

THE ABSOLUTE RIGHTNESS OF GOD'S WORD

TEXT: (II Timothy 3:16, KJV)

¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

INTRODUCTION

1. "I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up" (Galatians 1:11, NIV).
2. "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:20-21, NIV).
3. "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man" (Galatians 1:11, KJV).
4. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9, NIV).

A. Authority

1. "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" (II Timothy 3:16, NIV).

B. Infallibility

1. "All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal" (Psalm 119:160, NIV).
2. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death" (Proverbs 16:25, NIV).

I. PURPOSE OF THE SCRIPTURE

1. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16, KJV).

A. Profitable for Doctrine

1. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:19-20).

B. Profitable for Reproof

1. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable...for reproof" (II Timothy 3:16, KJV).
2. "Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like" (James 1:23-24, NIV).
3. "Judah said, 'Bring her out and have her burned to death!'" (Genesis 38:24, NIV).

4. "As she was being brought out, she sent a message to her father-in-law. 'I am pregnant by the man who owns these,' she said. And she added, 'See if you recognize whose seal and cord and staff these are'" (Genesis 38:25, NIV).

C. Profitable for Correction

1. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable...for correction" (II Timothy 3:16, KJV).
2. "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.' And you forgave the guilt of my sin" (Psalm 32:3-5, NIV).
3. "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (James 5:16, NIV).
4. "Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with" (James 5:16, MSG).

II. NOT HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

1. "I will send disaster upon the leaders of my people—the shepherds of my sheep—for they have destroyed and scattered the very ones they were to care for" (Proverbs 23:1, TLB).
2. "My heart is broken within me; all my bones tremble. I am like a drunken man, like a strong man overcome by wine, because of the LORD and his holy words. The land is full of adulterers" (Jeremiah 23:9-10, NIV).

A. Living Too Far Away

1. "But can you name even one of these prophets who lives close enough to God to hear what he is saying?" (Jeremiah 23:18, TLB).
2. "Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God" (Psalm 84:3, NIV).

B. Too Distracted

1. "Has even one of them cared enough to listen? (Jeremiah 23:18, TLB).

C. Desensitized to the Word

1. "It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate" (I Corinthians 5:1, NIV).
2. "And you are proud!" (I Corinthians 5:2, NIV).
3. "And are you still so conceited, so 'spiritual'? Why aren't you mourning in sorrow and shame?" (I Corinthians 5:2, TLB).
4. "I also received a report of scandalous sex within your church family, a kind that wouldn't be tolerated even outside the church: One of your men is sleeping with his stepmother. And you're so above it all that it doesn't even faze you! Shouldn't this break your hearts? Shouldn't it bring you to your knees in tears? Shouldn't this person and his conduct be confronted and dealt with?" (I Corinthians 5:1-2, MSG).

III. RIGHTEOUSNESS BY THE WORD

A. Profitable for Righteousness

1. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable...for instruction in righteousness.
2. "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people" (Proverbs 14:34, NIV).
3. "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33, NIV).

B. The Power of the Word

1. "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12, NIV).
2. "Then Nathan said to David, 'You are the man!...' Then David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the LORD'" (II Samuel 12:7, 13, NIV).
3. "Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness; let him rebuke me—it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it" (Psalm 141:5, NIV).
4. "Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses" (Proverbs 27:6, NIV).

C. Accept Rebuke

1. Sometimes we allow our inferiority to get in the way.
2. "When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong" (Galatians 2:11, NIV).
3. "When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, 'You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?'" (Galatians 2:14, NIV).
4. "Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him" (II Peter 3:15, NIV)

CONCLUSION

1. "Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures. Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you" (Psalm 119:89-91, NIV).
2. "Jesus replied, 'And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?'" (Matthew 15:3, NIV).
3. "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ" (Colossians 2:8, NIV).