

BECOMING MATURE IN CHRIST

The Keys to Spiritual Development

The Value of Christian Training

II Timothy 3: 16-17

Introduction: This is a passage of Scripture with which every Christian should be familiar in that it sets forth a foundational truth that is essential to our faith and practice. In this sermon, we focus on just one aspect of that great truth: the value of Christian training and its purpose in our lives.

I. The Four-Fold Purpose of Scripture (v. 16)

- A. Teaching (e.g., doctrine)
- B. Reproof (rebuking and exposing error)
- C. Correction (admonishing and redirecting)
- D. Training in righteousness (how to live a productive life as a disciple of Christ)

II. The Specific Focus on Training in Righteousness

- A. Understanding the difference between teaching and training
 1. Teaching is basically the impartation of knowledge
 2. Training is the application of that knowledge
 3. The Greek word *Paideia* usually refers to the rearing of a child (discipline)
- B. We typically think of "training" in terms of learning a vocation or disciplining ourselves for physical purposes
- C. The real focus of this passage of Scripture is a spiritual one
- D. It helps to understand how we typically learn (i.e., the four stages of learning)
 1. Unconscious Incompetent
 2. Conscious Incompetent
 3. Conscious Competent
 4. Unconscious Competent
- E. Scriptures that clarify the difference between teaching and training

III. The Efficacy (Expected Results) and Specific Purpose of Training (vs. 17)

- A. Effective discipleship
- B. Victorious living
- C. Fruitful living
- D. Courageous living
- E. Strengthening our spirit and soul
- F. Overcoming the enemy
- G. "... that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

Conclusion: As we better understand this specific focus on spiritual training, how it differs from teaching, and how it equips us to fulfill God's ultimate purpose in our lives, we need to ask ourselves if we are more akin to the Christians in Hebrews 5: 12 (*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food*) or are we striving to meet the challenge described in 2 Timothy 2: 15 (*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth*).

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;¹⁷ that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

^{NAS} 2 Timothy 3: 16-17

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.

^{NIV} 2 Timothy 3:16-17

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 complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

^{NKJ} 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

^{NAS} 2 Timothy 2:15

