

All Scripture Is Inspired

Commentary for December 19, 2012 — For a Purpose

Why study Scripture — ever? There is a purpose, a reason for doing so, and God tells us that purpose. The apostle Paul tells us the reasons the written Word of God is useful at his time in history, and those reasons apply to us today as we approach the end of the age:

“... the sacred scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

All scripture is inspired by God, and is beneficial

**for teaching,
for exposure,
for correction,
for discipline in righteousness,**

[Why? To what purpose?] **that the man of God may be equipped, fitted out for every good act.”**

• 2 Timothy 3:15–17, Concordant Literal Version

Now read this passage in the King James Version, which is likely very familiar to you. The KJV translation is just fine in this instance, but it may be too familiar to you and over time you might have come to ignore the deep significance of the words. This is why another translation is often useful to bring out meaning in a passage, if it is accurate to the original languages.

So, although there is no hidden meaning in this passage, it is almost as if “familiarity breeds contempt” in regard to biblical passages which we have memorized or are very familiar with in our lives. This problem of familiarity does not apply only to people, but also to the Word of God. As I said, it may cause you to overlook the subtlety and the full scope of what is written.

2 Timothy 3:17 gives us extremely important information. It says: scripture is beneficial because it equips and outfits you **“for every good act.”** Or, as the KJV puts it, **“unto all good works.”** Those **“good works”** are actions you are to perform to benefit the lives of individuals encountered in your life.

The Purpose of Scripture and Good Works

Therefore, the Scriptures **“make you wise unto salvation”** (2 Timothy 3:15) so that you may be enabled to perform **“every good act.”** You cannot become wise unless you study the Scriptures given by God to you and the world. The Scriptures, when studied, are the means by which you learn God’s thoughts (2 Timothy 2:15), so you can become wise, and spiritual, constantly being corrected in our soul, our spirit, our thoughts, and even the intents of our heart (Hebrews 4:12). As the Psalmist says, **“How precious also are your thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!”** (Psalm 139:17):

“Now he who is spiritual is, indeed, examining all, yet he is being examined by no one. For who knew the mind of the Lord? Who will be deducing from Him? Yet we have the mind of Christ.”

• *1 Corinthians 2:15–16, Concordant Literal Version*

You cannot do “good” works unless you have discernment to distinguish good from bad, or sin from righteousness.

“Now solid nourishment is for the mature, who, because of habit, have faculties exercised for discriminating between the ideal [the good] and the evil.”

• *Hebrews 5:14, Concordant Literal Version*

Such discrimination of good from evil, and sin from righteousness requires education which can be gained only from God’s Word. Only the Word of God can give you the information, the understanding, and the wisdom even to begin to do good in this evil and sinful world.

“Now God is able to lavish all grace on you, that, having all contentment in everything always, you may be superabounding in every good work, according as it is written, He scatters, He gives to the drudges [the poor], His righteousness remains for the eon [citing Psalm 112:9].

Now may He Who is supplying seed to the sower, and bread for food, be furnishing and multiplying your seed and be making the product of your righteousness grow, being enriched in everything, for all the generosity, which is producing through us thanksgiving to God.”

• *2 Corinthians 9:8–11, Concordant Literal Version*

All our actions, good and bad, are counted as righteousness for our sake by God, because we are **“in Christ.”**

“For His achievement are we, being created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God makes ready before, that we should be walking in them [good works].”

• *Ephesians 2:10, Concordant Literal Version*

Look at Paul’s example, which can be applied to each one of us believers who are **“in Christ,”** we are to strive so that the faith of Christ is counted as righteousness from God for us:

“... [we] may be found in Him, not having my righteousness, which is of law, but that [righteousness] which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is from God for faith.”

• *Philippians 3:9, Concordant Literal Version*

As a result of what God the Father and Christ have done and are doing for us and through us, we should strive to do good and live up to God’s standard of righteousness. This is our calling as His children. We learn God’s righteousness by studying His Word. By doing so we become **“thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”**

If you do not read, you cannot study. If you do not study, you cannot learn. If you cannot learn, you cannot know God’s mind. Remember, your mind and heart are sinful. God’s thoughts should be precious to us (Psalm 139:17). Are they precious to you?