



Scripture: 2 Tim. 3:14-17

But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. 15 You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

This sermon serves as part II of a series on the study of Scripture. Part I (Hearing God in the Silence) was preached during Lent. Today the sermon is "Why do we Study the Bible?"

The Bible is more than a mere book. We believe it is the "Word of God." 2 Timothy 3:16 describes the Bible as "inspired." In Greek, the word for inspiration is literally "God-breathed." There are three key times in the Bible that mention God's breath...

- Genesis 2:7 "Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature."
- John 20:22 after the resurrection, but before the ascension, Jesus "he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
- The first breath of God in Genesis gave us physical life; the second breath of God gave us spiritual life; scripture is the third breath of God that shows us the way to eternal life– the way to restored relationship with God and the new life he promises us.

2 Timothy 3 helpfully teaches us the purpose of scripture: **to teach us what is true** and **to make us realize what is wrong in our lives.** It **corrects us when we are**

wrong and **teaches us to do what is right**. God uses it to **prepare** and **equip** his people to do every good work.

Questions:

How often do you study the Bible?

What are ways you study the Bible? (alone, with others, at church, etc).

Share a time when scripture has helped you realize what is wrong in your life.