

“ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION”

INTRODUCTION

The word “scripture” as recorded in the Bible, refers TO the Bible, the writings of the Bible, and **only** to the Bible. The word “scripture” is found in the Old Testament 1 time, and in the New Testament 51 times. Read 2 Tim. 3:16-17. Note that the scripture is inspired of God, meaning that God **caused** the scripture to be written, **by means** of the Holy Spirit guiding certain men in what they wrote. Cf 2 Sam. 23:2; 2 Pet. 1:20-21. Now, note the word “is” in 2 Tim. 3:16--“the scripture *is* given by inspiration,” and “*is* profitable.” The word “is” in this passage is “italicized”, meaning that there was no original Greek word FOR it, but the translators of the KJV determined the value of the word to make the language complete—referring to the **present** state of scripture.

Now, let’s see the areas in which the scripture **is** “profitable”, noting the points Paul makes in the text itself.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the scripture is profitable for DOCTRINE.

A. The word “doctrine” is from the original Greek word *didaskalia*, meaning “that which is taught.” (VINE’S Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament, page 180)

1. It can refer to that which Christ **personally** taught or imparted while on earth. Cf Matt. 5:1-2; 7:29
2. It also refers to the **writings** of the inspired prophets and apostles as they revealed it in this manner. 1 Cor. 14:37; cf Matt. 28:18-20

B. Any OTHER “writing” of religious matters are NOT “sacred scripture” and must be avoided. Matt. 15:9; Rom. 1:9; Gal. 1:6-9; Jude 3

1. The Koran of the Moslem religion, the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, and the Book of Mormon—are ALL to be avoided.
2. We are not to “add to” or “take from” the written word. Cf Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18-19

II. 2nd, the scripture is profitable for REPROOF.

A. This word simply means to “convict, prick, rebuke or reprove,” which is done BY Holy Spirit, through His inspired scripture—the word of God. John 16:7-11

1. David, in the Old Testament, was convicted of his sin of adultery, by the words of the prophet Nathan. (2 Sam. 12:1-7, 13)
2. The Jews on Pentecost day, were convicted or pricked in their hearts, when the apostle Peter (inspired by the Spirit) **used** the power of the inspired message. Acts 2:4, 36-37

B. The **purpose** of the word from the Holy Spirit was intended to convict those lost in sin, and bring them to salvation. cf 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 4:2-5

III. 3rd, the scripture is profitable for CORRECTION.

A. Those convicted are **not** left without hope, for the scripture not only rebukes, but reveals what needs to be done to “**correct**” one’s errors or sins.

1. The first action for the convicted sinner is to REPENT, or change the mind about the transgression or sins committed. Acts 2:38; 17:30
2. The next action is to submit to BAPTISM (immersion in water), to simulate the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Cf Rom. 6:3-5

B. The RESULT will be salvation, or the remission of sins, or the washing away of sins by the powerful blood of Jesus which is contacted in obedience. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 22:16

IV. 4th, the scripture is profitable for INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.

A. "Righteousness" refers to "right living" in the eyes of God, according to His word. Tit. 2:11-12

B. God's inspired word tells us what is right (what we are to do) and what is wrong (what we are not to do). Cf Heb. 5:12-14

1. Right living involves right "worship" to the Father in heaven. John 4:23-24; Acts 2:42

2. Right living also involves right "conduct" in daily living.

a. Basic to right conduct is to keep the heart pure and avoid anything that might corrupt the mind and thoughts of the heart.

b. Clean speech from a clean heart is also important. Matt. 12:35-37

c. Good actions of the body will follow a good heart. Prov. 4:23

CONCLUSION

I. The ultimate GOAL or PURPOSE of this process, is THAT the "man of God may be complete", or "perfect", thoroughly furnished unto "every good work." 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Gal. 6:10; Eph. 2:8-10

II. Will YOU allow the word of God to penetrate your heart, and lead you to a life in heaven?