

AN INFLUENCERS GUIDE TO KNOWING & GUARDING THE TRUTH

Foundation for Christ-Centered Influence: Stand on the God-Breathed Scriptures

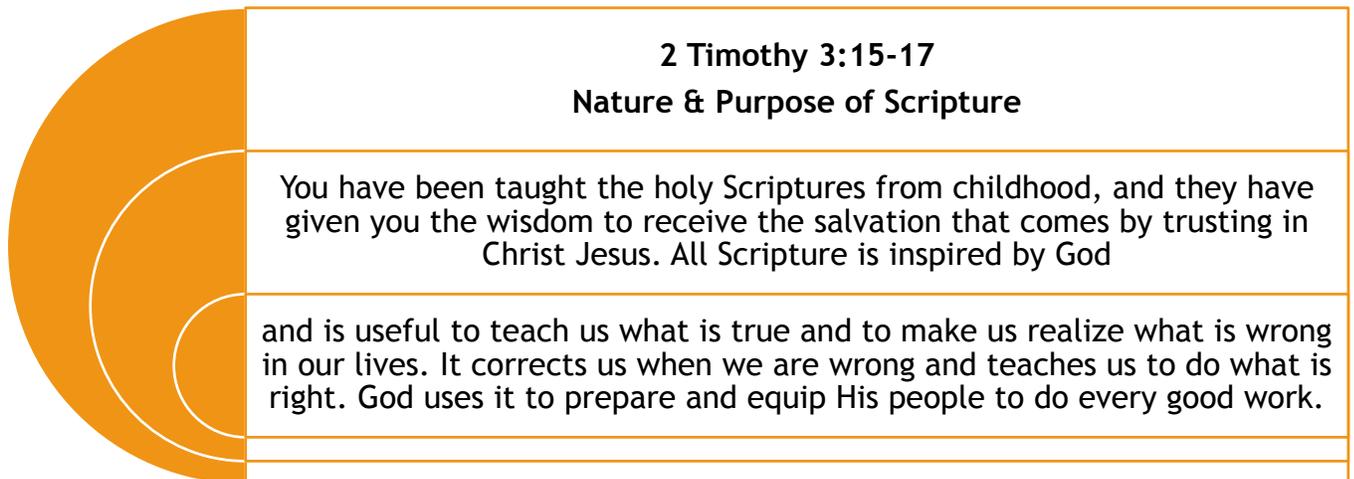
Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. 2 Timothy 4:2

The Gospel:

"The Gospel is like water, man did not invent it, and man cannot live without it." Tony Merida

The Doctrine of Scripture:

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2 Timothy 3:15-17
Nature & Purpose of Scripture

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. All Scripture is inspired by God

and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.

REFLECT:

Why is it important for a Christ-follower to have a handle on the doctrine of the Scriptures?

Note one verse about Scripture that ignites your passion:

Note one verse about Scripture that challenges your understanding of Scripture:

Take a moment to put to memory the doctrine of Scripture captured in SCAN

Fearlessly Guard the Word

Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me - a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you. 2 Tim 1:13-14

Be a Careful Guard :

Be Aware of False Teachers

Be Aware of Compromising God's words

Be Aware of Misreading the Scriptures

“Peter suggests you can use the Scripture, but use in in such a _____, _____, _____ way that your use of Scripture actually leads to your own downfall.” - Kevin DeYoung

Be an Approved Worker:

*Work hard
so you can present yourself to God
and receive His approval.
Be a good worker,
one who does not need to be ashamed and
who correctly explains the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15*

A Christ-following, influencer's goal is not to  or  someone's opinion, but to ask, "What does the Word of God say?"

REFLECT:

What would it look like to guard the Word of God in your day to day living?

Is the Spirit talking to you about a discipline to incorporate in your life?

Why does it seem that false teaching spreads more quickly than sound doctrine?

What aspect of representing and guarding the Gospel might make you feel anxious?
Talk about this with God.

Faithful Teachers Influence Other Faithful Teachers

You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others. 2 Timothy 2:2

Invest in F-A-T people

2 Tim 2:1-2

Commit to the Great Cause, like:



Boldly Unashamed

Ready to Risk : Expect Pushback and Suffering

Reliant on the Holy Spirit

“Jesus promised His disciples three things - - that they could be completely fearless, absurdly happy, and in constant trouble.” -GK Chesterton

REFLECT:

How does Paul address fears? Consider something specific in God’s Word that you can hold on when you are tempted to act on fear.

What situations have you encountered in the last month where it has been difficult or unpopular to take a Christian stance?

How does the fear of suffering affect your intention to speak the Gospel boldly?

Take time to confess anything to God. Thank the Holy Spirit for being your Helper, and ask Him to help you grow in faithfulness as a representative of God’s ways.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR YOUR STUDY:

Add to your study and understanding of the Doctrine of Scripture. Check out these passages and learn how Jesus upheld the authority of Scripture:

- ([John 10:35](#), [Matthew 5:17-19](#); [12:38-42](#); [19:4-5](#))

40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible (40 Questions & Answers Series, by Robert Plummer

Living By the Book: The Art and Science of Reading the Bible Paperback – January 1, 2007
by [Howard G. Hendricks](#)

Scripture and the Authority of God: How to Read the Bible Today Paperback – March 19, 2013 by [N T Wright](#)

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

ESV Study Bible, Crossway

Promoting and Protecting the Bible, John Curry

Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, by David Platt, Daniel L. Akin, and Tony Merida

The Message of 2 Timothy (The Bible Speaks Today Series), by John Stott

Studies in 2nd Timothy, Gospel in Life.com, Timothy Keller

WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS ABOUT ITSELF
AN INFLUENCERS GUIDE TO KNOWING & GUARDING THE TRUTH-Supplement

"I believe, therefore I speak!" exclaims Paul. Do you struggle with any of these Truths that the Scriptures say about itself? If so, take time to ask the Holy Spirit to light up your eyes and mind to understand God's authoritative word.

Read through these Scriptures, highlight key words, study them within the context they are written, and hide some of them in your heart.

How will you commit to presenting God's Word accurately in your spheres of influence and opportunity? Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and embolden you as you follow Christ throughout your days.

Joshua 1:8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

2 Samuel 22:31 God's way is perfect. All the LORD's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

1 Chronicles 16:15 Remember his covenant forever—the commitment he made to a thousand generations.

2 Chronicles 18:4 Then Jehoshaphat added, "But first let's find out what the LORD says." **Ezra 7:9b,10** for the gracious hand of his God was on him. ¹⁰ This was because Ezra had determined to study and obey the Law of the LORD and to teach those decrees and regulations to the people of Israel.

Deuteronomy 8:3 Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Psalms 18:30 God's way is perfect. All the LORD's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

Psalms 33:4 For the word of the LORD holds true, and we can trust everything he does.

Psalms 119:9,105,130 How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.

Proverbs 2:6 For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.

Jeremiah 23:29 Does not my word burn like fire?" says the LORD. "Is it not like a mighty hammer that smashes a rock to pieces?"

[Daniel 9:9-10](#) But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him. We have not obeyed the LORD our God, for we have not followed the instructions he gave us through his servants the prophets.

[Hosea 4:1](#) Hear the word of the LORD, O people of Israel! The LORD has brought charges against you, saying: "There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land.

[Malachi 2:4-5](#) The purpose of my covenant with the Levites was to bring life and peace, and that is what I gave them. This required reverence from them, and they greatly revered me and stood in awe of my name.

[Matthew 4:4](#) But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

[Matthew 5:18](#) I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.

[Matthew 7:24](#) Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.

[Matthew 24:35](#) Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

[Mark 12:24](#) Jesus replied, "Your mistake is that you don't know the Scriptures, and you don't know the power of God.

[Luke 11:28](#) Jesus replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice.

[John 1:1](#) In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

[John 1:14](#) So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

[John 5:39](#) You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to Me!

[John 8:31-32](#) Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

[Romans 15:4](#) Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

[1 Corinthians 15:3-4](#) I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

[Galatians 3:8](#) What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you.

[Ephesians 6:17](#) ... and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

[Philippians 2:16](#) Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless.

[Colossians 3:16](#) Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

[1 Thessalonians 2:13](#) Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe.

[2 Thessalonians 3:1](#) Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you.

[2 Timothy 3:16-17](#) All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

[Titus 1:9](#) He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong.

[Hebrews 4:12](#) For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

[James 1:21-22](#) So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

[1 Peter 1:25](#) But the word of the Lord remains forever, And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.

[1 Peter 2:2](#) Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment

[2 Peter 1:20-21](#) Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

[Jude 3](#) Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.

7 KEY ELEMENTS OF THE DOCTRINE OF SCRIPTURE

Adapted from Matthew Boffey, LOGOS.com

Inspiration: The linchpin of the doctrines of Scripture, *inspiration means that all the words of Scripture are God's words (2 Tim. 3:16)*. Inspiration “means that God takes words of human beings and makes them his own.... [It] is a divine act creating an identity between a divine word and a human word¹” (*Systematic Theology*, 594).”

Authority: *Because Scripture is God's Word, it is authoritative. It carries the weight of God's command as ruler over all creation.* The Westminster Confession of Faith says in [chapter 1, article 2](#), that Scripture is “given by inspiration of God to be the rule of faith and life” (referencing [Luke 16:29, 31](#); [Eph. 2:20](#), [Rev. 22:18–19](#); and [2 Tim. 3:16](#)).

Infallibility: *Because Scripture is God's Word, and God cannot lie, Scripture is incapable of erring (Ps. 119:43, 142, 151, 160).* God's very nature is truth, so his word tells the truth. As Jesus says to the Father in [John 17:17](#), “Your word is truth.”

Inerrancy: *Scripture is free from error—or, “free from all falsehood, fraud, or deceit⁴.”* Stated positively, Scripture is completely truthful. Most people who deny inerrancy do so outright; naturally, non-Christians have no reason to confess inerrancy.

Clarity: *In brief, Christians can make sense of Scripture.* I like the way the Westminster Confession of Faith links clarity, sufficiency, and the inward illumination of the Holy Spirit. All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all: ([2 Pet. 3:16](#)) yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded, and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them. ([Ps. 119:105, 130](#))

Sufficiency: Sufficiency means “*Scripture contains all the divine words needed for any aspect of human life (John Frame¹)*.” For example, Scripture is sufficient to reveal God, save, and teach one to live righteously ([2 Tim 3:15–16](#)). Again, [the Westminster divines explain](#) with wonderful precision and nuance:

- The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit or traditions of men. ([2 Tim. 3:15–17](#), [Gal. 1:8–9](#), [2 Thess. 2:2](#)) Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word: ([John 6:45](#), [1 Cor 2:9–12](#)) and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the Church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ordered by the light of nature, and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed. ([1 Cor. 11:13–14](#), [1 Cor. 14:26, 40](#))

Necessity: Related to sufficiency, but slightly different, this doctrine holds that “*the Bible is necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God's will, but is not necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God's character and moral laws*” ([Grudem², 116](#)). This gets at the difference between special and general revelation. Scripture alone provides special revelation: knowledge of God's will and salvation ([Rom. 10:13–17](#), [Acts 4:12](#)).

• Sources: ¹ John Frame, [Systematic Theology](#)

³ Westminster Confession of Faith

• ² Wayne Grudem, [Systematic Theology](#)

⁴ Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy