

a sermon:

ON THE BLESSINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Robert Baral
12/21/2005 AD

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. A PRAYER

II. A PROPOSITION

III. A SCRIPTURE – II TIMOTHY 3:15-17 – MAKE US WISE UNTO SALVATION

IV. INTRODUCTION

V. SCRIPTURE MAKES MEN WISE UNTO SALVATION IN CHRIST JESUS

VI. SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

VII. SCRIPTURE PERFECTS THE MAN OF GOD UNTO ALL GOOD WORKS

VIII. IN CONCLUSION

IX. REFERENCES

I. A PRAYER

Lord, inspire us to read Your Scriptures and o meditate upon hem day and night. We beg You to give us real understanding of what we need, that we in turn may put its precepts into practice. Yet we know that understanding and good intentions are worthless, unless rooted in Your Graceful Love. So we ask that The Words of Scripture may also be not just signs on a page, but channels of Grace into our hearts. [This O CHRIST we ask in Your holy Name.] Amen.”¹

II. A PROPOSITION

The Holy Scriptures make a man wise unto salvation through faith in our Lord JESUS CHRIST!

III. A SCRIPTURE – II TIMOTHY 3:15-17 – MAKE US WISE UNTO SALVATION

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, throughly furnished unto all good works.²

IV. INTRODUCTION

How can a man become wise? Where does he turn to so as to find wisdom that outlasts the ages? To whom shall we look to learn how to live a blessed life and secure our eternal souls? There is only One Way. There is only One Path. There is only One Source. These all lead to The Almighty GOD Who created us and to His revealed, unerring, inspired Word that directs us - The Holy Scriptures!

V. SCRIPTURE MAKES MEN WISE UNTO SALVATION IN CHRIST JESUS

II TIMOTHY 3:15 declares, “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.”³ What of it?

¹ 1, Catholic Family Prayer Book, Prayer for Knowledge of Scripture, Saint Origen, p 337.

² 2, KJV Bible, II TIMOTHY 3:15-17.

Oh, how blessed is the man that is fortunate enough to have been taught The Holy Scriptures from childhood! But no matter at what time in our lives we begin to seek GOD's Word to us in The Holy Scriptures, there are earthly and eternal blessings that await us beyond measure! And The Scriptures themselves contain "enough to prevent any slippage in [a man's] commitment to [GOD's] Truth!"⁴

For The Scriptures alone are able to make a man wise in the treasures that really matter in life that will never fade away into the dust of time! Why? Because They are "the summary of Divine revelation" from our Maker to mankind!⁵ For Scriptures guide in the securing of a man's eternal soul through the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord JESUS CHRIST.

But The Holy Scriptures "bring salvation [to the penitent man] only when one places his faith in CHRIST JESUS."⁶ Mere intellectual knowledge of the contents of Scripture is not enough. Nor is a passive nod of the head or faithless mouthing of prayers adequate to secure our souls from everlasting damnation! It is only when we become "wise unto salvation through faith... in CHRIST JESUS" that the door to salvation is opened to us.⁷

For JOHN 20:31 declares, "[The Scriptures] are written, that ye might believe that JESUS is the CHRIST, the Son of GOD; and that believing ye might have life through His Name!"⁸

VI. SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

II TIMOTHY 3:16 declares, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of GOD, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."⁹

³ 2, KJV Bible, II TIMOTHY 3:15.

⁴ 3, Bible Knowledge Commentary, II TIMOTHY 3:14-15, p 757.

⁵ 4, Matthew Henry's Commentary, II TIMOTHY 3:10-17, III, 2, p 2364.

⁶ 3, Bible Knowledge Commentary, II TIMOTHY 3:14-15, p 757.

⁷ 2, KJV Bible, II TIMOTHY 3:15.

⁸ 2, KJV, JOHN 20:31.

⁹ 2, KJV Bible, II TIMOTHY 3:16.

What of it?

The Scriptures themselves declare the Divine Truth that they are given to men by inspiration of The Holy Spirit. And being “GOD-breathed,” Holy Scripture is thus without error. For they are endowed ”with full Divine Authority“ and contain “full truthfulness” on every issue on which they speak. ¹⁰

And these precious Divine Words of GOD, revealed through His servants, prophets, saints and Apostles - indeed by the mouth of our very Lord JESUS CHRIST Himself - are fully profitable for those who desire in their heart to profit by them!

Scripture teaches us proper Christian doctrine, “teaching [and] instructing believers in GOD’s Truths.” Scripture reproves us when we are breaking GOD’s Commandments, “rebuking those in sin.” When we stray from GOD’s Truth, Scripture is the ultimate source for “correcting those in error.” And for instruction in righteousness, where else does the faithful Church turn for ”training [up and] guiding new believers in GOD’s Ways,” but The Holy Scriptures! ¹¹

For ROMANS 15:4 declares, “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope!” ¹²

VII. SCRIPTURE PERFECTS THE MAN OF GOD UNTO ALL GOOD WORKS

II TIMOTHY 3:17 declares, “That the man of GOD may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” ¹³ What of it?

The Holy Spirit has given us The Divine Word through the men who recorded them. For what reason? To lead sinners into learning the perfect ways of GOD! They

¹⁰ 5, Wycliffe Bible Commentary, II TIMOTHY 3:16, p 1388.

¹¹ 3, Bible Knowledge Commentary, II TIMOTHY 3:16-17, p 757.

¹² 2, KJV, ROMANS 15:4.

¹³ 2, KJV Bible, II TIMOTHY 3:17.

are the Christian man's "perfect rule of faith and practice" for piety and righteousness. And Scriptures are "designed for the man of GOD, the minister as well as the [lay] Christian," that we may know how our Creator would have us walk in this life and enter into the next!¹⁴

The Holy Scriptures teach the Christian man good works that are pleasing to GOD, not to secure our salvation, but so that we may know the fruits of righteousness and seek them diligently. For there is no where else that we may find the full "benefit, advantage, and happiness" that our loving GOD Himself designed for us for our earthly blessing and eternal life!¹⁵

For PSALM 19:7-9 declare, "The Law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether."¹⁶

VIII. IN CONCLUSION

What is it then, that GOD would have us look for true and lasting wisdom that will bring GOD's blessings and secure the salvation of our eternal souls? Is it in the profound writings of the world's philosophers? Certainly not! Is it in the well educated halls of secular science? GOD forbid! Is it in the passing passions of political leaders who are mere men, here today and gone tomorrow? Not likely! Or is it in today's glitzy entertainment of music, movies and mobs? In no way!

Where, then, can the earnest man who seeks after GOD's own heart find Divine blessing, protection, love and salvation? My friends, there is only One Way: the way set for us by a loving Creator found in The Holy Scriptures! There is only One Path: the path that beckons us in The Holy Scriptures to salvation in our Lord JESUS CHRIST!

¹⁴ 4, Matthew Henry Bible Commentary, II TIMOTHY 3:10-17, III,4,(3), p 2364.

¹⁵ 4, Matthew Henry Bible Commentary, II TIMOTHY 3:10-17, III,4,(3), p 2364.

There is only One Source: the source of Divine doctrine, teaching, rebuke and correction for all men, which is The Holy Scriptures!

Let us, as we conclude here, listen again to The Holy Scripture's Words of II TIMOTHY 3:15-17 that Saint Paul records for us in The HOLY SPIRIT: "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. All Scripture is given by inspiration of GOD, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of GOD may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."¹⁷

Yes, my brothers and sisters in The Lord - and those who seek The Almighty GOD Who created us - now we see together the answer – that The Holy Scriptures make a man wise unto salvation through faith in our Lord JESUS CHRIST! For it is in The Holy Scriptures that our Maker reveals Himself to us in special revelation! Why? So that we may become men of GOD! So that we may be furnished with all good Christian works pleasing to The Almighty! So that we are made wise unto salvation through our faith in JESUS CHRIST our Lord! In The Name of GOD The Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost. AMEN!

¹⁶ 2, KJV, PSALM 19:7-9.

¹⁷ 2, KJV Bible, II TIMOTHY 3:15-17.

IX. REFERENCES

1. "Catholic Family Prayer Book." Jacquelyn Lindsey, Editor. Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. Huntington, Indiana. 2001.
 2. "The Bible, King James Version, Old and New Testaments, with the Apocrypha." The Electronic Text Center, University of Virginia.
<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/kjv.browse.html>
 3. "The Bible Knowledge Commentary - New Testament Edition." Edited by John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck. Scripture Press Publications Inc., USA. 1983. Ninth printing 1988.
 4. "Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible [Complete and Unabridged in One Volume." Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., United States of America. 11th printing July, 2000.
 5. "The Wycliffe Bible Commentary." Edited by Charles F. Pfeiffer & Everett F. Harrison. The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. Moody Press. 3rd printing, 1966.
-

