

“Before You Opt Out”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

LEARN

[Tracing God's Story: God's Creation and Crisis](#) (26:56) This video begins moving through the scenes of God's big story—the story of redemption that is told throughout the pages of Scripture. While Scripture itself never states how many of these scenes there are and doesn't use them to organize itself, we are going to look at eight divisions in the story of the Bible beginning with Genesis 1-3 and the purpose of 'God's story.' Supplemental books/workbooks can be purchased [here](#)

Video: “[What God can do in daily devotions](#)” by John Piper (4:56)

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What do we learn about the purpose and power of Scripture?
 - a. Scripture is profitable—useful, beneficial, and sufficient for the “good life”
 - b. It teaches a body of truth—you can't do what you don't know
 - c. It reproves—convicts of sin and exposes error (builds up and tears down)
 - d. It corrects—restores and straightens what is broken
 - e. It trains in righteousness—forms worldview, habits, affections, and character
 - f. It produces a complete and equipped man of God for every good work

2. In light of this truth, what does that mean for us as Christians in regard to how we live by faith?
 - a. We should expect God to speak every time Scripture is preached
 - b. We must count every word useful, not picking and choosing what we want to hear
 - c. We come hungry and expectant, trusting the Word will be sufficient
 - d. We submit to God's Word even when it leads us somewhere we don't want to go
 - e. We recognize life (including marriage) is not about us—it's about God's glory

3. What can marriage teach me about God, the Christian life?
 - a. Repentance, Sacrifice, service, sanctification, love, covenant, forgiveness
 - b. Marriage teaches how God loves you, how you are called to live, where history is going (marriage of Christ and the Church; Rev. 19:7-9, Matt. 26:29, Luk. 22:16-18)

PRACTICE

1. A. W. Tozer stated, "Satan's greatest weapon is man's ignorance of God's word." In light of this truth, how should you approach God's Word each week?
 - a. Pray before approaching God's word asking for the Holy Spirit to illuminate and apply Scripture, ask for a hunger and expectancy to be transformed by the word
 - b. Believe Scripture will be divine, sufficient, and accomplish its purpose
 - c. Refuse a consumer mindset—this is not about opting in/out—it's about living by faith according to the truth
 - d. Commit to sit under all of Scripture, not just preferred topics
2. What is the secret of a good marriage?
 - a. It's grace assumed—two Spirit-indwelted, Gospel-fluent and godly people walking in joyful submission to God's design of marriage, according to the word of God, empowered by the Spirit of God and encouraged by the people of God
 - b. "For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because ^rwe are members of his body. ³¹^o"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and ^pthe two shall become one flesh." ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church." Eph 5:29–32.
3. In what ways has your approach to church shifted from being a 'consumer' of a message to an active 'contributor' to the body? What opportunities do you see to further your spiritual growth and contribution (discipling/serving) to the church body?

CHANGE

Hebrews 4:12 speaks of the power of God's word. As you reflect on the sermon, discuss the following questions:

1. What error is God calling you to abandon?
2. What hidden issue or sin needs to be cut away?
3. Do you value the Word's correction as much as its encouragement?
4. How do you respond when God leads you toward an uncomfortable path?