

The Value of God's Word - Ron Stullenbarger -

"You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:14-17, NASB)

From the opening verse of Genesis to the final words of Revelation, Scripture is divinely inspired -- every word has purpose. In our text, we are told that the sacred writings are *"profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."* In other words, they offer preparation for whatever we face in life. No other book holds such value for living.

The Old Testament introduces us to God's nature, ways, and power. It lays the foundation for us to understand the Lord's holiness and humanity's desperate need for a Savior. The New Testament explains that Jesus sacrificially became our *"bridge"* to the Father. Jesus said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me"* (John 14:6). Scripture clarifies why we must trust Christ for salvation, how to live as God's children, and what to expect in this life and after death.

In Ephesians 6:13, the apostle Paul says, *"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."* In verse 17 he says, *"And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."* Paul compares the word to armor, and for good reason: In the battle of life we have an enemy who wants to destroy us. But God's power is greater. *"You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world"* (1 John 4:4). Dressing in war gear prepares us for the temptations, lies, and decisions we will encounter daily. We should be excited about the word of God, for it is our hope -- and the only instruction that leads to victory, in life and after physical death.

The Bible predicted that many people would reject the truth, and a glimpse at our world today shows that to be the case. Don't let yourself fall into the same trap. Life without His truth is destined for failure, so read and meditate daily on Scripture -- and ask God to speak to you.