

# Sufficient for All of Life

*The Word of God, Pt. 8*

*2 Timothy 3:10-17*

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*July 29, 2018*



## I. PRAYER

- i. That we would see the Bible as an infinite well of truth, wisdom, and guidance from you that will never be exhausted in our lifetimes. Help us to devote our lives to plunging into the depths of your Word and allowing it to transform our hearts, renew our minds, and train our instincts.

## II. INTRODUCTION

**a. You know, one of the most important character qualities that one must have in order to be successful at anything....is self awareness.**

- i. If you've ever worked on a team to accomplish anything, you know that the team members that are self-aware are much better to work with than the team-members who are not self-aware.
  - And what I mean by self-awareness is your own personal recognition and awareness of your strengths and your weaknesses.
    1. You know where you excel, and you know where you need help.
    2. You know the quarks in your personality that might frustrate others and you try and mitigate those.
    3. You have a level of self-confidence that isn't afraid of criticism and the need for improvement.



ii. **And in my own journey and development as a leader and as a pastor, I've had to personally develop self-awareness.**

- I'm in my eleventh year of ministry here in Northern Virginia, I'm going on ten years of marriage to my wife and I have two kids...
  1. And through all of that experience, I've learned something about myself...mostly the hard way.
- And here is a way to sum up what I've learned about myself...

iii. **I want results...I hate process.**

- I sincerely desire and understand the need for me to gain knowledge and wisdom through books...
  1. ...I just don't want to take the time to read.
- I want the benefits of a healthy diet and have a healthy body...
  1. ...But I want to eat whatever I want.
- I want to have a healthy heart and endurance so I can keep up with my kids as they grow up...
  1. ...But you will never find me going out for a run.
- I want results...I hate process.
  1. Credit cards are bad for people like this.
  2. When I graduated college and was ready to propose to my wife...I got myself an AMEX.
  3. Instant results. No process of saving up.
  4. Nice ring. Nice honeymoon. Definitely paid for that the hard way later and learned my lesson.



- iv. This is something that not only did I need to learn about myself, but I needed to confront.
  - I needed to admit that I had a problem with this that caused me to be an undisciplined, inconsistent person.
    - 1. And I needed to address it.
  - Can anyone out there relate with me?

**b. I bring this up this morning, because I think in our Christian culture today, we've been taught to approach the Word of God, the Bible, expecting results but without the process.**

### **III. SERIES PLUG**

**a. This morning, we are coming close to the end of our summer sermon series on the doctrine of the Word of God.**

- i. This is Part 8 and next week we'll bring the series to a close.
  - But, this morning, I want us to consider how the Bible, the Word of God, is sufficient to guide and direct us in every single life circumstance.

**b. But, if you grew up in a church that held a high view of the Bible as I did...one of the things that you may have heard is that the Bible is like an instruction manual for life.**



- i. Or maybe you didn't grow up in the church and you've heard people refer to the Bible as such and that's confusing to you...
  - Because you might read parts of the Bible and have no idea how it applies to your life!!
- ii. Now, referring to the Bible as an instruction manual for life is not bad...I want to show us today how the Bible is indeed sufficient to guide us in every life circumstance.
  - But where I think referring to the Bible that way can get confusing is that we look to the Bible to provide us very specific answers to very specific questions.
    1. We go to the Bible for instant results and not allow for a process.
  - God, why are you allowing this person to suffer??
  - God, should I take this job offer?
  - God, should I marry this person?
  - God, why won't this cloud of depression lift?
- iii. And maybe it's discouraging to you when you look in the Bible for answers to these questions, and you don't find them.
  - The results that we are looking for don't seem to be there.
  - But, I believe they are there.
    1. Answers to every question.
    2. But it's a process.
- iv. And to show you what I mean, I want us to study 2 Timothy 3:10-17 this morning.



## IV. 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

### a. A bit of context...

- i. 2 Timothy is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to Timothy.
  - Timothy was a younger pastor who was trained by Paul.
    1. Paul most likely wrote this letter while in prison in Rome awaiting his execution and while Timothy was pastoring over in Ephesus.
    2. So, this is a farewell letter from Paul as an older Pastor offering final thoughts and wisdom to this younger pastor.
  - And in the section that we are going to read this morning, Paul exhorts Timothy to remain committed to the Word of God in his ministry...

### b. **Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17.**

- i. So, we can see in this text how Paul is reminiscing about his ministry, the hardships that he endured, and the persecutions that he endured.
  - Many of these hardships and persecutions Timothy himself witnessed.
    1. And one of the things that Paul is reminding Timothy of is that as a follower of Jesus Christ he should expect to be rejected by the world for what he believes about Jesus.
  - And because of this, this is ALL THE MORE REASON to be devoted to the Word of God.



- ii. Now, after Paul exhorts Timothy to stay committed to the Scriptures, he is going to give Timothy three reasons why it is essential that he stay committed to the Scriptures.
  - And I want to outline these three reasons, but it is the third reason that Paul gives that we will spend most of our time considering.

### **c. Three Reasons Paul gives to Timothy to Stay Committed to the Scriptures.**

- i. ONE -The Scriptures lead us to faith in Jesus Christ.
  - **Read v.15.**
    1. When Paul refers to the sacred writings here, he is referring to the Old Testament and possibly a few New Testament writings as some were already considered Scripture at this point.
    2. We've talked about this in great detail already in this series - specifically Part Four of this series - that all of the Bible including all of the Old Testament is about Jesus Christ.
    3. And Paul is reinforcing the fact that right knowledge of the Scriptures will lead to faith in Jesus Christ.
    4. Knowledge is not what saves.
    5. Reading the Bible doesn't save.
    6. But the Bible will lead you to what does save, and that is faith in Jesus Christ.
    7. We are saved when we surrender our lives too, we entrust our lives to Jesus Christ.



8. Because it is Jesus who came, took our sins, and carried them on his back to the cross.
  9. As he died on the cross, he took on the judgement that we deserved for our sins.
  10. But we also see that as Jesus takes on our sinful life we take on his righteous life.
  11. So, we can stand before the Father forgiven and righteous because Jesus took our sin to the cross and gave us his righteousness.
  12. Knowledge does save....faith in the person and work of Jesus saves.
- You know what I find interesting.
    1. Right now, it is very common for churches, denominations, and Christians to hold a low view of the Bible.
    2. They might look to the Bible as some sort of representation of the Word of God, but they are quick to dismiss certain books in the Bible and quick to reject the doctrine of Inerrancy.
    3. What I find interesting is that almost without fail, when one begins to question the integrity of the Bible, soon after they will dismiss the idea that what is required for salvation is faith in Jesus Christ.
    4. The Scriptures are able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and when we begin to reject the Scriptures, we reject the very thing that leads us to salvation!



## ii. TWO - The Scriptures are breathed out by God.

- Read v.16a.
  1. The Greek literally says here all Scripture (the word *graphe* meaning writings) are breathed out by God.
- You can't speak without breathing.
  1. It is the air in your lungs breathed across your vocal cords that allows you to speak.
  2. And it is God's breath breathed upon the writers of Scripture that inspired them to write the Word of God.
  3. Peter puts it this way in 2 Peter 1:20b-21 - *"no prophecy of Scripture 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."*
- And one of the reasons Paul is reminding Timothy of this truth is because we are constantly bombarded by truth claims.
  1. Paul is reminding Timothy of the persecution and the opposition he will face to what he preaches!
  2. But, what source of truth do we really want?
  3. The loudest voices on social media today....or the very breath of God?

## iii. THREE - God's Word is sufficient.

- It is completely sufficient to guide and direct us through any life circumstance.
- Read v.16-17.
  1. The Word of God is completely sufficient in giving us everything we need to know God and live our lives faithfully for Him.



## **V. TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**

### **a. So, here is what I want you to walk out today convinced of...**

- i. That the Word of God is sufficient to guide you in every single life circumstance.
  - That there is not one scenario, one situation, one struggle that you will face that the Word of God cannot guide you in.
- ii. **But remember what I said before, often times when we look to the Bible for guidance in our lives, we want instant results and not process.**
  - And that is not to say that the Bible does not provide very clear guidance in many parts of our lives without process, but what have we learned about the Bible so far?
    1. We've learned that the Bible points us to faith in the person Jesus Christ...the Son of God.
    2. We've learned that the Bible is literally the breath of God.
  - So, what do these two things tell us about the Bible.
    1. The Bible is the Word of the person of God.
    2. It's His Word. So, spending time in the Bible is spending time with God.
    3. And whenever you are seeking to learn and apply the ways of another person...it always takes time and presence....process.



## b. This is why I want to spend some time zooming in on this one phrase we see here in v.16.

- i. “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for...training in righteousness.”
  - God’s Word is sufficient to guide us in every life circumstance because God’s Word trains us.
    1. A more literal translation of this word would be that it disciplines us.
    2. We see the same word used in Hebrews 12:7 - *“It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?”*
  - This speaks to me because I have a son whom I discipline.
    1. A son whom I am trying to raise well and teach him how to live loving God and loving others.
    2. But let’s be honest - (many of you have taught my son and my daughter in Grace Hill Kids) - Is discipline an instantaneous results thing or a process thing?
    3. I know, parents, that we all go into denial and expect discipline to be an instant results thing, but we all know that it is a process!
    4. And if we want to be good parents we have to have the expectation that raising our kids is a process!
    5. Because through time and presence and repetition, our kids learn, they watch us, and they are trained in how to live.



- ii. See, the Bible is not sufficient to guide us in every life circumstance because the Bible has a specific verse for every question or life circumstance you might face.
- If you're trying to decide to take that job offer or not...it's not like you can open it to 2 Kings and it will tell you...yes, take that job.
  - Rather, the Bible is sufficient to guide us in every life circumstance because the Bible trains us...disciplines us.
    1. It renews our mind.
    2. It transforms our hearts.
    3. It molds our motivations.
    4. It gives us godly desires.
    5. It brings understanding to our emotions.
    6. It matures our expectations.
    7. It purifies our worldview.
    8. It hones our instincts.
  - See, the Bible is not just an instruction manual on life...no the Bible is the very Word of God...and as we spend time in the Bible...we spend time with God...and as we spend time with God, we are trained to live as God would have us live...
    1. We are made wise to have the understanding that God wants us to have.
    2. Our instincts and our gut become more aligned with the will of God so that we make the decisions God wants us to make.



### **c. In Judges 6, we read about Gideon who was one of the Judges of Israel.**

- i. God had told Gideon that he was going to use him and a small army of 300 soldiers to defeat the Midianites.
  - But Gideon was not a very confident person.
- ii. So, Gideon goes to God and says...I need some sort of sign...some sort of affirmation from you that we are going to win this battle.
  - So, he says here is what I am going to do. I am going to lay this fleece (cloth) on the threshing floor overnight.
    1. If in the morning, the fleece is wet with dew but all of the ground around the fleece is dry...then I will know that we will win the battle.
    2. So, Gideon puts the fleece out.
    3. And God answers Him.
    4. The fleece is wet and nothing else is.
  - But that wasn't enough for Gideon.
    1. Just to be sure it wasn't a coincidence, let's reverse the process.
    2. I'm gonna put the fleece out again, but this time, in the morning I want the ground to be wet with dew, but the fleece will be dry.
    3. And the next morning God did it and Gideon and the small army of Israelites defeated the Midianites.
- iii. And I think for a lot of us, this is the kind of relationship that we want with God.



- We want God to be there ready to provide very clear answers to our questions and guidance about the decisions that we make.
  1. Right? It's the whole, God if I should take the job offer blink the light once and if not blink it twice.
  2. And then nothing happens. Not that you expected to happen. But there still is a twinge of disappointment.
- And let me just say, there is nothing wrong with asking God for a sign or clear direction in a supernatural way.
  1. Gideon asked for it, and God granted it to him.
  2. God can do it and still does do it today.
  3. But, it is not the normative way that God relates with us and guides us in life.
- Of course we would love for God to answer our prayers with quick, instantaneous results.

iv. **But listen, you got to get this....**

- IN THE SILENCE OF GOD NOT GIVING YOU A QUICK ANSWER, HE IS IN THE MIDST OF DOING A MILLION THINGS WITH YOU IN THE PROCESS.

**d. So you have a major life decision to make.**

- i. Let's say you're at a good, comfortable job but you got another job offer that will pay a lot more and give you more opportunity for advancement.
  - And you're torn on what to do. There are good reasons for staying and for going.



- ii. **But see, one of the ways that the Word of God trains you is by reworking all of your priorities in life.**
  - See, in the world, this might be a no brainer decision.
  - Go to the job that will pay you more money and let you advance more quickly.
    1. What more is there to think about?
- iii. **But for someone who has been trained by the Word of God.**
  2. For someone who has had their heart transformed and molded to the heart of God.
  3. For someone who has had their worldview and their priorities upended by the Scriptures.
  - It would be completely normal for them to say:
    1. You know, its great that I have this job offer that pays more and seems like a great opportunity.
    2. But you know, over the last five years at this job I have had the opportunity to share my faith and minister to one of my co-workers.
    3. And I think that he is finally beginning to engage with me about the Gospel.
    4. And right now, I think where God wants me is right here to continue to minister and reach out to this guy.
    5. So, I'm going to stay and say no to the money out of love for my co-worker.
  - In the world, this is crazy! Why would you prioritize that over money!
    1. But in the Kingdom of God, this is completely normal.
    2. Business as usual.



3. And the Word of God transforms your priorities from being shaped by this world to being shaped by God's Kingdom.

- There was no Bible verse that told you what job to take, but the Bible trained you to make the right decision.

**e. One thing I've seen in my years in ministry are those who have grown lonely in being single and feel the pressure to move a relationship towards marriage too quickly.**

- i. And often times when your heart yearns so deeply for something, it's hard to distinguish God's will and your desires.
  - But when one's heart is trained by the Word of God, not only does the Word of God bring understanding to your emotions it also provides the correction that our hearts so often needs in all sorts of circumstances.
- ii. So, in the midst of the deep desire to be married, by spending time and presence in the Word, your heart will be trained by texts like 1 Corinthians 7 where Paul talks about the joys and the benefits of singleness!
  - And your heart will also be trained to understand that your joy is not found in something like marriage.
    1. Marriage is certainly joyful. But if you look to marriage to be your joy, that's the best way to suck the joy right out of it.
    2. Our joy is found in Christ alone.



iii. See, there is no Bible verse that will tell you to get married to that person or not.

- But the Word of God will train you to test the desires and motivations of your heart that will lead you to the right decision.

**f. Maybe you're walking through a lot of hardship, sorrow or a tragedy.**

i. The Word of God will train your heart to mourn deeply, to grieve honestly, but (1 Thessalonians 4:13) that we would not grieve like the rest of the world who has no hope.

- The Word of God will train your heart to know deeply that God is sovereign and that he is good.
- And even in the midst of great hardship, you can take comfort in the fact that God is in control.

ii. When we face hardship and we have not allowed the Word of God to renew our minds, the truth of God's sovereignty may not be a comfort to our souls.

- But when you spend the time and the presence with God Almighty through His Word, your heart will be prepared to trust God through the pain of life.

**g. Maybe there is someone in your life that is really hard to love.**

i. The Word of God will remind you that that person is an image bearer of God just like you are.

- That in the eyes of God, they are valued and loved.



- ii. The Word of God will also remind you that, just like you, that person stands before God deserving judgement for their sin without Christ.
  - And they need Christ just as much as you need Christ.
- iii. If there is someone that you find hard to love...here's my advice to you.
  - Start praying Psalm 51 over your own heart and over their heart...consistently.
  - The Word of God will train your heart to love that person as He does.

## **VI. CLOSING EXHORTATION**

### **a. So, Grace Hill, here is my exhortation to you today.**

- i. Fight to spend consistent, daily time in God's Word!
  - This is not a legalistic thing where if you don't spend time in God's Word it means you'll lose your salvation or God's grace will be removed from you.
  - This is a - God's Word is sufficient to guide you in every life circumstance - thing.
    1. This is a obedience to God thing and a fighting for your own joy thing!
  - The Bible is not a reference guide that we pick up when we need to look something up quickly.
  - No the Bible is the very Word of God and spending time in the Word of God is spending time with God.
  - Will you allow for the process of the Word of God training you towards righteousness?



ii. And if you have a hard time reading the Bible everyday, start doing it with other people.

- Find someone in the church, and just start meeting together for 30-45 minutes and start reading the Bible together.
- I'm doing this!
  1. Myself - Matthew.
  2. Evan - Hebrews
  3. Nick - Acts
  4. Jamie - 1 Timothy
  5. Men's Group - 1 Timothy
- You can do the same thing!

**b. You know, as I mentioned earlier, I'm not a big fan of the process of exercise.**

i. I want instant results and not hard work.

- And for some reasons, the market hasn't figured out yet that exercise is a process and not instant results!

ii. But you know what, I discipline myself to exercise multiple times a week.

- Why?
  1. Because I know that my body will be more healthy.
  2. Because I feel better.
  3. Because I sleep better.
  4. Because my mind is more clear.
  5. Because it will allow me to keep up with my kids as they grow up.
  6. Because my wife appreciates it!



- There are days I don't want to go to the gym, but I do anyway because my body needs to be trained to be healthy and I know that going to the gym once isn't going to do anything for me.
  1. I have to consistently go to the gym over the long haul for my body to be transformed by it.
- iii. **And it is the same with your walk with Christ.**
  - I know there are days that you might be bored reading God's Word.
  - But reading God's Word consistently takes faith.
    1. Faith that as you spend time in the presence of God through his Word, it is transforming your heart and renewing your mind.
- iv. **So, will you have faith in the sufficiency of God's Word and fight to spend daily time in it so that it will train you towards joy and godliness?**
  - Will you make plans today to start consistently reading the Word of God?

## VII. PRAY

