

## THE USEFULNESS OF SCRIPTURE (2Timothy 3:14-17)

### Background/Context

- Context: *“difficult times will come” (3:1)*
- Contrast: *“You, however, continue in the things you have learned” (3:14)*

### SCRIPTURE IS USEFUL!

- **SCRIPTURE IS USEFUL because it’s from God (15-16)**
- **SCRIPTURE IS USEFUL in bringing us to Christ (15)**
- **SCRIPTURE IS USEFUL in growing us in Christ (16)**
- **SCRIPTURE IS USEFUL in equipping us to be useful (17)**

RESPONSE:

## QUOTES OF NOTE

If you find a word written on a wall or simply overhear one spoken word in a crowd, you cannot tell whose word it is. Its ownership does not reside within itself, considered merely as a mark or a sound. In contrast my word is not just a word. It is I who am speaking and writing. But even my name written ever so clearly on a check is not my word or my signature if I did not write it and thereby express myself—my thoughts and my intentions. What is essential to a person's word is the meaning given to it by that person—the thought, feeling or action that person associates with it and hopes to convey to others. Through our words we literally give to others a piece of our mind. (Dallas Willard, *Hearing God*)

When God speaks, he expresses his mind, his character and his purposes. Thus, he is always present with his word. All expressions of his mind are “words” of God. This is true whether the specific means are external to the human mind—as in natural phenomena (Ps. 19:1-4), other human beings, the incarnate Christ (the Logos) or the Bible—or internal to the human mind—in our own thoughts, intentions and feelings. (Dallas Willard, *Hearing God*)

The Bible vindicates itself because it is such excellent medicine. It has never failed to cure a single patient if only he took his prescription honestly. (Dr. Howard Atwood Kelly, professor, Johns Hopkins)

Knowledge about the Bible is an indispensable good. But knowledge does not by itself lead to spiritual transformation... But human experience and the Bible teach that increased knowledge—even knowledge of the Scriptures—does not automatically produce transformed people. (John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*)

Reading for transformation is different from reading to find information or to prove a point. (John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*)

We learn many crucial things about doctrine and Christian character in the Scripture, along with a great deal of wisdom. But if you'll flip from cover to cover, you'll notice that it's overwhelmingly a book of stories—tales of men and women who walked with God. Approach the Scriptures not so much as a “Manual of Christian principles,” but as testimony of God's friends on what it means to walk with him through a thousand different episodes. When you are at war, when you are in love, when you have sinned, when you have been given a great gift—this is how you walk with God. Do you see what a different mind-set this is? It's really quite exciting. (John Eldredge, *Waking the Dead*)

Scripture is not simply a reference book to which we turn to look up correct answers—though it's full of those when we need them. Scripture is, as its heart, the great story that we sing in order not just to learn it with our heads but to become part of it through and through, the story that in turn becomes part of us. (N.T. Wright, *The Case for the Psalms*)

The belief of Christ-followers is that, though the Bible is done being written, it's not done writing. The Bible writes its truths on our hearts, speaking its words constantly into new situations, new times, and new cultures. (Tony Jones, *Read, Think, Pray, Live*)