

The Authority of Scripture on Trial

2 Timothy 3:16

Study Guide

2 Timothy 3:16 (New International Version) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness

2 Timothy 3:16 (King James Version Bible) All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness

The questions for The Authority of Scripture on Trial Bible Study are:

Who are the authors of these passages?

What is their testimony concerning the authority and trustworthiness of Scripture?

The New Testament was originally written in Greek. Now, we can investigate the Greek translations to understand 2 Timothy 3:16 better and the depth Christ intended us to understand.

Let us break down the Scripture in Greek.

Profitable in Greek means “helpful or serviceable that is advantageous”

Doctrine in Greek means “instruction, learning teaching”

Reproof in Greek means “proof conviction”

Correction in Greek means “to straighten up again”

Instruction in Greek means “tutorage that is education or training by implication disciplinary correction, chastening”

Righteousness in Greek means “equity of character or act, specifically, justification”

2 Timothy 3:16 can be taken out of context if we do not understand what was said in the previous scriptures.

2 Timothy 3:1-15 “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

⁶ They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, ⁷ always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers oppose the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. ⁹ But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (New International Version)

As we read the scriptures prior; we have a deeper understanding of verse sixteen.

The Lord reminds us of what He has endured as well as Timothy.

We learn in the prior scriptures that even so-called teachers have a “form of godliness” BUT “deny the power”. We are instructed to stay away from those people, the so-called teachers of the word.

A wise man told me, that people do things because they believe their works are what matters the most. When in fact, if you are doing tons of works, and but your soul - you have not sacrificed to God; the works are worthless.

That is like have cooking pasta and trying to eat it. The pasta isn't finished cooking and can not be eaten since it is still hard. The pasta is deemed worthless because it isn't cooked.

It just doesn't work that way. Works alone do not give you bonus points.

A person cannot teach the gospel while sinning. It doesn't work that way.

A person must give their whole self from top to bottom. Heart, mind, and soul sacrificed fully to God.

Not only was this happening in the time of Timothy, but it is so true today. We see a lot of churchgoers; people are put into leadership roles when their hearts are not right before God.

They are teaching or spreading the word to God, and not taking care of themselves. People have no place, just like the Pharisees, which are in the church today in large numbers.

Today's Pharisees ridicule God when He sends someone to get them right before Him. Today's Pharisees deny him because their idea of salvation and sanctification is right in their own eyes.

Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (King James Version Bible)

People begin listening to the devil and believe well "we are all not perfect." This is a statement used a lot in Christianity to justify living in sin. This statement is a lie. Nowhere in the Bible does this statement call true.

People then will say, well the verse Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." BUT there is a big BUT – look at what the words say, HAVE sinned. That is PAST tense, meaning before you were born again you have sinned.

Do you see how the truth can be twisted to fit the sin people want to stay living in?

When you decided to change from a life of sin, and accepted Jesus into your heart, at that moment began your cleansing process. From that moment forward, Christ didn't consider you a sinner, that was your old garment. Now you wear the garment of Christ, clean and without a spot. BUT when people say they are still sinning, they are refusing the washing of God's word.

This is very dangerous.

2 Timothy 3:16 tells us God's word is to convict, instruct, help, and change us. If God's word isn't changing you to be better and to be a child of Christ and not a child of satan as 1 John 3:9 states you are lying to yourself.

For if you are a true child of God you have no sin in you as 1 John 3:9 instructs

You may ask how we know who a true teacher of Christ is, that is where the Holy Ghost will guide you. It will NOT involve your feelings because satan uses your feelings to make believe you are hearing from God, but it is rooted in your feelings.

People use their feelings to justify their behavior, God is not in your feelings.

Timothy explains these people quite clear and how you can tell the difference between the evil false teachers versus Christ and Timothy.

Today we are seeing more people that claim Christianity because subconsciously they think it is going to get them somewhere, it looks glamorous, they think people will respect them. BUT, they are NOT willing to make the sacrifice as Christ, the Apostles in the Bible have done.

You will know a true teacher of Christ by what they have suffered and sacrificed.

True teachers of Christ are sin FREE and demon FREE.

As we spoke in the last study, true teachers of Christ are NOT working out their salvation. True teachers of Christ have fought their demons and won, they are fully sanctified.

Christ through Timothy completely told us a strict command to stay away from people that are full of sin and have their type of righteousness.

Beware of these individuals because on the outside they appear clean as “whitewash tombs”.

Matthew 23:27-28 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. ²⁸ In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside, you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.” (New International Version)

Matthew 23 is a great parallel chapter. Matthew 23 and 2 Timothy 3 shows those that are walking side by side of us into church buildings.

We see the true teachers of Christ coming out of the flame of Christ purified, strong and without any blemish, for they have gone through the fire of God and lived! The great examples of true teachers are Christ and Timothy in 2 Timothy 3. The truth of their testimony proves the authority of God’s word.