

The Purpose and Power of Scripture

Deut. 8:2 *"Thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee."*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan 7th

While many (most) believers ignore the Old Testament, 2 Tim. 4:2 commands pastors to *"Preach the word"* What was *"The Word"* the apostles preached?

Paul, speaking to the leaders of the Ephesian church said: *"I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."* Acts 20:26-27

Jesus also preached and taught from the Old Testament. (Jn 5:39,40; Lk 24:25-27)

Timothy was to *"Preach the word"* because of 2 Tim 3:16-17

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, (Ar'tios: complete) thoroughly furnished (Exartiz'o: fully equipped) unto all good (agathos: beneficial) works."

1. Ignorance of (or indifference to) scripture leaves us:

A. Incomplete 2 Tim. 3:17 *"That the man of God may be perfect"* (Ar'tios: complete)

1) Knowledge of our "resources" is critical! 2 Pt 1:2-3 *"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory (doxa: dignity) {from dokeo: to think!} and virtue:"* (Aretē': valor!) Ro. 8:37

a) God's word is powerful and transformative. 2 Pt 1:4 *"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."* (1Jn 2:15-17; 5:19)

B. Ill Equipped 2 Tim. 3:17 *"That the man of God may be ... thoroughly furnished (equipped)*

1) God gives us scripture to equip us for spiritual warfare! (Eph. 6:10-18)

16 *"Above all, taking the shield of faith, (Ro. 10:17) wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17... and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"* (Heb 4:12)

a) Facing temptation without scripture is like facing a gun fight without bullets!

2) God gives us Pastors/Teachers to instruct us. Eph 4:11-12 *"And he gave some, ...pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, (katartismos: complete furnishing, {from arteos: equipping}) for the work of the ministry, for the edifying (oikodomē': building up!) of the body of Christ:"*

3) We must avail ourselves of:

a) God's Equipment Eph. 6:11 *"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand" (see also 2 Pt 1:5-7 "giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ..."*

b) God's "Equippers". (Pastors/Teachers Heb. 13:7,17)

2 Pt 1:8 *"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

C. Ignorance of scripture leaves us Ineffective:

2 Pt 1:9-11 *"But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."*

1) How effective is a blind soldier? ...a blind guide? (Mt 15:14)

2. The solution to ignorance is Information (Truth)

A. The secret (key) of learning is repetition. 2Pt 1:12-13 *“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up (diegei’rō: awaken) by putting you in remembrance”*

1) Direction without reflection, Produces repetition!

“Those who fail to learn from history, Are doomed to repeat it!” Winston Churchill

B. Information (Repetition) without application produces frustration!

1) That’s why Israel wandered (and wasted) in the desert for 40 years!

2) They moved 42 times in 40 years! (Spending 38 years going in circles!)

a) Failing to learn God’s direction, provision, purpose and power, they wandered in the desert.

b) This failure hunted / haunted them even in the promised land!

The last verse in Judges (400 years later) revealed: *“every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”* Judges 21:25

Conclusion:

2000 years later Stephen reviewed their history and rebuked Israel’s leaders in Acts 7:51-53

“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart (indifferent) and ears, (ignorant) ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

“Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.”

Application: What about us?

Do we have any less “light” (truth/information) than they did?

Are we Ignorant of God’s truths? Indifferent to them?

Ineffective with them? Which do you struggle with most?

1) Are you ignorant of God’s truth?

The only solution to ignorance is accurate “information” (Truth!) Jn 8:32; 17:17

Where are you getting truth? (Jn 14:6)

2) Are you indifferent to God’s truth?

The only cure for indifference is effective Motivation!

What does God have to do to effectively “motivate” you? (Pr 1:23-33)

What are you doing with God’s Truth? (James 1:22-26)

3) Are you ineffective with God’s Truth/work?

The cure for ineffectiveness is intentional Prioritization! (Pruning)

What’s standing in the way of your fruitfulness in God’s work? Mt 13:22,23

Jn 15:2,3 *“Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word...”*

1 Cor 10:11 *“These things happened to them for examples...our admonition”*

Where are you in the spiritual journey (Exodus) of your life?

Still in bondage to sin (and Satan)? Delivered, But drifting through spiritual deserts?

God has a promised “land” for you! (Jer. 29:11) and knows what you’ll need to get there and *“become more than conquerors”* (Ro 8:37)

Will you let him lead you there? (Ps. 16:11; Joshua 1:8,9)

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:

for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”