

THE POWER OF THE WORD (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

I. It has the power to steer us (2 Timothy 3:14-15).

- A. Paul knew that he was about to die and was leaving inspired advice for his young protegee'.
 - 1. His advice was to continue, same Greek word as “abide” that we have been noticing in 1 John, in what he had been taught by Paul.
 - 2. He was to continue studying God’s word that he had been studying from youth because it made him wise to salvation when connected to faith in Christ.
- B. The Bible, when read and taken in to create faith, steers us to salvation.
 - 1. Barnes said of this phrase, “So to instruct you in the way of salvation, that you may find the path of life.”
 - 2. No other book does this.
 - 3. It is only God’s word that gives us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).
- C. When a person goes to God’s word and studies it with an open mind, it steers one towards salvation.
 - 1. It is the only book that tells God’s plan to save man.
 - 2. It is the only book that reveals God and His Son to us completely, which leads to eternal life (John 17:3).
- D. When people turn from God’s word or never turn to it, death follows.
 - 1. The Minor Prophets vividly reveal this fact to us.
 - 2. When God’s people left God’s word they died.
 - 3. When there came a generation that did not know the true God of Israel, God destroyed them.
- E. When man turns to God’s word it has the power to steer him towards salvation.
 - 1. It sets him on the path that leads to salvation.
 - 2. As the Psalmist wrote, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (119:105).

II. It has the power to save us (James 1:21).

- A. Not only does it have the power to steer us towards salvation, it has the power to save us if we obey it.
 - 1. Numerous are the people that have studied God’s word, but did not completely obey it.
 - 2. Denominationalists can quote passage after passage.
 - 3. However, they did not mix their study with complete faith.
- B. Only when the word is received into a good, honest heart can it save us.
 - 1. Notice the word meekness.
 - 2. The idea is that this person who has been steered towards salvation will put his will under that of God’s and completely receive this word in their heart.
- C. The word “engrafted” makes this different from the power of the word to steer us.

1. This word means rooted, fixed, grown strong.
 2. It shows a thorough reception of the word.
 3. This person has not just read it and believed some of it.
 4. It has thoroughly taken root in this person's life.
- D. We are saying that the word is powerful enough to do certain things.
1. This verse proves it is powerful because the word "able" is the same word translated "power" in Romans 1:16.
 2. It is the Greek word from which we get our word "dynamite."
- E. When one places his will under the will of God, which we have mentioned in our Bible class on the beatitudes, he humbles himself and obeys the word.
1. When the word is obeyed, salvation follows.
 2. The gospel is God's only power to save (Romans 1:16).

III. **It has the power to strengthen (Acts 20:32).**

- A. As Paul was leaving the elders of Ephesus on the shores of Miletus, he gave them a farewell speech.
1. He challenged them and warned them.
 2. In verse 32, we have a record of him commending them to God and God's word.
- B. The first thing that he says the word is able to do is to build them up, which means to strengthen or edify.
1. Again, we see the word able and it is the same word found in James 1:21, meaning power.
 2. Paul says if you stay with God and His word, you will be strengthened.
- C. David said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11).
1. David knew the power of God's word.
 2. When it is dwelling in us as Paul commands, it has the power to strengthen us against temptation.
- D. Without faith it impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).
1. The only place from which faith comes is God's word (Romans 10:17).
 2. Faith is developed when God's word is studied and allowed to sink into the heart of the student.
- E. Paul commended the Thessalonians for properly receiving God's word and allowing it to strengthen them (1 Thessalonians 2:13).
1. "Effectually worketh" carries the idea of making one strong.
 2. God's word made them strong because the first accepted it for what it was and then applied it to life.
- F. God's word has the power to strengthen us if we will let it.

IV. **It has the power to secure us (Acts 20:32).**

- A. The second thing Paul told the Ephesian elders that the word could do is secure them a place in heaven.
- B. By this I don't mean eternal security of the believer as the Calvinist teaches.

1. The Bible is very clear that the child of God can fall from grace by sin (Galatians 5:4).
 2. In this same speech, Paul warned that some would fall away (20:29-30).
- C. What I do mean is that if we follow God's word faithfully, repent when we sin and do those things commanded us in the word, we have a secure place in heaven.
1. This is what Peter taught (1 Peter 1:3-4)
 2. In his second letter, he tells us if add the Christian graces to our lives and abound in them we won't fall (2 Peter 1:10).
- D. Many times we have sung the words to "Standing On The Promises," #598 in our hymnal.
1. Notice the second and fourth verses.
 2. I know some that have a problem with verse four but I don't.
 3. If we would always stand on the promises, listen every moment to the Spirit inspired words of God and rest in Christ as our all in all, we would not fall.
 4. The problem comes when we fail to stand, to listen or to rest in these areas and try our own ways.
- E. God's word has the power to secure for us a home in heaven if we obey it.