

Introduction

It's amazing how we can take scripture to fit any circumstance or to justify our actions. We can justify sin by saying God is a God of love, or by saying God knows my heart. We are sure God knows your heart, but He wants it to change.

We can justify sickness by saying "God is teaching me something in it".

It's amazing how we come to a place of religious sayings:

- a) "love you in the Lord"
- b) "If it be the will of God"

A lot of what we are taught and hear is just opinions or interpretations.

This week we want to have a look at Paul giving Timothy some instructions.

Question

Do you like being instructed?

We all need Godly instructors.

If you can't submit to someone you can see, how can you submit to someone you can't see?

Paul loved Timothy as a son and cared about him, so his instructions to Timothy were not to beat him or destroy him, but to build him up and to encourage him, which is each Ministers' job - to build, equip and release people into their God given destiny.

We want to have a look at 2 Timothy 3:16

Scripture

- **2 Timothy 3:16 (Amplified Bible)**

¹⁶Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action),

- 1) Every scripture

Paul is making a statement here, that ALL scripture, he doesn't say *some* scripture, but he says *all*.

In making this statement about all scripture it means that we should not major on just one part of the gospel. It is not just healing, prosperity, deliverance, faith, leadership, worship, but that we need to embrace *all* the scriptures. The Kingdom is not divided.

No doubt Paul is talking about the Old and the New Testaments because he said to Timothy in verse 15,

Scripture

- **2 Timothy 3:15 (New International Version, ©2011)**

¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

So Paul is not discarding the Old Testament and nor should we, as it is a shadow of things to come.

2) Paul says the scriptures are God-breathed

This means they are backed up by the power of God. The scriptures have life in them. Seasoned with salt, they bring life.

Scriptures can also condemn if they are preached in the wrong heart attitude. Jesus said the sheep know my voice, so scripture should lead us and guide us and not drive us.

If we are procrastinators and get challenged to do something we could always use the excuse that someone is pushing us.

We need to search our hearts to see if the scripture is really speaking to us.

Or, if I am an independent person, or hurt person, I am never going to be led, I am just going to have my own opinion, that I am right and everyone else is wrong. It is easy to find faults, but if you haven't got the remedy, it's best to be quiet.

Remember, God loves the church, and the church is not a building – it is people, that's why Jesus said He would build a church, which is building people, our part is to preach the Kingdom, which embraces the whole gospel.

3) They are profitable for instruction

To instruct = a teacher who instructs his pupils in the elements of his own religion. In the New Testament, He teaches the principles of the Christian Faith.

Scripture

- **Luke 1:4 (New International Version, ©2011)**

⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

Luke here informs Theophilus that he intends to give a clear, concise and orderly account of those things he had previously received by word of mouth. So he is instructing him.

We all need instruction. We do not know it all and we will continue to learn and receive revelation until Jesus returns.

Profitable, that the Word of God will teach the will of God and point out Jesus Christ until He comes.

That they are for our benefit.

4) For reproof and conviction of sin

(Reproof = to convince men of the truth and to confound those who would deny it)

Understanding the goodness of God and His grace brings sin to the surface.

Even though we are forgiven of past, present and future sin we still need to repent to receive forgiveness.

Notice it says here conviction and not condemnation. Everything about God is restoration and not separation.

There are no conditions on grace.

Scripture

- **John 16:8-9 (Amplified Bible)**

^aAnd when He comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about sin and about righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God) and about judgment: ^aAbout sin, because they do not believe in Me [trust in, rely on, and adhere to Me];

Notice in these two scriptures He says He will convict the world of sin because they do not know Him.

If we preach the Word, which is God-breathed, it will bring people to an understanding of their need of God.

Jesus never, ever preached hell to sinners, He preached the goodness of God. Our job is to show people the goodness and forgiveness of a loving Father.

We are not to condemn the world.

We are anointed as ministers of reconciliation.

Scripture

- **John 16:10 (Amplified Bible)**

^aAbout righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God), because I go to My Father, and you will see Me no longer;

In this verse, I believe He is talking to believers about convicting them of righteousness, of their right standing with God, which would bring us to repentance.

Seeing as there is only one unforgiveable sin, God wants us to understand righteousness, and if righteousness is a gift, the gifts and calling of God are given without repentance.

Question

Why do we put conditions on people that have hurt us?

5) For correction of error

This point should be studied very clearly, we are not to take for granted everything we hear or listen to, as He says to search out the scriptures and work out your own salvation.

Scripture is for restoring things to their proper uses and places, correcting false notions and mistaken views.

When we feel we are in error of any kind the first thing we should go to is the Word of God, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to us.

Paul warned in the last days – many will come with false teaching, having a form of godliness but denying its power – have nothing to do with them. Paul says in:

Scripture

- **2 Timothy 3:5 (New International Version, ©2011)**

⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

You can read, read and study and study, but until it becomes revealed knowledge, it's just the law.

Question

Have you ever left a meeting feeling confused?

6) For discipline and obedience

We live in a world that hates discipline, it is so easy now to run from fellowship to fellowship.

We live in a whole society that hates authority so there is no obedience. If it feels good – do it! That is the attitude! We've got a whole attitude of "don't tell me what to do", there is no loyalty or commitment.

Scripture

- **Hebrews 12:6 (Amplified Bible)**

⁶For the Lord corrects and disciplines everyone whom He loves, and He punishes, even scourges, every son whom He accepts and welcomes to His heart and cherishes.

These scriptures might sound a bit hard but He loves us and cherishes us, so, we are disciplined according to His love and grace which brings us into an obedience.

Scripture

- **Hebrews 12:8 (Amplified Bible)**

⁸Now if you are exempt from correction and left without discipline in which all [of God's children] share, then you are illegitimate offspring and not true sons [at all]

I don't want to become an illegitimate child, so, if I am a true son of God, I will allow the word, and the preaching of the Word to discipline me.

So that I may walk in obedience.

Question

- 1) Do you take discipline easy?
- 2) Do you find it hard to be obedient to discipline?

7) For training in righteousness

Scripture

- **2 Timothy 4:8 (New International Version, ©2011)**

⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Righteousness is a state of being perfect and without sin. So God sees us as righteous and the more we get into the scriptures, the more we come to a greater understanding and revelation of our right standing with God.

Question

Do you ever feel inferior?

(Right standing with God = gift of God – you can't become any more righteous, you are the righteousness of God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ).

There is such a lack of understanding of righteousness, people are struggling when God says you are righteous.

Scripture

- **2 Corinthians 5:21 (New International Version, ©2011)**

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin^[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Notice here it says that the one who had no sin became sin for us, so we take on the righteousness of God.

8) For holy living and conformity to God

The scriptures are full of people who have blown it, walked away, but God still drew them back. There is no way that we can live a holy life and conform to God without surrendering to the greater one inside us.

Scripture

- **Psalm 51:1 (New International Version, ©2011)**

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Notice here David asked for forgiveness according to God's unfailing love.

If David had gone to man he would have been stoned for committing adultery.

The only way to get true character and true holiness is to have a true relationship with Jesus.

9) For God's will in your life

Scripture

- **Matthew 6:10 (New International Version, ©2011)**

¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

There is no sickness, poverty or oppression in heaven. So if we pray for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done that means:

- a) Healing will come
- b) Blessings will come
- c) Restoration will come
- d) Forgiveness will come
- e) Joy will come
- f) And peace will come

A lot of people run around saying is this Gods' will, is that Gods' will, but the scripture is full of promises for your life.

One of the greatest statements, I believe, is when Jesus came out of the waters of baptism and the Holy Spirit ascended like a dove and God the Father said "this is my beloved Son."

Up to this point Jesus had lived with Mary & Joseph and really hadn't done anything, but God was pleased with Him. I believe we all need to come into understanding of how much the Father is pleased with us.

It is not based on what I can do for Him, which makes Him love me, it's what He's done for me which defines the will of God for my life.

10) Gods' thoughts toward you

Could you imagine people really understanding what God thought of them, that He doesn't see you as a sinner, a mistake, a failure, He sees you as a son, washed and cleansed in the blood of Jesus.

Scripture

- **Hebrews 4:12 (New International Version, ©2011)**

¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

So the word of God judges the thoughts and intents of our hearts and if we are sensitive, we will start having Gods thoughts about us, confirming His Word that says' His thoughts are not our thoughts and our ways are not His ways.

Scripture

- **Isaiah 55:8 (New International Version, ©2011)**

⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

Question

- 1) Do you have a problem loving yourself?
- 2) If so, why do you not like what God created?

If you have a problem with yourself, really, you have a problem with God.

Do you think He made a mistake?

11) Gods purposes

When we look at the purposes of God for our lives, it's ok to say, "I am saved," "I'm going to heaven," but God's got a purpose for each and every one of us.

Our life doesn't just have a start and a finishing point, it has a dash between the both of them, and that is the purpose of God. That is why in:

Scripture

- **Philemon 1:6 (New International Version, ©2011)**

⁶ I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.

Notice it says here that He wants us to be active in sharing our faith. Results of being active and sharing are:

- a) That we have a good understanding of every good thing we have in Christ Jesus,
- b) We cannot make excuses for not knowing enough because we all have a testimony, and each time we share our faith we share the goodness of God and His purposes for others' lives.

So if you have a lack of understanding it's because you don't share Jesus enough.

Question

What is your greatest hindrance in sharing your faith?

12) Gods actions

God is not just a God of words. He is a God of action. If He says He loves you, He backs it up.

Scripture

- **John 3:16 (New International Version, ©2011)**

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

What God is really saying hear is that all scripture being God-breathed and inspired by God is that it is an action.

We can say to people God will heal you, or we can say God loves you, but our words need to be backed up by action. The only way they can be backed up by action is by having a revelation of who He is and what he can do. As James says:

Scripture

- **James 2:18 (New International Version, ©2011)**

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

God is not a God that He should lie.

Even though we are saved by grace and faith in Jesus Christ, once I become born again, I believe on the name of Jesus, so if I believe I will be a person of action, because he says in:

Scripture

- **Ephesians 2:10 (New International Version, ©2011)**

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

What an awesome thing that we are Gods handiwork.

We are made by Him to produce good works which God has prepared for us. Where we live and work and play, God has prepared in advance. We should take every opportunity, as a God opportunity to share the love of Christ.