

CHAPTER 7 – AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

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

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

2 Timothy 3:15–17 and 2:15

Our understanding of the value and importance of the Bible can be enhanced as we listen in on Paul's letter to Timothy about the usefulness of the Holy Scriptures. Please read 2 Timothy 3:15–17.

1. The word *holy* means unique, special, distinct, and close to God. From your own experience, how is it that the Bible is different from other books or writings that address God and spiritual issues?

2. Paul tells Timothy to pay attention to the Holy Scriptures because they bring a special kind of wisdom. What does it mean to be *wise* as the word is used in 3:15?

3. The primary classic purpose of education, going all the way back to the Greeks, was to teach children what they should love and what they should hate. How have the Scriptures been helpful in educating you?

4. We should pay attention to the Scriptures for another reason: because they are “God-breathed”—inspired by God (v. 16). Why is it important for you personally to keep in mind that Scriptures are inspired rather than merely inspiring?

CHAPTER 7 – AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

5. Inspiration brings authority. There is a moral obligation to believe and obey what God says. How does “teaching,” “rebuking,” and “correcting” (v. 16) connect us to the moral authority of the Scriptures?

6. Of course the Scriptures are indeed inspiring as well as inspired. How are you inspired by them?

7. Paul gives a third reason to pay attention to the Scriptures: they are useful “for equipping for every good work” (v. 17). For what good works would you like to be equipped, and how might the Scriptures help you?

8. In the previous chapter, Paul admonishes Timothy to be “a workman ... who correctly handles the word of truth” (2:15). What does the idea of workman add to the way you could think about approaching the Holy Scriptures?

9. In learning to “handle the Scriptures,” what have you found pleasurable? Difficult?

10. A good workman is a good craftsman. How would you like to grow as a craftsman of the Scriptures?
