

## **“Thoroughly Equipped” Part 1 “Scripture Leads Us”**

2 Timothy 3:14-17 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God <sup>p</sup> may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- A. Reflect on your “spiritual ancestors.” Who did God use to bring the Word of God to you?
  
- B. How long have you known the Holy Scriptures? Why do you think the Scripture often hints at bringing the Word of God to infants and children?
  
- C. Which of the four uses that Paul lists do you think about LEAST? How might that “use” benefit you more?
  
- D. How has the Scripture helped you be “thoroughly equipped” for every good work?

### SOME QUOTES ON SCRIPTURE FROM MARTIN LUTHER:

- 1. “I implore them not to imagine that they have learned these parts of the Catechism [10 Commandments, Apostles’ Creed, Lord’s Prayer] perfectly . . . Even if their knowledge of the Catechism were perfect (though that is impossible in this life), yet it is highly profitable and fruitful daily to read it and make it the subject of meditation and conversation. In such reading, conversation, and meditation the Holy Spirit is present and bestows ever new and greater light and fervor . . . Nothing is more effectual against the devil, the world, the flesh, and all evil thoughts than to occupy oneself with the Word of God, talk about it and meditate on it . . . For this reason alone you should eagerly read, recite, ponder and practice the Catechism, even if the only blessing and benefit you obtain from it is to rout the devil and evil thoughts. For he cannot bear to hear God’s Word. God’s Word is not like some empty tale, such as the one about Dietrich of Bern, but as St. Paul says in Rom. 1:16, it is “the power of God,” indeed, the power of God which burns the devil and gives us immeasurable strength, comfort, and help.” (Book of Concord; Tappert edition; Large Catechism 9-11). Here [John 5:39,40,43]
  
- A. Curious. How long has it been since you read/studied Luther’s Catechism? What benefit do you feel you would receive in a regular review of it?
  
- B. Which parts of Luther’s statement impact you the most? Why?

2. "This German Bible (this is not praise for myself but the work pages itself) is so good and precious that it's better than all other versions, Greek and Latin, and one can find more in it than in all commentaries, for we are removing impediments and difficulties so that other people may read it without hindrance. I'm only concerned that there won't be much reading in the Bible, for many people are tired of it and nobody clamors for it any more." (LW 54:408).

A. React to this statement in light of the access to the Bible today?

3. "The neglect of Scripture, even by spiritual leaders, is one of the greatest evils in the world. Everything else, arts or literature, is pursued and practiced day and night, and there is no end of labor and effort; but Holy Scripture is neglected as though there were no need of it. Those who condescend to read it want to absorb everything at once. There has never been an art or a book on earth that everyone has so quickly mastered as the Holy Scriptures. But its words are not, as some think, mere literature (Lesewort); they are words of life (Lebewort), intended not for speculation and fancy but for life and action. By why complain? No one pays any attention to our lament. May Christ our Lord help us by His Spirit to love and honor His holy Word with all our heart. Amen." (LW 14:46)

A. What causes the Bible to be relegated to a piece of literature of minimal importance today?

4. ""Since then your majesty and your lordships desire a simple reply, I will answer without horns or without teeth. Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason- I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other- my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe."

A. Luther is on trial and threatened with death if he did not step away from his writings. How can the Scripture give us similar confidence to face any persecutions today?

5. "If the gospel was of nature to be propagated or maintained by the powers of this world, God would not have entrusted it to fishermen. It belongs not to the princes and pontiffs of this age to defend the Word of God. They have enough to do to shelter themselves from the judgments of the Lord and of His Anointed. If I speak, it is in order that they may attain a knowledge of the divine Word, and that by it they may be saved."

A. What amazes you that God entrusted his Word to "fishermen" vs. "princes." What implications does that have for us?