

Wise for Salvation

2 Timothy 3:14-17

New Year's Day 2017

...and 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. - **2 Timothy 3:15**

I. AN APOSTLE'S INSTRUCTION

- Continue to live out what you've learned (vs. 14; Col. 1:23; 3 John 1:3).
- Remember those who brought the truth to you (vs. 14; Acts 18:24-26; 1 Thess. 5:12; Philemon 1:19).
- Remain in the word (vs. 15; Acts 17:11; Heb. 4:12; James 1:22).
- Trust the word that is breathed out by God (vs. 16; John 10:35).

II. WHAT THE WORD OF GOD ACCOMPLISHES

- It leads to wisdom that leads to salvation (vs. 15; Acts 8:35).
- It illuminates us (vs. 15; Psalm 119:105).
- It instructs us (vs. 16; Deut. 4:10; Dan. 9:2; Matt. 22:29-32).
- It convicts us (vs. 16; 1 Thess. 1:5; Heb. 4:12).
- It completes God's work in us (vs. 17; Eph. 6:10-17).
- It equips us (vs. 17; Eph. 4:11-16).

III. GOD'S WORD - WHY WE CHERISH IT

- Because it comes from God (vs. 16; 2 Peter 1:20).
- Because it encourages us (Rom. 15:4; 1 Thess. 4:17-18).
- Because we need its instruction (vs. 16; Job. 22:21-23; 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:13).
- Because it came to us at a great cost (Rev. 6:9).

KNOW: God speaks primarily through words. That's how he's chosen to communicate with us. If we do not take up those words and read, our ability to grow in the faith will be severely hampered.

DO: Make the study of Scripture a primary goal for 2017.

Recommended Reading:

Welcome to the Story, by Stephen J. Nichols

Dig Deeper, by Nigel Beynon & Andrew Sach

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

1. What is Paul's overall instruction to Timothy?
2. What's the biggest obstacle you face in life that keeps you from consistent time in God's word?
3. Why is it good to read and re-read the Bible?
4. Read Luke 4:1-13. What can we learn from this encounter about the word of God?
5. What's your favorite Bible verse? Have you committed it to memory?
6. Is there a difference in your faith between when you have been in God's word on a consistent basis and when you have not? What's the difference?