

FOR REPROOF AND CORRECTION

(2 Tim. 3:10-17)

Introduction:

1. This familiar passage of scripture is part of the closing remarks of the apostle Paul to his beloved son in the faith, Timothy.
2. Let us consider it in its fullness and then make special note of two implied commands concerning reproof and correction.

Discussion:

I. Context of the passage.

- A. The apostle Paul is in prison and believes he is soon to be executed (2 Tim. 4:6). He wrote this letter to his “beloved son”, “a true son in the faith” (1 Tim. 1:2).
- B. Chapter One.
 1. Paul encouraged Timothy to stir up the gift of God that he had received by the laying on of hands of Paul (v6).
 2. Paul told Timothy not to be ashamed of the word, the work, nor the workers (vv 8-12).
 3. Paul encouraged Timothy to remember/hold fast the truth of God (vv 13, 14) despite others leaving the faith (v15).
- C. Chapter Two.
 1. Paul encourages Timothy to be strong in the truth and to serve God faithfully as a soldier and farmer (vv 1-7).
 2. Paul reminds Timothy of the foundational truth of the Gospel and charges him to remind others in his work in the kingdom (vv 8-15).
 3. Paul warns Timothy about false kingdom workers, tells him to shun them, and remember that God knows who are truly His workers (vv 16-21).
 4. Paul warns Timothy to first and foremost be true to God himself, and how to help others to do the same (vv 22-26).
- D. Chapter Three.
 1. Paul restates the common NT warning concerning false brethren/teachers (vv 1-9).
 2. Paul encourages Timothy to remember his example and teaching and to follow these, despite the evil (both present and to come) around him (VV 10-14).
 3. Paul reminds Timothy of his good upbringing with the word of God (v15).

II. Words of the passage.

- A. All scripture is given by “inspiration of God” (*theopneustos* = God-breathed), and is profitable (*ophelimos* = to heap up, accumulate-Thayer) = Scripture is from God and blesses us bountifully.
- B. For: doctrine (*didaskalia* = instruction, teaching-Thayer), reproof (*elenchos* = to prove or convict), correction (*epanorthosis* = literally “toward straightness”-Thayer), instruction (*paideia* = the whole training of a child-Thayer = think **encyclopedia** and pedagogue [Gal. 3:25 = schoolmaster]) in righteousness.
- C. So that the man of God may be perfect (*artios* = fitted, complete; from a root meaning to raise up-Thayer) thoroughly equipped (*exartizo* = made complete-Thayer; same root as *artios*) for every good work.

III. Message of the passage.

- A. Remember the truth which is from God. Its source is God, its power is God’s, and its use is to be for God.
- B. God has fully equipped us, we need nothing more (cp. Jude 3).

IV. Challenge of the passage.

- A. Stay with the truth from God, don’t go chasing waterfalls!
- B. God has equipped you for the work of the kingdom...do it!!

1. Scripture is profitable for doctrine only if it is studied and understood.
2. Scripture is profitable to convict people of the truth only if it is effectively presented (altitude and attitude).
3. Scripture is profitable for correction only if it is employed for such.
4. Scripture is profitable for good works only if we actively pursue them.

Conclusion:

1. Chapter four of 2 Timothy is Paul's final charge to Timothy to preach/teach the word of God no matter what or when (vv 1-5). Even if it brings death (as it was for Paul) rejoice at the coming crown of life (vv 6-8)! Be faithful to God no matter what people may do around you (vv 9-22)!
2. Each one of us could and should substitute our name for Timothy's. We need to remember, we need to work, and we need to continue no matter the opposition we may face. The crown of life awaits!
3. Invitation.

MORE ON "REPROOF AND CORRECTION"

1. You may have thought it a strange title for this morning's lesson, but that is only because we had to discuss the fullness of the passage before we could examine in more detail a vital (yet often overlooked) part of that passage. Scripture has fully equipped us for reproof and correction (which are "good works"; defined as works of God) in order to profit us.
2. Consider the Bible's teaching on "reproof", that is, the use of scripture to convict individuals of the truth of God's will.
 - John 7:43 = the people were divided over Jesus; cp. Heb. 4:12; Acts 2 vs. Acts 7.
 - 1 Tim. 5:20 (rebuke = *elencho*); 2 Tim. 4:2 (convince = *elencho*); Titus 1:9-11 (*elencho* = convict)
 - Matt. 18:15 (tell him his fault = *autos elencho*); John 3:20 (exposed = *elencho*); 8:46 (convicts); 16:8 (convict); Jude 15 (convict); et al
3. There are two aspects of reproof (*elencho*) we must understand and execute: we are to use the scripture to convict the people around us (both in the church and outside of the church); and when we are convicted we must respond with thankful repentance (to both God and His servant who convicted us with His word).
4. Consider the Bible's teaching on "correction", that is, the use of scripture to help a person "toward straightness". 2 Tim. 3:16 is the only use of this word in the NT (although its Hebrew equivalent is found many times in the OT). But there is an associated word (*anorthuo* = to make straight, to straighten up-Strong).
 - Luke 13:13 = Jesus healed a lady so that she was able to stand up straight.
 - Acts 15:16 = Prophecy of the Tabernacle of David being "set up".
 - Heb. 12:12 = "strengthen"-NKJV; "lift up"-KJV, ASV, ESV the hands which hang down.
5. The idea of "correction" seems more to be along the lines of using scripture to straighten that which has become crooked. The same two truths for us today apply: we must be about using scripture to help the crooked become straight; and when we are crooked we must respond with thankful repentance (to both God and His servant).
6. All of this is predicated on **IF**.