

THE CHRISTIANS MULTI-PURPOSE TOOL (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

I. It is useful for direction.

- A. Doctrine is the teaching that is found in the New Testament that directs us towards heaven.
- B. The word is interesting because it not only focuses on what is taught but the authority of the source of what is taught.
 - 1. Scripture is the source of doctrine.
 - 2. Thus, according to this word, scripture has the authority to give doctrine.
- C. When you and I open God's word, we are opening an authoritative tool that is not to be ignored or misused.
- D. There are different types of doctrine found in the Bible.
 - 1. There is the doctrine of the Godhead, the doctrine of the virgin birth and such as these.
 - 2. There are doctrines about the exclusivity of Christ and His church.
 - 3. Each doctrine is formulated and discussed in the authoritative tool known as the Bible.
- E. The doctrine of God's plan of salvation for man today is strictly found in the New Testament.
- F. We need doctrinal direction because we are not capable on our own of determining God's will for us (Jeremiah 10:23).
- G. Without the lamp and light of God's word, we have no compass useful for direction in life, thus we need doctrine to direct us.

II. It is useful for conviction.

- A. We all do things from time to time that we attempt to rationalize.
 - 1. We find ways to justify why we did something to make it seem right in our minds.
 - 2. The Bible does not allow us to do this if we use it properly.
- B. When we read through the New Testament, or study a particular text, if there is fault in us, the Bible points it out to us.
- C. As James reveals, it is a mirror that tells us what we really are like spiritually (James 1:25).
- D. The root word for this particular Greek word is used in John 8:9.
 - 1. Those men wanted to trap Jesus.
 - 2. However, when confronted with their own sinful ways, they were convicted in their hearts that they were wrong.
- E. This word is also interesting in that it carries with it the idea, not only of a charge of sin, but the shedding of light on the truth of the charge.
 - 1. People are charged with things from time to time, of which they are not guilty.
 - 2. This tool from God, however, is never wrong in the charges it makes against us.
 - 3. As James called it, it is the perfect law of liberty.

III. It is useful for correction.

- A. This word is only used in the New Testament in this verse.
 - 1. It carries the idea of straightening something that has become bent or crooked.
 - 2. The idea of restoration is inherent in this word.
 - 3. It means to amend that which is wrong in a person's life.
- B. After one is convicted by this useful tool, he/she must then straighten out that which has become crooked.
- C. We had a relationship with God at one time but sin ruined it.
 - 1. Once we realize that our relationship is ruined we can leave it alone or we can restore that relationship.
 - 2. We restore the relationship by being obedient to God's commands.
- D. When a penitent Christian comes forward, we generally say that person was restored.
- E. We could say that person was corrected.
 - 1. They were in a ruined relationship with God because of their sins.
 - 2. By their repentance they restored that relationship with God.
 - 3. They were corrected by God's word and it led them to obedience.
- F. We are to seek to restore our brethren who have fallen away (Galatians 6:1).
- G. The only way that will take place is if the person has received direction and then conviction, all from God's word.

IV. It is useful for edification.

- A. When one is instructed in righteousness he is edified by God's word.
 - 1. Edification simply means building up.
 - 2. It carries the idea of strengthening an individual.
- B. Notice Paul's words to Timothy (1 Timothy 1:4).
 - 1. He was to pay attention that which was edifying in faith.
 - 2. Faith comes from the word of God, thus Timothy was teach those things from God's word that built up people.
- C. Righteousness is found in God and His word.
 - 1. Righteousness is simply right living.
 - 2. One gains a knowledge of how to live right through the tool God has given us called the Bible.
- D. It is the goal, or should be, of each of us to be strengthened (1 Corinthians 14:26).
 - 1. We are edified through Bible study.
 - 2. We are edified through worship to God.
- E. That which strengthens us in Christ can be called edification.
- F. The Bible is the tool that allows us to be edified.

V. It is useful for perfection.

- A. We are never going to be sinlessly perfect..
- B. However, as this word tells us, we can become whole or complete.
- C. Paul had this in mind in Ephesians 4:13.
 - 1. God wants us to be complete Christians.
 - 2. If Bible study is lacking, there can't be the wholeness or completeness God wants for us.

- D. To be a complete umpire or referee one must know the rules.
 - 1. Could you imagine an umpire or referee saying that he couldn't make a judgment on that because he didn't know the rule?
 - 2. There is no way he would command respect or be able to do his work.
- E. The same holds true for a Christian.
- F. We need to be seeking perfection through studying God's word.
- G. We can't do all the work God intends for us to do without knowing His word.
- H. We are to be able to handle God's word correctly (2 Timothy 2:15).

Part of this outline came from a bulletin whose author was unnamed.