

Theme: Where do we learn how to glorify God and enjoy Him forever? In His Word, the Bible.

## I. Intro - Ocean Kayaking

- A. Vacation in NC; Ronnie got ocean kayak
- B. Do they tell you how to do it right?
- C. Instructions - we don't need no instructions!
- D. Tim and I get flipped over and I get hit in the head
- E. Where do we learn how to fulfill our purpose?

## II. The Problem: Opposition to Godliness

- A. The problem of opposition

In fact, **everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted**,<sup>13</sup> while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 2 Timothy 3:12–13

1. Not everyone will follow the truth
2. We are promised there will be those who will actively try to force us to compromise on following God.
3. There will be forces that do not want us to glorify or enjoy God and will oppose anyone who is trying to fulfill God's purpose for them.
4. This reality is seen from when Cain killed Abel down to the present. It is part of following Jesus, and no believer should be surprised when it occurs.
5. This is why Christians are the most persecuted group in the world according to human rights groups.

- B. The problem of deception

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,<sup>13</sup> **while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived**. 2 Timothy 3:12–13

1. There will be those who are deceived, and who work to spread that deception.
2. These are people who misunderstand our purpose and will try to lure others away from glorifying and enjoying God.
3. 1984 and brave new world - two ways to turn us from glorifying and enjoying God.

## III. Our Instruction Manual: The Bible

- A. We withstand this pressure by the Word of God

But as for you, **continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of**, because you know those from whom you learned it,<sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known **the holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:14–15

1. "But as for you" - you are to do the opposite
2. They are deceived, but you continue in the truth of the holy Scriptures - the Bible
3. You were raised steeped in the Scripture - continue in this path, and don't let others persecute or deceive you away from the truth

B. The central message of Scripture - salvation through faith in Christ Jesus

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known **the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** 2 Timothy 3:14–15

1. The Scriptures central purpose is to point us to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus
2. This is the central need we have if we are to fulfill our purpose to glorify and enjoy God forever - salvation.
3. Salvation through Christ is the core focus of God's Word because it is impossible for us to glorify and enjoy God until we have been reconciled to Him through Christ.
4. This is not just the New Testament, because the Scripture Timothy was taught as a child was just our Old Testament. Salvation by faith alone in Christ alone is not just the message of the New Testament but of the entire Bible.
5. The law shows us our need for Christ and the Gospel shows us that we are saved by Christ's works not our own and that we receive His righteousness by faith, not our efforts and works.
6. To turn the Bible into a mere manual of moral is to distort and miss its central teaching of salvation through Christ.
7. We will look at this more in-depth next week.

C. The source of Scripture - God Himself

**All Scripture is God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16–17

1. Scripture is not just the opinions of ancient people, but rather the very Word of God written for us.
2. Not just parts of Scripture - all Scripture
3. Scripture does not just “contain” God's Word, it **is** God's Word!
4. This is why Scripture is inerrant and utterly trustworthy - it is God's revelation of truth for us

D. The usefulness of Scripture - to guide us in God's ways

All Scripture is God-breathed and is **useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,** <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16–17

1. Scripture does not just teach us about how to get saved; it also instructs us in how to live as God's people
2. To glorify and enjoy God we must live in accord with the truth of Who God is, who He has created us to be, and what is true, beautiful, and good and what is false, ugly, and evil.
3. The standard for our lives must never be the deceitful thoughts of the latest “truths” but rather God's unchanging truth as recorded in Scripture.
4. It is impossible to glorify and enjoy God apart from learning and applying the Scripture to every facet of our lives.

E. The effect of Scripture - equipped to glorify and enjoy God

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16–17

1. So that - this is why Scripture teaches, rebukes, corrects, and trains us in righteousness - so that we can be equipped for every good work.
2. Scripture thoroughly equips us so that we can walk in good works, which are the fruit of salvation.
3. Scripture teaches us how to live in a manner that is pleasing to God and for our good.
4. A life built upon the Word of God is equipped to glorify and enjoy God, now and forever!

#### IV. Applying the Word

A. Do I see the importance & uniqueness of God's Word?

1. Since the fall, the truth has become distorted
2. Our only hope of knowing, glorifying and enjoying God is if God reveals Himself to us. We will never find Him on our own.
3. But God has revealed Himself to us in His Word so that we might know how to glorify and enjoy Him forever.
4. Only God's Word is inspired by God and therefore inerrant and the final rule of authority for believers.
5. All other sources of knowledge and truth - including even teachings like this one - must be evaluated by the Word of God.

B. Am I letting the Word dwell in me each day?

1. To have our thoughts, attitudes, desires, and actions reformed and renewed, we must let the Word dwell in us deeply.
2. Do I have a sufficient intake of the word to overcome the deceptions of this world?
3. We need to let the Word shape us every single day
4. Get a well-rounded grip on God's Word - the hand illustration
  - a. Example 1 - getting a firm grip on the Word
  - b. Example 2 - with Scriptures
  - c. Copy in your handout
5. See "<https://brcc.church/letting-the-word-dwell-in-you-richly/>
6. Get into the Word to learn how to glorify and enjoy God now and forever!

C. A prayer for the Word to dwell richly in each person at BRCC

#### Our Instruction Manual: The Bible

2 Timothy 3:14-17

July 14, 2019

Prayer

Acts 20:32

Teaching keywords: Catechism; Word of God; law and gospel; Christian life

Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Acts 20:32

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