



More Than a Book • 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Pastor Kenneth J. Spiller • January 15, 2023

BIG IDEA: "The goal is not for us to get through the Scriptures. The goal is to get the Scriptures through us." -John Ortberg

- ➔ **Have you ever thought about how people in our culture view the Bible?**
- ➔ **Have you thought about how you might respond to their viewpoints?**
- ➔ **How would answer the question "What is the Bible and why is it unique?"**

Pastor Kenneth reminded us that our job isn't to judge or condemn people in culture for their view of the Bible, but to love, pray, and show them another way. He shared with us the three big barriers to engaging the Bible. They are:

1. It doesn't always make sense.
2. It can be boring.
3. Sometimes what we hear from the Bible isn't what we want to hear.

Those who have engaged and who engage with this book and make it regular part of their faith diet know better. We believe that Bible isn't just another book. We believe that words in in are the very words of God. We have confidence that in a world polluted and distorted by sin and evil, the Bible shows and will show us reality. The Bible shows us who God is and what He is like and who we are and what we could be like. It describes how the heart of the human problem is the heart of the human. It also describes the cure for the human problem of sin, God's rich and matchless love and grace.

Our text for this message is 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

Paul is writing to Timothy and encouraging him to continue in and not give up on the faith. Timothy had learned this faith from his grandmother and mother.

➔ **What are you doing to pass your faith onto your children, grandchildren, nieces, and/or nephews?**

Remember, Pastor Chelsea provides weekly “Today I Learned” take home papers for Parkgate parents to engage their kids in what’s being taught each week. She also uploads weekly videos at parkgate.me/kixtube.

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

Paul tells Timothy that All Scripture is “God-breathed,” **theopneustos** – inspired by God. This word comes from the Greek words Theos (God) and pneo (breathed out). The beginning of this verse can be translated as “All scripture is breathed into by God.” Paul is telling Timothy and us that scripture is God-breathed which means that it comes from God Himself. Scripture is God-breathed, God-inspired, God-empowered, and God-activated. God used people to communicate His message to His creation.

➔ **How does the inspiration by God of the Word of God increase your confidence in it?**

➔ **Have you ever read a verse 100 times and then, on the 101st, time, seen something that you had not ever seen before?**

Pastor Kenneth then gave us four reasons why we should engage (not just read it, but spend time with reading and studying) with the Bible. He used the image of a roadmap to illustrate the reasons.

1. The Bible teaches. (Here’s the road.)

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching ...”

The Bible tells us where the road to life is. It shows us where the road that honors God is and teaches that if we walk that road, we’ll become the people God created us to be doing the work God created us to do.

Pastor Kenneth addressed the questions “Is the Bible full of errors?” There are three criteria that historians use to evaluate the reliability of any ancient historical text. They revolve around manuscripts or copies of the original letters and books. The three criteria are quantity, time, and quality Pastor Kenneth used a chart to show how the Bible compares with other documents and

historical events.

We accept that Julius Caesar conquered Gaul because we possess ten ancient manuscripts of Caesar's writing on the Gallic Wars. We believe that Socrates lived, taught, and was executed by drinking hemlock because we possess seven ancient manuscripts of Plato's works in which he documents the death of his beloved mentor and teacher. The second highest number of manuscripts we have from antiquity is from Homer's *The Iliad*. The chart compares these manuscripts of these authors in quantity (number) and time (time from the event to the manuscripts' availability) to the New Testament. Notice we have around 24,000 copies or fragments of the New Testament and that the time span is between 25 – 85 years.

AUTHOR	WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPY	TIME SPAN	# OF COPIES
Caesar	100-44 BC	AD 900	1000 years	10
Plato	427-347 BC	AD 900	1200 years	7
Homer <i>(The Iliad)</i>	900 BC	400 BC	500 years	643
New Testament	AD 40-100 AD	AD 125	25 years at best 85 years at most	24,000

We not only have a good idea of what the New Testament writers were communicating, we can say this about any errors made in the copying process. (Copying is what the scribes mentioned in the Bible did. They copied the text from one manuscript to make another). In the entire New Testament, only 400 words of the 783,137 words in the KJV are in question and these words mostly revolve around spelling issues. That's amazing. Can you trust your Bible? Absolutely! The Bible is trustworthy.

- ➔ **How does this chart give you greater confidence in the trustworthiness of the Bible?**
- ➔ **How will you use it to share with others why you believe the Bible is trustworthy?**
- ➔ **How do the large number of manuscripts and small number of words in question support your belief in the inspiration and authority of the Word of God?**

2. The Bible *rebukes*. (You got off the road.)

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking ..."

We all have done things and have all had times in our life when we have wandered off the road and gone against God's way. We may not always like it, but the Scriptures tell us when we get off the road. Rebuke can be difficult and discouraging, but the scriptures, and God through the scriptures, never leave us there. Rebuke is actually a

A Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to a person that is not.

-Charles Spurgeon

function of God's grace. God corrects us because He doesn't want us to travel down the wrong road.

➔ **How does the image of a road map help you understand what Paul means when he uses the word "rebuke"?**

3. The Bible *corrects*. (Here's how to get back on the road.)

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, *correcting* ..."

Correction means "restoration to an upright state." The Bible helps us get back on the road. For example, if we have offended someone, the Bible tells us to do everything we can to make it right.

Correcting also has other applications. A vital form of correction is correcting the lies we believe about ourselves. Some of the lies we might believe are that we are unlovable, worthless, or that God has given up on me. Some of us believe things about ourselves that are just not true. The Bible can correct those lies. Pastor Kenneth gave an example of a lie he once believed and how God used the Word of God to help him correct his thinking.

➔ **Have you ever believed a lie about yourself and eradicated the thought with a verse or passage from God's Word?**

4. The Bible *trains in righteousness*. (This is how to stay on the road.)

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and *training in righteousness* ..."

The Bible is more than a book; it's our roadmap for life. The Bible leads us to the One who can make us holy and empowers us to live holy lives. The Bible points to the Messiah, Jesus, and then Jesus uses the Bible through His Holy Spirit to direct our lives. God has something to say about every area of your life.

Some people are afraid of the possibility that the Bible is the word of God because they're afraid of what God might have to say.

-Thor Ramsey

Why should we engage the Bible? Because ...

1. The Bible *teaches*. (Here's the road.)
2. The Bible *rebukes*. (You got off the road.)
3. The Bible *corrects*. (Here's how to get back on the road.)
4. The Bible *trains in righteousness*. (This is how to stay on the road.)

The result of our engagement with the Bible is stated clearly in the next verse: **"... so that the**

servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” -2 Timothy 3:17

The Bible equips us to do good works so we can honor God with our lives. God has things He wants you to do, and He has provided a way to equip you to do those things.

➔ What can you do to engage with the Word of God this week? Why do you want to?

Here are three suggestions:

1. Commit to and engage in daily Bible reading. Use the plan in our Sermon Notebook or find a plan that works for you on an app like YouVersion.
2. Take advantage of resources like RightNow Media, which is like the Netflix of Bible studies. Our church has a subscription. Contact the church office for access.
3. Join a Community Group. All of our groups study the Bible together. Contact Pastor Kenny (kboggs@parkgate.org) to get involved.