

DEPENDENT

vGroup Study



VINTAGE PRESS

Dependent: vGroup Study

Copyright © 2019 by Vintage Press

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission of the publisher.

Written by Dustin Turner.

Design, layout, and illustrations by Christopher Wilson. Graphic adapted from open.church.

SET YOUR ALARM CLOCK

Today we live in the information age. From actual books to ebooks to magazine articles to blog posts, we have the ability to find and learn almost anything we want to know. Information is literally at our finger tips. But why do we read what we read? Perhaps we're interested in the subject. We pick up a book because it's about New Orleans Jazz and we simply want to know more about it. Maybe we like the author. We followed Barack Obama when he was president and now we want to read the book he has written. The information is easily accessible and we want to consume it.

For centuries Judaism centered on the Scriptures, and these were essential to the faith. The Torah, Prophets, and Writings were contained in scrolls. The Scriptures, however, were not available to everyone. Few individuals had the means to own their own copies of these scrolls. Even synagogues (i.e., worship centers for Jews) struggled to own all of these scrolls. As Christianity grew out of Judaism, both the Old and New Testaments became essential to the faith; however, again, it was difficult for people to gain their own personal access to the Bible. With the advent of the printing press in the 1500s and the translation of the Bible into other languages, people everywhere were given access to the Bible. Today we have access to read the Bible in the language we know and speak. So, if we have access to the Bible why should we read it? Why do so many not read the Bible?

- Why do people read the Bible? Why do you read the Bible?
- Many Christians struggle to read the Bible even though they read countless other books, ebooks, articles, and blog posts. Why do you think some struggle to read the Bible?
- Why is the Bible unlike any other book or article ever published?

Second Timothy is the final letter the apostle Paul wrote to his protegee, Timothy, a young pastor in Ephesus. In 2 Timothy 3, Paul reminds Timothy of the world they were (and we are) living in. Paul basically says that life will not be easy as our culture walks further away from God. Then, starting with verse 10, Paul turns the conversation from the world they were living in to the Word they had. Let's turn to 2 Timothy 3:10-13 and read what Paul tells Timothy.

Dependent

¹⁰You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹²Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

2 Timothy 3:10–13

- What is Paul contrasting his teaching, conduct, aim, faith, etc. with? (Hint: Look back at verses 1–9).
- Why was Paul someone worthwhile for Timothy to follow?
- Why does Paul say that “all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted? (Hint: Perhaps he’s suggesting that following Christ is so contrary to following the world).

In verses 10 through 13, Paul commends Timothy that rather than follow the ways of the world, Timothy has chosen godliness. Part of the reason for this is that Timothy has followed Paul’s example. Paul’s example of godliness is simply foreign to the world. Our faith and the world simply do not work together. In verses 14–17, Paul gets to an important element in our godliness—the Scriptures. Let’s read 2 Timothy 3:14–17 and see what Paul has to say about the Bible.

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:14–17

- What is the source of Timothy’s knowledge and belief? (Hint: Look at verse 15). Why is this source so important?
- How does Paul describe Scripture? (Hint: Look at verses 16–17).

Dependent

- What does it mean for Scripture to be “breathed out by God?” (Hint: This means that the Bible is inspired by God, meaning it’s the very words of God communicated to us¹). Why is this so important?
- What does Paul say are the benefits of Scripture?
- How does the Bible train us for righteousness and equip us for every good work?
- If we choose to not read Scripture, what might be the negative consequences for our lives?
- How have you personally experienced the benefits of reading Scripture?

We read the Bible because it is the Word of God. The Bible is inspired by God and therefore his words to us. The Bible is one of the primary ways by which God has and continues to communicate to us. So, the question is not “should we read the Bible?” but “when will we read the Bible. On Sunday, Pastor Matthew Weaver challenged us to prioritize, read, and know Scripture. As we close our discussion, let’s think practically about reading the Bible.

- How are you doing with reading the Bible consistently?
- What does your Bible reading habit/discipline look like?
- Pastor Matthew talked about prioritizing Bible reading, meaning making time for it? How can you prioritize Bible reading better?

Dependent

- Pastor Matthew encouraged us to follow a Bible Reading Plan to help us read the Bible more consistently. What Bible reading plan do you use? If you don't have a Bible reading plan, check out the [F260 Bible Reading Plan](#).
- Finally, Pastor Matthew challenged us to know Scripture. In particular, he encouraged us to journal our Bible reading through the HEAR Journal method as well as memorize Scripture. How do you systematically process what you are reading in the Bible? To learn more about the HEAR Journal method, visit [Replicate](#).
- We've discussed a lot about Bible intake. As you process your own life, what is one step you can take to grow in Bible intake?

REFERENCES

¹Inspiration of Scripture should be understood as “the special work of the Holy Spirit by which he superintended the biblical authors as they composed their writings...Inspiration is plenary (all Scripture is God-breathed; 2 Timothy 3:16), verbal (inspiration extends to the words of Scripture), and concursive (the Spirit and the human authors wrote together). Gregg Allison, “Inspiration of Scripture,” in *The Baker Compact Dictionary of Theological Terms* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2016), 116.