ALL SCRIPTURE IS GOD-BREATHED

2 Timothy 3:16&17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Knowing Those Who Teach You

2 Timothy 3:14&15 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

“But as for you” in contrast to the “evildoers and imposters (who) will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

“Continue in what you have learned.” The Greek word translated “learned” comes from the same root as the word disciple. It usually implies acquiring knowledge that changes behavior. Philippians 4:12b “I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation,”

“Have become convinced of.” Timothy had not only learned life-changing truth, but he had also become fully convinced that what he had been taught was true.

“Because you know from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures.” 2 Timothy 1:5 “I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.”

Acts 16:1 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek.

Truth taught by someone whose life has been changed by it is far more convincing than truth taught by someone whose life has not been changed.

Lois and Eunice were Jewish women with a sincere faith in God. Eunice probably came to faith when Paul was first in Lystra.

2 Timothy 3:10 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love endurance,

“How from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures.” The Greek word translated “infancy” means a baby, either born or not yet born. Timothy had been taught the Scriptures almost from birth.

“Make you wise.” *“Sophia,”* **(**wisdom) “is insight into the true nature of things.” (Vine’s) Timothy was able to understand what God is like and how we can have a relationship with Him through the Scriptures, and to understand that “salvation (is) through faith in Christ Jesus.”

All Scripture is God-breathed

2 Timothy 3:16a All Scripture is God-breathed.

“All Scripture” would include the 39 books, the Old Testament, that the Jewish people have accepted as inspired, although they arrange them differently. We accept the 27 books the early church accepted as being inspired. Some of the first New Testament books written were already accepted as inspired when Paul wrote 2 Timothy.

I Corinthians 15:3&4 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

2 Peter 3:15b&16(NASB) just as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

“God-breathed,” more commonly translated “inspired by God,” is just one word in Greek, meaning, very literally, God-breathed. This means that it comes from God and as John 17:17b says, “Your word is truth.” The Scriptures as originally given by God are without error, and the manuscripts we have today are remarkably accurate.

Except for when the Scriptures claim to be directly quoting God, we believe that they are not dictated, but that God kept the writers from making any errors, and that often they did not fully understand what God was telling them to write.

I Peter 1:10&11 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.

What Scripture Is Useful For

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

“Useful” translates a Greek word meaning useful, helpful, profitable.

“Teaching” is teaching in the sense of what is taught. 2 Timothy 3:10a “You, however, know all about my teaching,” Everything we teach must agree with what God has said in His Word. The Bereans “examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.” Acts 17:11d

“Rebuking” is the noun form of a verb translated by the words convict, expose, rebuke, refute and reprove in the NASB. John 16:8 tells us that the Holy Spirit will convict the world concerning sin. Luke 3:19 tells us that John the Baptist “rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife.”

Ephesians 5:11 tells us to, “Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”

“Correcting” literally means to restore a person to an upright or right state. (Vines’) It is the same idea found in Galatians 6:1a, “Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently.”

“Training” is a word meaning to train children, including both the idea of instruction and discipline. Hebrews 12:5b-7 “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?

“Righteousness” here is used simply to mean doing what is right.

What Heeding Scripture Produces

2 Timothy 3:17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:17(ESV) “that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work” is more literal. “Man” is *“anthropos”* meaning “human” not “adult male.”

Knowing the Scriptures thoroughly equips us for every good work.

Things to Remember

Listen to teachers whose lives show they have been changed by the Word of God.

Scripture is God-breathed, it comes directly from God. Sometimes those through whom it came knew what God was telling them to write, even if they did not understand it. The early church accepted the Jewish Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament we have today.

Scripture is “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

Knowing the Scriptures thoroughly equips every child of God for every good work.