

# “THE GOD-BREATHED BOOK”

## II TIMOTHY 3:14-17

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### INTRODUCTION

The world is getting worse; “evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.” You cannot prevent that from happening. But you can continue in the things you have learned.

The Bible has everything you need in order to please God and properly live the Christian life. It will thoroughly equip you so that you can be all that God wants you to be.

### **YOU MUST BE EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK**

Therefore, you must know your past, understand your present duties, and face your future.

- I. KNOW YOUR PAST (14-15)
  - A. What you have learned from childhood
  - B. What you have been convinced of
  - C. What led you to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus
  
- II. UNDERSTAND YOUR PRESENT—*Continue in all that* (14-17).
  - A. Because of those who have been your teachers—their godly character (14)
    1. Lois and Eunice
    2. Paul
    3. OT prophets
    4. NT teachers

**Educational Principles in Israel—from which we must learn** [See handout]

- B. Because you have known the Sacred Writings
  1. These are able to give you wisdom that leads to salvation.
  2. These you must continue to accept and walk in through faith in Christ Jesus.
- C. Because **all Scripture** is God-breathed

#### **Meaning of “God-breathed”—“inspired”—p. 6**

The word is passive, “*inspired by God*,” not active. The word *does not describe what the Scriptures do to the person who reads them*—they are “inspired” or find them to be “inspiring”; it describes the **origin of the Scriptures** as God, the Divine Spirit, “breathes them out” or breathes into them. Nor does the word describe the feelings of the OT prophets as they preach or write the Scriptures; they may have felt “inspired” by the profound privilege and responsibility they had, but this term does not describe their personal “inspiration” nor attribute some ecstatic function to them. The **product is inspired**—breathed out by God; His words become transferred to the written pages. Therefore, the Bible is without error and is of supreme value for man, being all that God intended it to be and constituting “the infallible rule of faith and practice for mankind” (H. 302).

1. Could be every Scripture—but “all” is a legitimate translation

#### **Meaning of “all Scripture” (p. 5)**

*Everything which, through the testimony of the Holy Spirit in the church, is recognized by the church as canonical, that is authoritative.*

- In Paul’s day already the recognized body of authoritative “Scripture” was wider than the OT as may be seen from I Tim. 5:18 where Paul includes a quote from Jesus along with an OT passage as “Scripture”; see there.
- By the close of the 1<sup>st</sup> century “all scripture” was completed, even though the recognition and ratification of all the NT by every part of the church was a gradual process.

- Genuine believers who were the original recipients of the various God-breathed books regarded them at once as being invested with divine authority and majesty.
- Designation as “God-breathed Scripture” does not depend upon any official decree of any Councils or church officials such as the Council of Hippo (393 AD) or of Carthage (397 AD).
- **The sixty-six books, by their very contents, immediately attest themselves to the hearts of all Spirit-indwelt men as being the living oracles of God.**
- **“ALL SCRIPTURE IS CANONICAL BECAUSE GOD MADE IT SO!”**

2. Cannot be: “Every inspired Scripture is also profitable.”

D. Because **all Scripture** is Profitable (See Rom. 15:4)

1. For Doctrine—**What is right**
2. For Reproof—**What is not right—especially in doctrine**
3. For Correction—**How to get right—especially in life, but also in doctrine** (setting a person “straight”—orthodoxy; “set up straight, uprightly”)
4. For Instruction in Righteousness—**How to stay right**
  - The term deals with child training and discipline—positive and negative.
  - The goal is to keep on the right track—training in morals and mind.
  - “Righteousness” is the goal—God’s standards of right.

### III. REALIZE YOUR FUTURE

- *“The Man of God”*

A. You must carry out “every good work”—all that God has for you.

1. You must be Perfect/Complete/Capable/Sufficient—able to meet all the demands put upon you
2. You must be completely furnished and equipped.

**All of this is possible through the GOD-BREATHED SCRIPTURE**

B. You must be Willing to face Persecution (12)

1. Will happen to all who desire/will “to live godly”—a God-fearing live of worship/service
  2. Will happen in the close union of the believer in Christ Jesus.
  3. A dedicated believer will be pursued, persecuted, mistreated, and misunderstood.
- Note that the text does not say that all Christians will suffer persecution, but only that those who will live godly in Christ Jesus will so suffer persecution.
  - Nor does the text say that those Christians who do not “desire to live godly” will not suffer persecution.
  - The text does say that all who will live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
  - Scripture consistently predicts such persecution; see Mt. 5:10-12; 10:28; Jn. 15:17-20; 16:1-4, 33; I Thes. 3:4. Having the knowledge that God has decreed such persecution and that in His providence He allows it to happen should bring comfort and encouragement to the suffering believer, especially when he remembers the truth of Paul’s statement in v. 11 that God is **Rescuer**.

### CONCLUSION

With such an increasingly wicked and powerful opposition to the truth and promotion of error in both doctrine and life, Timothy must stand firm in his faith and faithful in his life, “like a rock resisting the increasing fury of the waves” (G. 162). In contrast with the false teachers’ ever increasing “advance” (cf. 2:16—advance to more ungodliness; 3:13—advance from bad to worse; like their “slaves” “ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth—3:7), Timothy must be content with what he has and must “remain” steady and steadfast. This “remaining” (v. 14) instead of progressive departure can be illustrated from II John 9: “anyone who **goes too far and does not abide** [same verb] **in the teaching of Christ....**” Timothy’s assurance is based on **two-fold foundation**: 1) His knowledge of his teachers; 2) his knowledge of the Scriptures.

**YOU MUST BE EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.**