

Adequately Equipped

2 Timothy 3:16,17

Introduction:

- A. Last message we learned:
 - 1. Jesus viewed the H_____ Scriptures as God's word- this corresponds with the 39 books of the Old Testament.
 - 2. Jesus preserved His teachings through His a_____ by the Holy Spirit's power (Jn 14:26; Eph 2:20) - this corresponds with the 27 books of the New Testament.
 - 3. The Bible, although written by men, was i_____ by God so that it is ultimately God's word, which is truth (Jn 17:17).
- B. God's written word holds a practical value for the believer
 - 1. It is God's v_____ that we need to hear.
 - 2. It is God's t_____ for us to use in all that we do.
 - 3. Who is being equipped? – the man of God or the person b_____ to God. In other words, believers in Christ.

God equips us by His Word (16)

All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

- A. Four ways that scripture can benefit us.
 - 1. T_____ (KJV – doctrine) - We learn what the truth is about God, salvation, etc.
 - 2. R_____ (KJV – rebuke) – it points out the wrong way to live.
 - 3. C_____ - it gives the right way to live.
 - 4. T_____ in righteousness
 - a. The word translated as training refers to bringing up a child to m_____ - God's word is for growing us spiritually.
 - b. Righteousness refers to our living out our r_____ relationship with God.
- B. When reading a passage of scripture ask (some questions may not apply, but at least one will).
 - 1. What truths are being taught?
 - 2. What wrong is being pointed out?
 - 3. What positive direction is being given?
 - 4. What training is given to grow a person to be more like Christ?

C. Exercise – read James 1:2-4

1. First, read the passage in at least two translations (three is better) and understand the meanings of key words.
 - a. A word for word translation like the KJV or NAS
Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (NAS)
 - b. A phrase by phrase translation like the NIV or ESV
Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (NIV)
 - c. A phrase by phrase translation with some interpretive liberties like the NLT.
Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. (NLT)
2. Second, ask the four questions using 2 Tim 3:16 as your guide
 - a. What truths are being taught? Trials (adversities) are used by God to g_____ us in our faith (dependency upon God).
 - b. What wrong is being pointed out? Nothing explicitly, but i_____ is implied.
 - c. What positive direction is given? E_____ the adversity.
 - d. What training is given to help one grow to be more like Christ? Be j_____ that God uses every adversity to grow believers. See every adversity as an opportunity to demonstrate your f_____ (dependency upon God).
3. Make it personal - *God is going to use this health problem to grow me in my dependence on God. I must resist being impatient but endure. I need to be joyful that God is going to use this health problem to grow me spiritually. I must seek to demonstrate my dependency upon God through it all.*

God equips us for His work (17)

so that the man of God [believer] may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

A. What is a good work?

1. Many times we might confine good works to w_____ or serving others in a spiritual way.
2. Eph 2:10 states that God has prepared beforehand the good works that we are to do. A good work is simply doing what God w_____.

B. What does God want you to do right now?

1. The general answer is the same – to g_____ God.
2. How you specifically glorify Him depends on the situation.
 - a. Parenting
 - 1) Follow His w_____ (Eph 6:4; Prov 22:6)
 - 2) Model His w_____ (Col 3:17)
 - b. Working
 - 1) Follow His w_____ (Col 3:22-24)
 - 2) Model His w_____ (Col 4:5,6)
 - c. Leisure time – are you following His word and modeling His ways?

Conclusion – a challenge

- 1) Set aside a time to read God's word on a daily basis. Just select a book and start going through it a paragraph at a time. Pray, *Lord teach me.*
- 2) Get a notebook and use 2 Tim 3:16 as your guide. Pray, *Lord use me.*
- 3) Evaluate yourself at the end of the day by analyzing your attitudes and actions. What positive and negative attitudes did I have? What right and wrong actions did I do? Pray, *Lord grow me.*