

Living Faith, 2nd Timothy 3

Living Faith

- Think for just a moment of the life of the Apostle Paul
 - Privilege of being a Roman citizen and Jewish
 - Privilege of being taught by one of the most renowned and sought-after Jewish Rabbis
 - **Philippians 3:5-6 ESV**, 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
 - Hear Paul shout, “I was/am Jewish through and through!”

Living Faith

- **Philippians 3:7-8 ESV**, But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
 - Paul set all he was aside, endured great hardship and pain for one reason
 - To grasp the surpassing worth (*so vast, so treasured you can't put a value on*) of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord
 - **Philippians 3:10 NIV**, I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection (*in my life*) and participation in his sufferings (*for righteousness*), becoming like him in his death (*free*)

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- **Philippians 3:10 NIV**, I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection (*in my life*) and participation in his sufferings (*for righteousness*), becoming like him in his death (*free*)
 - Know - describes a knowledge gained through experience; an intimate, experiential, growing knowledge of someone or something
 - When Jesus says he knows his sheep and he knows the Father, he is speaking of an intimate relationship that involves deep feelings of love (**Jn. 10:14–15**)

Living Faith

- **Philippians 3:10 NIV**, I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection (*in my life*) and participation in his sufferings (*for righteousness*), becoming like him in his death (*free*)
- Can there be any greater desire for you 2023?
 - Can there be anything of greater importance for you and your family in 2023?
 - Have you convinced yourself it just is not possible today or is this even a desire in your heart?

Living Faith

- Paul is writing to Timothy who was young and appears to be wired differently than Paul
- Paul sensed his time on earth was coming to an end
 - **2nd Timothy 4:6-7 ESV**, 6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Living Faith

- Paul wants Timothy and us to know that difficult times are coming
 - **2nd Timothy 3:1-5 ESV**, 1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

Living Faith

- This was already the Roman society, and it describes society in our nation and world today
 - This should not surprise you from nations and peoples that turn their backs to the true God and follow their own desires, emotions, and way of thinking
 - Paul is telling Timothy to be cautious because this type of living will attempt to worm its way into the church

Living Faith

- **2nd Timothy 3:5**, having the appearance of godliness but denying its power.
 - They will look Christian, sound Christian, appear Christian but they deny the power of the Resurrection in their lives
 - Deny the need for Salvation, being born-again, Spirit filled, being submissive to God

Living Faith

- The question for this year should be, “How?”
 - How can we fight the good fight?
 - How can we prevent this type of thinking from infiltrating my thoughts and my family
 - How can I live in the power of His resurrection?
- Paul tells us there is only one way

Scripture

- **2nd Timothy 3:16-17 ESV**, 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man (*person*) of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
 - How can Scripture do this?
 - How can text written thousands of years in the past be able to address my needs today?
 - **Hebrews 4:12 ESV**, For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Living Faith

- Sometimes it is easy to just browse through Paul's writings
 - For our 2023 minds it looks like he needs to take a breath at times or at least give us a comma to catch our breaths
 - **2nd Peter 3:15-16 ESV**, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand,
 - As with any list we don't always stop and think about the impact of each word for phrase

2nd Timothy 3:16-17 AMP, 16 All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration]

- The "*All Scripture*" in this case most specifically referred to the Old Testament, since the full New Testament did not yet exist
 - At the time Paul wrote these words, books such as the Gospel of John and Revelation had not yet been written
 - However, this principle would still apply to all Scripture given by God, including the 27 books of the New Testament
 - Peter acknowledged this in **2nd Peter 3:15–16**

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- **John 16:12-13 NIV**, 12 “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”
 - Human authors put the words to paper, through their own personal perspectives and styles, but the ultimate source of this information is not human, but divine – Purpose?
 - That we can know of God and come to know Him personally
 - That we can know ourselves and our sinful selfish appetites
 - That we will find the way of peace with God through Jesus

2nd Timothy 3:16-17 AMP, 16 All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration]

- Once again, how can we find peace with a holy, just God?
 - You can look at creation and see the power and glory of a designer
 - You can look at the human body and the intricate design to our world and see the hand of a designer
 - But the only way to know the Designer is through His Scripture given us as it reveals His ways, His work and His Son
 - The only way to fight the good fight, finished the race, keep the faith is through applying God's Scripture to your daily life

2nd Timothy 3:16-17 AMP, 16 All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable

- Profitable - Comes from a root word that has the idea of heaping up or accumulating something that will give you a benefit or an advantage
- We've already looked at what this world is like so, how can I live, walk through it, pass onto my children the way to pass through this corrupt world without it dragging me down into it?
 - Only when your life path passes through the instruction found in Scripture
 - This also must be taught to those who come after you
 - Paul lists four main areas of profitability in this verse

First, Scripture is profitable for teaching

- **2nd Timothy 3:16-17 AMP**, 16 All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable **for instruction**
 - It is to be used to instruct us
 - Who God is
 - Who we are
 - What God demands
 - How we can have a relationship with Him
 - Why we need a relationship with Him
 - How we are to live to have a blessed relationship with Him

Second, Scripture is profitable for challenging the way we live

- **2nd Timothy 3:16-17 AMP**, 16 All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, **for conviction [of sin]**,
 - The idea of exposing or pointing out sin in our lives
 - **John 3:19 ESV**, 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

Second, Scripture is profitable for challenging the way we live

- **2nd Timothy 3:16-17 AMP**, 16 All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, **for conviction [of sin]**,
 - This is the work of the Holy Spirit
 - **John 16:8-11 ESV**, 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Third, Scripture is useful for showing how to correct our sinful lives

- **2nd Timothy 3:16-17 AMP**, 16 All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], **for correction [of error and restoration to obedience]**,
 - Scripture both points out sin and offers a solution to it
 - **Genesis 4:6-7 ESV**, 6 The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

Fourth, Scripture is profitable for training in living as God designed

- **2nd Timothy 3:16-17 AMP**, 16 All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], **for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage];**
 - Though similar to teaching, training is more focused on practical application
 - From Scripture we learn what is true, what is wrong, how to correct wrong, and how to apply truth

The purpose of Scripture is to allow us to be fully equipped not just to live in this sinful world, but also to be ready for every work God gives you

- **2nd Timothy 3:16-17 AMP**, 16 All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage]; **17 so that the man of God may be complete and proficient, outfitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

Scripture is not just to be read and remembered, but to be read and obeyed

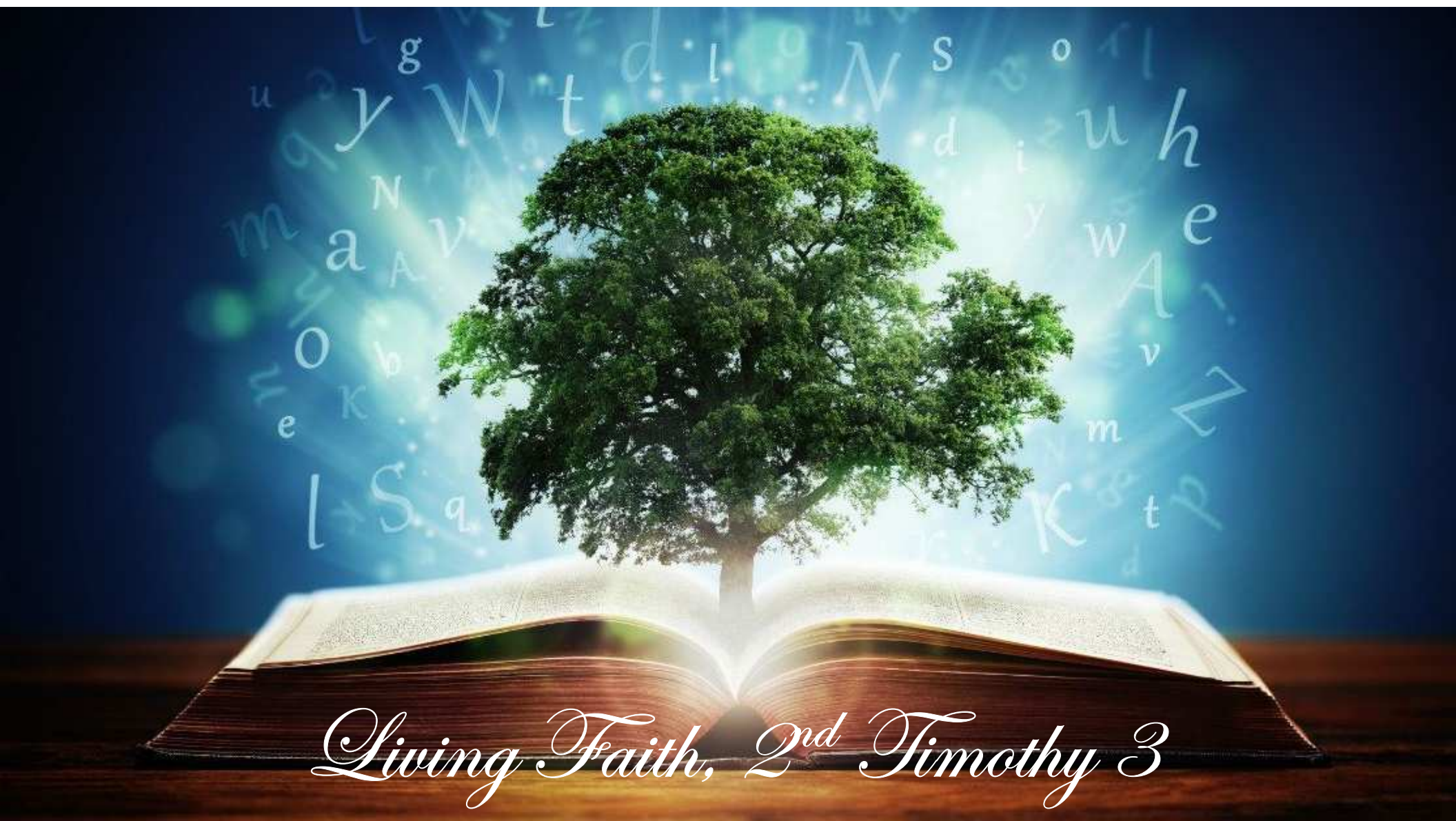
- **Luke 11:27-28 ESV**, 27 As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” 28 But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”
 - Who put themselves in a position to accurately hear Scripture and put it into practice
 - **James 1:22 NIV**, 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Scripture is not just to be read and remembered, but to be read and obeyed

- Let Scripture change the way you see God, yourself, your purpose in life
 - Determine your world view
 - Prepare you for tomorrow and eternity

Scripture is not just to be read and remembered, but to be read and obeyed

- **Psalms 1:1-3 NIV**, 1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.



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