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2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 3

In Your Group Read 2 Timothy chapter three (aloud) in a modern translation or read it in the King James Version (below). As a Group, Discuss the general content of the chapter.

THE LETTER OF 2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 3 King James Version

2 TIMOTHY 3: [1] This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. **[2]** For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **[3]** Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, **[4]** Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; **[5]** Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. **[6]** For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, **[7]** Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. **[8]** Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. **[9]** But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was. **[10]** ¶ But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, **[11]** Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. **[12]** Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. **[13]** But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. **[14]** But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; **[15]** And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

[16] All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: [17] That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GROUP: Read and Discuss each verse and translation along with the “Additional Information” in each box provided.

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 3

VERSES 1-4

2 Timothy 3: [1] This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. [2] For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, [3] Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, [4] Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (King James Version)

¹You should also know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. ² For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. ³ They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control; they will be cruel and have no interest in what is good. ⁴ They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. **(New Living Translation)**

[1] Understand this, that in the last days there will come times of trouble. **[2]** People will love themselves and money. They will brag and be proud. They will blaspheme. They will disobey parents. They will be ungrateful and unholy, **[3]** without love, never forgiving an enemy, slanderous. They will be without self-control, without mercy, without love for what is good. **[4]** They will be treacherous, reckless, proud. They will love pleasure rather than God. **(God’s Word to the Nations)**

You must face the fact: the final age of this world is to be a time of troubles. Men will love nothing but money and self; they will be arrogant, boastful, and abusive; with no respect for parents, no gratitude, no piety, no natural affection; they will be implacable in their hatreds, scandal-mongers, intemperate and fierce, strangers to all goodness, traitors, adventurers, swollen with self-importance. They will be men who put pleasure in the place of God, (verses 1-4) **(New English Bible)**

[1] Here is what I want you to know. There will be terrible times in the last days. **[2]** People will love themselves. They will love money. They will brag and be proud. They will tear others down. They will not obey their parents. They won’t be thankful or holy. **[3]** They won’t love others. They won’t forgive others. They will tell lies about people. They will be out of control. They will be wild. They will hate what is good. **[4]** They will turn against their friends. They will act without thinking. They will think they are better than others. They will love what pleases them instead of loving God. **(New International Reader’s Version)**

¹You may as well know this too, Timothy, that in the last days it is going to be very difficult to be a Christian. ²For people will love only themselves and their money; they will be proud and boastful, sneering at God, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful to them, and thoroughly bad. ³They will be hardheaded and never give in to others; they will be constant liars and troublemakers and will think nothing of immorality. They will be rough and cruel, and sneer at those who try to be good. ⁴They will betray their friends; they will be hotheaded, puffed up with pride, and prefer good times to worshipping God.

(The Living Bible)

Additional Information: (Verse 1) - The expression "in the last days" comes from the Old Testament (Isa 2:2; Mic 4:1). In Peter's quotation of Joel 2:28 on the day of Pentecost (Ac 2:17), it clearly refers to this whole age, for he declared that the prophecy was being fulfilled that very day. Some insist that "in the last days" has the meaning here, but it seems more natural to take it as applying especially to the last days of this present evil age, just before the Second Coming (as in 2Pe 3:3; Jude 18). This does not at all deny that these conditions have been and will be present throughout this age. It is simply to say that the characteristics enumerated here will be more intensive and extensive as the end approaches. Paul declared that the last days will see troublesome and dangerous times (NIV Bible Commentary). As In 1 Timothy 4:1, Paul is saying that the presence and activity of the heretical teachers is a sign that the last days have arrived (Helps for Translators, p. 87).

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 3

VERSE 5

2 Timothy 3: 5] Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (King James Version)

⁵They will act as if they are religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. You must stay away from people like that. **(New Living Translation)**

⁵and will act as if they serve God but will not have his power. Stay away from those people. **(New Century Version)**

⁵Even though they will make a show of being religious, their religion won't be real. Don't have anything to do with such people. **(Contemporary English Version)**

[5] They'll make a show of religion, but behind the scenes they're animals. Stay clear of these people. **(The Message)**

[5] They will maintain a façade of "religion" but their life denies its truth. Keep clear of people like that. **(Phillips Translation)**

[5] They will hold to the outward form of our religion, but reject its real power. Keep away from these men. **(Today's English Version)**

[5] They will act as if they were serving God. But what they do will show that they have turned their backs on God's power. Have nothing to do with those people. **(New International Reader's Version)**

[5] Those people will continue to act like they serve God. But the way they live shows that they don't really serve God. Timothy, stay away from those people. **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**

[5] For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession]. Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them]. **(Amplified New Testament)**

[5] Many who go to church will go thru all the motions of worshiping God, but they won't allow God to control them. Don't have anything to do with such people! **(The Lasts Days Bible)**

Additional Information: "Having a form of godliness." "outwardly they appear to be religious," this is, they claim to be Christians (Help for Translator, p. 88). "Denying the power thereof." "But by their actions they deny that their religion means anything to them," "their lives show that their (Christian) profession means nothing (or, is irrelevant)" (See Titus 1:16) (Ibid., p. 88).

They excuse their sins by "turning the grace of God into lasciviousness" (Jude 1:4), saying, "after we become Christians we can do just as we like" (Jude 1:4 in the Living Bible). They feel, therefore, that they have absolutely no responsibility (The Last Days Bible, p. 369). They profess to be Christians yet tolerate immorality and teach that a person may practice the sins listed in verses 2-4 and yet inherit salvation and the kingdom of God (therefore showing no repentance; See Matthew 7:21-23; 2 Timothy 3:5-9; 4:3-4; 2 Peter 2:12-22) Salvation without the regenerating and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit has no place in Paul's theology (See Acts 26:18-20; Rom. 2:7-11) (The Full Life Study Bible, p. 362, 501).

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 3

VERSES 6-7

2 Timothy 3: [6] For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, [7] Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (King James Version)

⁶They are the kind who work their way into people's homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by many desires. ⁷Such women are forever following new teachings, but they never understand the truth. **(New Living Translation)**

⁶They are the kind who craftily sneak into other people's homes and make friendships with silly, sin-burdened women and teach them their new doctrines. ⁷Women of that kind are forever following new teachers, but they never understand the truth. **(The Living Bible)**

[6] They are the kind who worm their way into the homes of silly women. They get control over them. Women like that are loaded down with sins. They give in to all kinds of evil longings. **[7]** They are always learning. But they never come to know the truth. **(New International Reader's Version)**

[6] For among them are those who worm their way into homes and captivate silly *and* weak-natured *and* spiritually dwarfed women, loaded down with [the burden of their] sins [and easily] swayed *and* led away by various evil desires *and* seductive impulses. **[7]** [These weak women will listen to anybody who will teach them]; they are forever inquiring *and* getting information, but are never able to arrive at a recognition *and* knowledge of the Truth. **(Amplified New Testament)**

[6] Some of these men move into homes and "capture" women who are heavy with sins and *easily* led into many types of evil desires. **[7]** These people are "always learning," but they are never able to come to truth. **(The Simple English Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verses 6-7) Because of their cultural background, women in the Ephesian church had had no formal religious training. They enjoyed their new freedom to study Christian truths, but their eagerness to learn made them a target for false teachers. Paul warned Timothy to watch out for men who would take advantage of these women. New believers need to grow in their knowledge of the Word, because ignorance can make them vulnerable to deception (Life Application Bible, p. 2202).

(Verse 6) – “silly women...led away with divers lusts.” Once again Paul connected false teaching with moral deficiency. As stated in Vine’s Lexicon, page 369, under the subject of “Error,” “a wandering, a forsaking of the right path, whether in doctrine, or in morals. In Scripture, doctrine and morals are never divided by any sharp line. Errors in doctrine are not infrequently the effect of relaxed morality, and vice versa.”

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 3

VERSES 8-9

2 Timothy 3: [8] Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. [9] But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was. (King James Version)

⁸And these teachers fight the truth just as Jannes and Jambres fought against Moses. Their minds are depraved, and their faith is counterfeit. ⁹But they won’t get away with this for long. Someday everyone will recognize what fools they are, just as happened with Jannes and Jambres. **(New Living Translation)**

These men are as much enemies to the truth as Jannes and Jambres were to Moses. Their minds are distorted, and they are traitors to the faith. But in the long run they won’t get very far. Their folly will become as obvious to everybody as did that of Moses’ opponents. (verses 8-9) **(Phillips Translation)**

[8] As Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of corrupt mind and counterfeit faith; **[9]** but they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men. **(Revised Standard Version)**

Additional Information: (Verse 8) – “Jannes and Jambres.” These names are not found in the Old Testament. But many believe these were the names of the two Egyptian magicians who opposed Moses when he wanted to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 7:11, 22) (Contemporary English Version footnote).

“Reprobate concerning the faith.” “Reprobate” is the Greek word *adokimos* signifying ‘not standing the test, rejected.’ In 2 Timothy 3:8 it speaks of those “reprobate concerning the faith,” that is, men whose moral sense is perverted and whose minds are beclouded with their own speculations (Vine’s Lexicon, p. 955). Therefore, they were rejected by God in regard to any claim to be teaching the true Christian faith (1 Tim. 3:9).

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2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 3

VERSES 10-11

2 Timothy 3: [10] ¶ But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, [11] Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. (King James Version)

¹⁰ But you know what I teach, Timothy, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith and how long I have suffered. You know my love and my patient endurance. ¹¹ You know how much persecution and suffering I have endured. You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra—but the Lord delivered me from all of it. **(New Living Translation)**

¹⁰ But you have followed what I teach, the way I live, my goal, faith, patience, and love. You know I never give up. ¹¹ You know how I have been hurt and have suffered, as in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. I have suffered, but the Lord saved me from all those troubles. **(New Century Version)**

¹⁰ But you know from watching me that I am not that kind of person. You know what I believe and the way I live and what I want. You know my faith in Christ and how I have suffered. You know my love for you, and my patience. ¹¹ You know how many troubles I have had as a result of my preaching the Good News. You know about all that was done to me while I was visiting in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, but the Lord delivered me. **(The Living Bible)**

[10] But you know what I teach and how I live. You know what I want to do. You know about my faith and my love. You know how long I am willing to wait for something. You know how I keep on working for God even when it is hard for me. **[11]** You know about all the troubles and hard times I have had. You have seen how I suffered in the cities of Antioch and Iconium and Lystra. Yet the Lord brought me out of all those troubles. **(The New Life Testament)**

[10] But you, my son, are well acquainted with what I teach, how I live, my only goal and purpose in life, my faith, patience, love, perseverance, and the persecutions and sufferings I've endured for the sake of the truth. **[11]** You know all about the persecutions I endured at Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. But the Lord rescued me out of all of them! **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verses 10-11) – With the problem of the false teachers fully in view, Paul once more turns to exhorting Timothy to faithfulness, first in terms of the example which Paul has set (1 Tim. 3:10-11), and secondly he will find strength and stability through the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3: 14-17) (Geneva Study Bible, p. 1921).

(Verse 11) – “Persecutions” is from a Greek verb that literally means “to put to flight.” Paul had been forced to flee from Damascus (Acts 9:23-25), Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:50), Iconium (Acts 14:6), Thessalonica (Acts 17:10), and Berea (Acts 17:14) (MacArthur Bible Commentary, p. 1810).

“Antioch, Iconium and Lystra” were three cities in the Roman province of Galatia, which Paul visited on his first and second missionary journeys (Acts 13:14 – 14:23; 16:1-6). Since Timothy was from Lystra, he would have known firsthand of Paul's sufferings in that region (NIV Study Bible, p. 1846). In Lystra, Timothy's hometown, Paul had been stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:19); and this was only one incident among many. In 2 Corinthians 11:23-33 Paul summarized his lifetime of suffering for the sake of Christ. Paul mentioned his suffering here to contrast his experience with that of the pleasure-seeking false teachers (Life Application Bible, p. 2202).

VERSES 12-13

2 Timothy 3: [12] Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. [13] But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. (King James Version)

[12] In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, [13] while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. **(New International Version)**

¹² Everyone who wants to live as God desires, in Christ Jesus, will be hurt. ¹³ But people who are evil and cheat others will go from bad to worse. They will fool others, but they will also be fooling themselves. **(New Century Version)**

¹² Anyone who belongs to Christ Jesus and wants to live right will have trouble from others. ¹³ But evil people who pretend to be what they are not will become worse than ever, as they fool others and are fooled themselves. **(Contemporary English Version)**

Anyone who wants to live all out for Christ is in for a lot of trouble; there's no getting around it. Unscrupulous con men will continue to exploit the faith. They're as deceived as the people they lead astray. As long as they are out there, things can only get worse. (verses 12-13) **(The Message)**

¹² Yes, and those who decide to please Christ Jesus by living godly lives will suffer at the hands of those who hate him. ¹³ In fact, evil men and false teachers will become worse and worse, deceiving many, they themselves having been deceived by Satan. **(The Living Bible)**

Persecution is inevitable for those who are determined to live really Christian lives, while wicked and deceitful men will go from bad to worse, deluding others and deluding themselves. (verses 12-13) **(Phillips Translation)**

[12] All who want to live a godly life in union with Christ Jesus will be persecuted; [13] but evil men and impostors will keep on going from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived themselves. **(Today's English Version)**

[12] You are well aware, then, that anybody who tries to live in devotion to Christ is certain to be attacked; [13] while these wicked impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and deceived themselves. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

[12] Persecution will indeed come to everyone who wants to live a godly life as a follower of Christ Jesus, [13] whereas evil-doers and charlatans will progress from bad to worse, deceiving and deceived. **(The Revised English Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 12) – “All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” Other scriptures about Christian persecution include Matthew 5:10-12; John 15:18-21; 16:33; 17:14; Acts 14:22; Hebrews 11:32-38; 1 Peter 4:12-14; Revelation 7:13-14; etc.

(Verse 13) – “Deceiving, and being deceived.” Error feeds on itself.

There are several Greek words for “deceive” with the basic meaning of: that which gives a false impression, a wandering from the right path, to lure (as by a bait), to beguile, to seduce, to ensnare (especially by mingling the truths of the Word of God with false doctrines or notions, and so handling the Word of God deceitfully – 2 Cor. 4:2) (Vine's Greek Lexicon). The dictionary definition is “to catch by guile or ensnare (example: to deceive a fish with an artificial fly). *Deceive* involves falsehood or misrepresentation of truth (American Heritage Dictionary, p. 342). The Greek word used in 2 Timothy 3:13 is *planao*, which means “to lead astray or deceive [by words or behavior].” The New Testament almost always uses this word when speaking of the influence of false teachers. It is also the word chosen to speak of Satan's final effort to deceive at history's end. When the New Testament warns, “Don't be

deceived" (Matt. 24:4), this statement expresses the writer's concern that we might be led away from the true Christian message or lifestyle. The New Testament appeals to us to throw off falsehood and speak the truth to each other (Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9-10). Only reliance on God's Word, which is true, enables us to build our lives on a firm foundation (Expository Dict. of Bible Words, p. 213).

2 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 3 VERSES 14-15

2 Timothy 3: [14] But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; [15] And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (King James Version)

¹⁴ But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. ¹⁵ You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. **(New Living Translation)**

[14] But as for you, hold on to what you have learned and know to be true. Remember where you learned them. **[15]** You have known the Holy Writings since you were a child. They are able to give you wisdom that leads to being saved from the punishment of sin by putting your trust in Christ Jesus. **(The New Life Testament)**

[14] But you should continue following the teachings you learned. You know that those teachings are true. You know you can trust the people who taught you those things. **[15]** You have known the Holy Scriptures since you were a child. Those Scriptures are able to make you wise. And that wisdom leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**

[14] But as for you, my son Timothy, you must continue to believe and live by the things you learned and are convinced are the truth, because you know the lives of those from whom you learned them. **[15]** Remember that you were taught the Holy Scriptures from the time you were an infant. And it is those very Scriptures that have the power to give you the wisdom necessary to realize that you can obtain salvation only by a sincere and active faith in Jesus Christ. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 15) – "From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures." As an infant Timothy was taught at home the Scriptures by his mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5). Also, a Jewish boy (starting at the age of five), was instructed in the Torah (the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament), and had to memorize passages from it (Help for Translators, p. 92).

"The Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise unto salvation." Though not understanding all the details involved (1 Peter 1:10-12), Old Testament believers including Abraham (John 8:56) and Moses (Hebrews 11:26) looked forward to the coming of the Messiah (Isa. 7:14; 9:6) and His Atonement for sin (Isa. 53:5-6). So did Timothy, who responded when he heard the gospel (MacArthur Bible Commentary, p.1811).

VERSES 16-17

2 Timothy 3: [16] All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: [17] That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (King James Version)

[16] All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **[17]** so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. **(New International Version)**

¹⁶ All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching how to live right. ¹⁷ Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be capable, having all that is needed to do every good work. **(New Century Version)**

¹⁶ Everything in the Scriptures is God's Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live. ¹⁷ The Scriptures train God's servants to do all kinds of good deeds. **(Contemporary English Version)**

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another – showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us. (verses 16-17) **(The Message)**

¹⁶The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. ¹⁷It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone. **(The Living Bible)**

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the faith and correcting error, for resetting the direction of a man's life and training him in good living. The scriptures are the comprehensive equipment of the man of God, and fit him fully for all branches of his work. (verses 16-17) **(Phillips Translation)**

[16] All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. **[17]** This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

[16] All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for pointing out error, for correcting, for training in righteousness, **[17]** so that the person who belongs to God is ready, equipped for every good work. **(God's Word to the Nations)**

Additional Information: (Verse 16) – "All Scripture." The word for "Scripture" in Greek is *graphe*. It simply means "what has been written." In the New Testament this term is used exclusively of Scripture and is used in such a way that quoting Scripture is understood to be the same as quoting God (and cannot be altered by adding to or subtracting from) (Rom. 4:3, 9:17; Gal. 4:30; Jn. 10:35; Rev. 22:18-19) (Expository Dict. of Bible Words, p. 544). "Scripture" as used in 2 Timothy 3:16 refers primarily to the Old Testament writings (2 Tim. 3:15). However, some New Testament writings were already being viewed as inspired and authoritative Scripture at about the time Paul wrote 2 Timothy (example: 1 Tim. 5:18 which quotes Luke 10:7; 2 Pet. 3:15-16). For us today, Scripture refers to the authoritative writings of both the Old Testament and New Testament, that is, "the Bible."

Jesus Christ Himself taught that the Scripture is the inspired Word of God to even the smallest detail (Matt. 5:18). No word of man or religious institution is equal to its authority. He further spoke of revelation that was to come (that is, the truth revealed in the New Testament) from the Holy Spirit through the apostles (Jn. 16:13; Acts 2:42). All doctrines, commentaries, interpretations, explanations, and

traditions must be judged and legitimized by the words and message of the Holy Scriptures (Full Life Study Bible, p. 502).

“Is given by inspiration of God.” This phrase translates a Greek adjective which may be represented by “God-breathed,” meaning “produced by God’s breath” or “filled with God’s spirit” (that is, God’s power) (Helps for Translators, p. 93).

“Is profitable for doctrine.” To have **“correct doctrine”** (also known as the *apostles doctrine* [Acts 2:42], or the *doctrine of Christ* [Heb. 6:1]) is a major emphasis in the New Testament. Nineteen of the twenty-one occurrences of *doctrine* in the New Testament are found in Paul’s writings, and of the nineteen, fifteen are in the Pastoral Epistles [1 & 2 Timothy, Titus] (Wycliffe Bible Commentary, p. 877).

“Is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction,” that is, “to teach the truth, to rebuke error, to correct mistakes” (Ibid. p. 93). The purpose of reproof or rebuke is to correct the erring one (Jam. 5:19-20). This is also a clear responsibility when preaching (See 2 Timothy 4:2). Paul rebuked the church at Galatia because they had moved away from the true gospel to embrace heresy (Gal. 1:6-12). Paul also devoted much of his first letter to the church at Corinth to rebuking the actions and attitudes of the believers there (1 Cor. 3:1-9; 5:1-13) (Disciple’s Study Bible, p. 1559).

“For instruction in righteousness,” that is, “to instruct people how to live according to God’s will” (Help for Translators, p. 93).

(Verse 17) – “That the man of God may be perfect,” that is, “may be fully trained or qualified,” “may be efficient,” “may be fit for his work,” or “capable of doing everything one is called to do” (Ibid. p. 93).

“Thoroughly furnished (equipped) unto all good works.” In our zeal for the *truth* of Scripture, we must never forget its *purpose* – to equip us to do good (Life Application Bible, p. 2203).

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(2 Timothy Chapter 3)

Instructions for Group Leader: Do not let the group read the following questions and answers. The leader of your group should ask the group the following questions and encourage the group to discover the answers by going to the appropriate Scriptures. **Discuss and answer (as a group) the questions correctly by using the Scripture(s). Turn to 2 Timothy Chapter 3.**

1. **Read 2 Timothy 3:1.** In the last days before Christ comes again: a. there will be lots of money for everyone. b. there will be godly people everywhere you turn. c. there will be perilous times, difficult times and times of trouble.
2. **Read 2 Timothy 3:2-4.** In the last days people shall be: a. lovers of their own selves. b. lovers of their money. c. scoffing at God. d. ungrateful. e. lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. f. all of the above.
3. **Read 2 Timothy 3:5.** In the last days people will be religious but reject the power that could make them godly. True or False.
4. **Read 2 Timothy 3:6.** One of the marks of a false teacher is that they craftily sneak into people's homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women controlled by divers (various) lusts. True or False.
5. **Read 2 Timothy 3:6-7.** Such women and false teachers as described in 2 Timothy 3:6-7, are those that are always following new teachings but never understand the truth. True or False.
6. **Read 2 Timothy 3:8.** False teachers fight the truth just as Jannes and Jambres fought against Moses. True or False.
7. **Read 2 Timothy 3:9.** Someday the false teacher's folly will become obvious to everyone. True or False.
8. **Read 2 Timothy 3:10.** Paul's teaching and lifestyle were in unity. True or False.
9. **Read 2 Timothy 3:11.** As a result of teaching the truth, Paul suffered persecutions and afflictions. True or False.
10. **Read 2 Timothy 3:12.** All that live godly in union with Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. True or False.
11. **Read 2 Timothy 3:13.** In the last days - con men, impostors and evil men will deceive and get deceived. True or False.

12. **Read 2 Timothy 3:14.** Paul encouraged Timothy to continue in the apostles doctrine, that is, the true Christian faith. True or False.
13. **Read 2 Timothy 3:15.** The Holy Scriptures are able to make you wise and lead you to salvation. True or False.
14. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16.** a. All Scripture b. Part of the Scripture c. My favorite verses - is able to give you correct doctrine.
15. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16.** The Scriptures: a. teach. b. rebuke. c. correct. d. instruct in right living. e. all of the above.
16. **Read 2 Timothy 3:17.** The Word of God equips the man of God. True or False.
17. **Read 2 Timothy 3:17.** The Word of God equips us to do good works. True or False.

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