Life Groups | PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY
EXPLORE THE FAITH: WHY WE STUDY THE BIBLE

WEEK 4 | 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 | THE BIBLE HAS POWER

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What do you think it means that Scripture is "profitable… that the man of God may be complete"? How does the Bible equip us "for every good work"?

Using a tool such as Biblehub.com look up a commentary on 2 Timothy 3:16-17 For instance: http://biblehub.com/commentaries/2_timothy/3-17.htm . How does this help your understanding of this verse and the Bible's power?

Paul refers to "the man of God" in verse 17. According to what we have studied the past 4 weeks, what is necessary for a person to be a "man of God"?

The Greek word that is translated "thoroughly" (NIV) or "adequately" (NASB) and "complete" (ESV) is "exartizo". It means "to complete, finish; to furnish perfectly; to finish, accomplish, (as it were, to render the days complete)". What it Paul telling us about the relationship between our "good works" and God's Word in these verses?

Read Romans 1:16-17. What is described as having power in these verses?

Read Hebrews 1:1-4. What does this section of Scripture say about the power of God's Word?

Think about an electrical outlet: What needs to be done to receive the power that is available there? We have to plug in. We have a readily available spiritual power source: God's Word! Have you plugged in? If not, what needs to change?

Read Matthew 4:1-11. How did Jesus use the power of Scripture throughout His temptations? How can we use His model against our own temptations?

Read Hebrews 5:12-14. The word for "complete" used in 2 Timothy 3:17 carries the idea of maturity. How does this section of Hebrews clarify that idea? Are you maturing in your understanding of the Bible? Have you grown from needing to be fed to being able to feed (teach) others?

While it is important to know the Bible, to memorize Scripture, we can't stop there. We must apply it, obey it, and be changed by it. That is the power of Scripture! What does this process of becoming being "complete, equipped for every good work" look like?

Read James 4:17. Undone good deeds are sin. How does a person know what the right thing to do is according to Paul? What does this say about us when we are confused over what to do in a situation or circumstance? Where should we seek clarity?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How did this week's Personal Bible Study help you better understand the power of the Bible? Based on our study thus far, what gives the Bible its power?

You read Matthew 4:1-11 in your personal Bible study this week. Reread it together now. Jesus seems to respond to Satan instinctively and without hesitation. Each temptation of Satan offers Jesus something that serves Him, i.e. bread to satisfy Himself, safety to secure Himself, praise to make Himself significant. These are the three basic categories of human need: satisfaction, security, and significance. In each of His responses, Jesus finds the source of His needs being met. What is that source? What is your source of security, satisfaction, and significance? Does the source of getting your needs met move you closer to being used by God or closer to serving yourself?

There is a line in a U2 song that says, "What you don't have you don't need now." Does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 change your perspective on what you "need" to be able to do the "good work" that God has called you to do? How?

In his commentary on 2 Timothy, Warren Wiersbe writes "…but here Paul states that *any* Christian can become a person 'of God'. How? By studying the Word of God, obeying it, and letting control his life." Which of these three activities that Wiersbe mentions – studying, obeying, and letting it control – do you need to focus on right now in your life? What is your strategy to address that area?

Hebrews 11 is often called the "faith hall of fame". Glance over verses 4 – 38 and notice the names listed there. Each person's story opens with "by faith". Romans 10:17 says faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. How are you going to use the Word of God this week to strengthen your faith? To do the good works God has prepared for you?