typewriters or quills,
- Instead, they wrote using their own knowledge, skills, background and culture.
- **For example**, Luke used his **skills of investigation** to produce his gospel.
- He begins by telling his main reader...

***<sup>1</sup> Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, <sup>2</sup> just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, <sup>3</sup> it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, (Luke 1:1-3)***

- Luke followed all the things that had been written and spoken about Jesus.
- He then compiled them into an orderly account (the Gospel of Luke).
- **Also**, as we read Paul's letters, we can see his personality and training and understanding of Old Testament Scripture throughout.
- So yes, it is true as Peter notes that...

***<sup>21</sup> ...men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)***

- Yes, they were inspired by God's Spirit.
- But at the same time their writings came from them.
- We see this specifically in **Luke 20:42** where **Jesus credits David for Psalm 110**.

***<sup>42</sup> For David himself says in the Book of Psalms... (Luke 20:42)***

- So, the picture is this, God called specific men (both in the OT and NT) to write out his word.
- And God was with them throughout the process, **inspiring, them breathing his word on them**.
- But at the same time God allowed **them to write based** on who they were and what they knew.
- Thus, producing **the inspired, true, inerrant, complete, clear, wholly reliable WORD OF GOD**.
- Now one final thing I want to touch on, It's the word ALL,

**All Scripture is breathed out by God.**

- Some people teach that the Bible contains the word of God.
- And what they mean is that some parts or verses or books or passages are from God.
- **While others have a human origin.**
- Therefore, **we must determine what is from God and what is from Man.**
- And I hope you see the problem with that.
- It puts man in control of **what parts of the Bible they believe or obey**.
- **For example**, if you don't believe in an **eternal Hell or any other uncomfortable doctrine**,
- you can just say that the verses that speak of hell are not from God but from Man.

- But the Bible doesn't give us that option.
- **All scripture** every word is **inspired by breathed out by God.**
- **And because of that, Paul goes on to say...**

## 2. Scripture is Profitable for God's People

- Verse 16...

### ***16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable... (2 Timothy 3:16)***

- Scripture is not merely the words of man but **the word of God.**
- Therefore, Scripture is profitable (or helpful) in many ways!
- It reveals who God is, it reveals his ways, his purposes, his heart...
- **Also, as we saw earlier...**

### ***15 ...the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:15)***

- **Scripture reveals the way of salvation.**
- Now here in **2 Timothy**, in the rest of **verse 16**,
- Paul lists **4 specific ways** that Scripture is profitable or helpful **to God's people...**
- And specifically helpful to those **who seek to minister the word of God** to others.
- Remember the context, this is a letter to Timothy who is leading **the Church in Ephesus.**
- And Timothy is facing struggles and difficulties with False teachers.
- So, Paul wants him to never forget **his greatest resource** is **Scripture.**
- It comes from God and it provides what he needs to deal with these false teachers and more...
- **Because first...**

### ***16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, (2 Timothy 3:16)***

- In Paul's letters, "**teaching**" commonly refers to teaching doctrine.
- To teaching the truth of God's word.
- To the Thessalonians he wrote...

### ***15 So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions (or teachings) that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. (2 Thessalonians 2:15)***

- So, the teachings or "traditions" are the apostolic message,
- Which has been **preserved for us in letters found in the NEW TESTAMENT.**
- This, along with the OT, **is what should be taught in our churches.**
- Because these teachings are profitable, **we should know them and apply them to our lives.**
- So. Paul is saying to Timothy and all believers,
- It is profitable, useful, helpful **to learn from and teach ALL Scripture.**

- And again the word...

### ***ALL is important***

- All Scripture is profitable for teaching.
- That's why the whole of **both Testaments** must be studied - not just **Romans**.
- Not just the gospels or the exciting fun **Old Testament stories** like David and Goliath and Daniel in the Lions Den.
- But we must study every aspect of God's word.
- Including the Old Testament Commandments (Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy),
- **The Prophets** who can, at times, **be extremely difficult to understand**.
- **We must study the History of Israel** which can, at times, be difficult to follow or even believe just how rebellious a people can be.
- We should also take time to read and absorb **the poems, Psalms (not just Psalm 23) as well as the Proverbs**.
- **And finally**, probably most difficult part of the Bible to understand and apply are the **apocalyptic sections**.
- Like parts of Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and of course Revelation.
- **These too are profitable for teaching**.
- **All 66 books of the Bible** make up the **beautiful picture of God's Word**.
- **And therefore**, we should not neglect to teach any part of it, or we will not see the picture clearly.
- If we neglect the Old Testament, we will miss the many pictures of God.
- For example, the New Testament certainly reveals God's Character.
- But **when we read how God deals** with rebellious **Israel throughout the OT...**
- We get a clear picture, a true sense of his holiness, his hatred of Sin, his Justice, his wrath
- As well as His grace, mercy, forgiveness and steadfast love.
- So don't forget, All of Scripture is God's Word,
- all of it was inspired by God and all of it is profitable for teaching his people.
- And along with, or part of teaching **is reproof**.

### ***<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, (2 Timothy 3:16)***

- To reprove is to show a fault, to refute, rebuke, or reveal error.
- And we might think of reproof as a negative thing, **we don't usually want to be rebuked**.
- But in reality, **reproof is an act of love**.

- Reproof is needed to point out **moral or doctrinal errors**,
- and Scripture is profitable when it does so.
- **Solomon declares,**

***8...reprove a wise man, and he will love you. 9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; (Proverbs 9:8-9)***

- And that's what Scripture does, it reproves the wise.
- It reveals your faults, your errors, your sin, **and therefore sets you on the right path.**
- Unfortunately, many people today, are not interested in **the reproof God's word offers.**
- **Instead,** they expect the church to be a **"safe place,"**
- where people enjoy **unconditional acceptance,**
- where they can be **themselves without fear of judgment.**
- And if that's the case, when a rebuke from God's word is spoken from the pulpit or anywhere else.
- It's not received well; **it's seen and judgmental and not loving.**
- But here is the reality, **since God is holy and people are not,**
- **Someone must address this disparity revealed in God's word.**
- And what the word says, is that **yes God accepts people as they are because of their union with Christ.**
- **Romans 8:1...**

***1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)***

- **However,** scripture also says that **God does not leave people as they are.**
- **1 Peter 1:15**

***15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (1 Peter 1:15)***

- So, if a new convert is a drug addict, **we love him or her unconditionally.**
- **We don't condemn them.**
- But, it is not loving to ignore the addiction or to abandon anyone to self-destructive habits.
- Genuine love both **accepts and reproves for the purpose, not of nagging but change (transformation).**
- Jesus **accepts sinners** and then **transforms them.**
- Transforming love wants people to **become the best versions of themselves.**
- Transforming love and **accepting love need each other.**
- Transforming love, without accepting love, **criticizes and pesters and is never satisfied.**
- But **accepting love,** without transforming love, **becomes indulgence, even neglect.**

- Suppose that a man is about to put his wife's antique family heirloom hand-painted China plate into the **dishwasher**.
- She must "**reprove**" him promptly, to save the China.
- But if the same man is **fashion disaster**, prone to wearing **long black socks** with his tennis shoes and shorts, his wife is in a more delicate position, **especially if he's oblivious**.
- If she quickly points out every mismatching and stained thing he wears, **accepting love disappears**.
- But if she never comments, **where is transforming love?**
- **He will remain a slob for life!**
- The Lord (through his word) offers both **acceptance and transformation**.
- And to accomplish this transformation, Scripture **reproves or points out sins and false thinking**.
- And so the goal of **reproof is correction...**

***16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction... (2 Timothy 3:16)***

- After Scripture indicates an error and we are reprovved,
- **We should then change (correct) our sinful ways transform.**
- **Godly reproof always aims for correction;**
- In the life of the believer, judgment or condemnation is never the ultimate goal of Scripture.
- **Correction (transformation) is.**
- **For example**, if a child is prone to emotional outbursts,
- loving parents reprove the child so that he or she will **correct his or her behavior**.
- And in the same way when a believer who is struggling with **sexual sin** is reprovved by God's word which says...

***3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. (Ephesians 5:3)***

- He or she, by the power of God's Spirit must correct their sexually immoral behavior.
- They must...

***18 Flee from sexual immorality... (1 Corinthians 6:18)***

- So, Scripture is profitable for **teaching, reproof, correction**.
- And as we are **taught, reprovved and corrected** by God's word.
- **We are receiving...**

***training in righteousness***

- That word training in the Greek is (**Paideia – PIE-DEE-A**) and it is more often translated **disciple**.
- So, training in righteousness refers to **the positive discipline** that promotes Godlike character,
- **or righteousness.**
- As we read (as we are taught) the word of God, as we are given commands for righteous living.
- As we see both positive and negative examples of righteousness.
- As we obey those commands and follow the positive examples.
- We are being trained (disciplined) in righteousness.
- As believers we've received **the righteousness of Christ**.
- And we are empowered by God's spirit to live righteously.
- **But it is through God's word that we are trained to live in what we have received and been empowered to do.**
- So, we've seen that ....<sup>16</sup> ***All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (2 Timothy 3:16)***
- And what is the result of **the profitable work** that the word of God does in the lives of God's people.
- Well, Paul continues...

### 3. Scripture Equips God's People

- God inspired Scripture so...

***<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:17)***

- That word **complete** (artios **AR-TEE-OS** in the Greek) means “**qualified, proficient, equipped, or suited to perform a function.**”
- It is through the teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness that Scripture provides **that the believer is equipped for God's purpose.**
- **That is to step out in obedience to God and do good works.**
- **As Paul tells the Ephesian church...**

***<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)***

- Scripture equips the believer to walk in the good works that God has prepared for us.
- Scripture equips **us to know what the good works God has for us.**
- It equips us to know what the gospel is and how to proclaim it to a lost world.
- It equips us to know the **right way to live in obedience to God.**
- It equips us to know **the importance of showing love and kindness and mercy to others.**
- It equips us to receive the joy of giving generously of what God has given to us,
- **and so much more.**

- And so, **the logic is clear**, if you want to be **equipped for every good work**.
- If you want to be **used by God to minister in the church and in the world**.
- Then you must spend time in the Scripture.
- You must give yourself to being taught, reprove, corrected and trained in righteousness by ALL SCRIPTURE.
- And this involves...
- Reading, as our brother Sean would recommend, large portions of the Bible, All Scripture.
- Neglecting nothing, so you will understand the big picture, and the cohesive nature of God's word.
- It also involves reading, studying passages slowly gaining depth, insight and understanding,
- Using a good commentary or a study Bible to help us understand difficult or even not so difficult passages.
- It involves putting yourself in a church, a small group, a Bible Study where the word of God is faithfully taught.
- Because when you do that, **as you engage with Scripture on all of these levels**,
- As you read, study, memorize, meditate, apply, teach and are taught God's word.
- As you allow the word of God **to reprove and correct your life**.
- YOU become complete, equipped for every good work.
- Equipped to do what God made you to do!
- Scripture is what God has given us that we might be successful in life and ministry.
- **HIS** breathed out, inspired word **is everything to believers**.
- The book of Deuteronomy records that when Moses had finished writing the words of the law and had given it to the Levites to place beside the ark and had sung his song, the Song of Moses,
- he said,

***<sup>46</sup> ... "Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. <sup>47</sup> For it is no empty word for you, but your very life..." (Deuteronomy 32:46-47)***

- And if that was true of the LAW (the old covenant), it is certainly true of ALL Scripture.
- This is why the psalmist devoted the **176 verses of Psalm 119** to celebrate the Scripture,
- using the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet as a structure.
- In effect, he said **God's Word is everything from A to Z**.
- **The Scriptures are our very life!**
- Jesus gives the same message when he was tempted by Satan.
- His knowledge of the Word enabled him to defeat the tempter with three quotations from Deuteronomy.

- Jesus Christ, God incarnate, leaned on **the sufficiency of Scripture** in his hour of need.
- In fact, his summary response to the tempter was like a **bookend to Moses' declaration that the Scriptures are "your very life,"**
- for Jesus insisted that they are **the soul's essential food** – He said,

***4 ... "It is written, (in Deuteronomy 8:3) "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)***

- **The Scriptures were life to Moses and food to Jesus.**
- They **cannot and must not be anything less to us.**
- They are **the very breath of God.**
- They are **our breath, our life, our food.**
- **So having studied these two very familiar verses,**
- We can see what Paul was doing to encourage Timothy to endure in his difficult ministry.
- Paul says Timothy you have **the God Breathed Scriptures.** The very word of God.
- And as Timothy reflected on that
- As he came to understand just how profitable God's word is,
- How it is useful for every aspect of life and ministry.
- How it has and **continues to equip him for ministry,**
- he would have been empowered to **continue to fulfill the mission God had given him.**
- **And the same should be true for us.**
- As we reflect on **the inspiration and profitability of God's word.**
- How it is **useful for every aspect of our lives and our ministry,** how it equips us.
- How is LIFE!
- We to, if we choose to receive what God offers in his word,
- can continue to fulfill the mission God has given us.
- So, in case you missed it the application is clear,
- Spend more time reading, studying, listening to, meditating on, memorizing, applying, teaching and being taught God's word.
- **That you too might be equipped for every good work.**