

KNOWLEDGE AND ZEAL

The answer to the test:

As believers we should seek to know God in His fullness and the depths of His character by studying and meditating on the Bible, so that what we know about God and the way we live is in accord with what God has revealed about Himself.

Knowledge and Zeal

Laying the foundations that can survive
in this mixed-up world

II Timothy 3:16-17



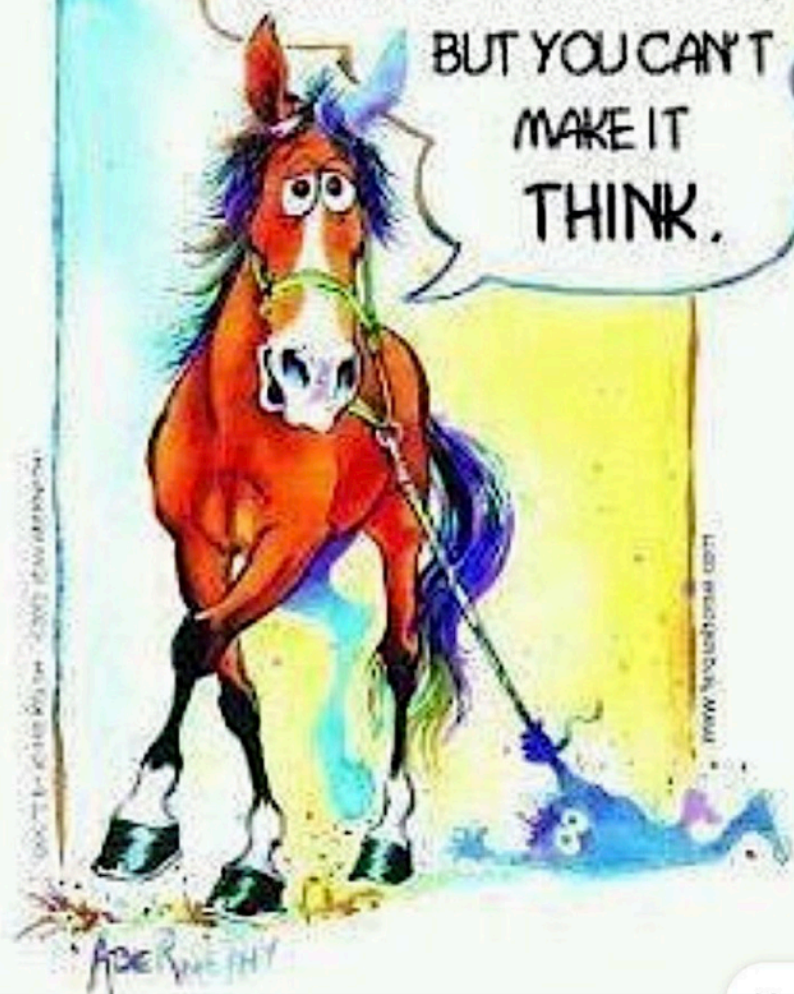


10 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a **zeal** for God, but not according to **knowledge**. ³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and **seeking to establish their own**, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Romans 10:1-3 (ESV)

Zeal – Great energy or enthusiasm in
pursuit of a cause or objective
(What we do)

Knowledge – Facts, information, or skills
acquired by a person through experience
or education
(What we think)

YOU CAN LEAD A
HUMAN TO KNOWLEDGE,
BUT YOU CAN'T
MAKE IT
THINK.



If our zeal > knowledge, then we
can wander off God's path in our
beliefs and conduct.

Psalm 119:105

“Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.”

We are commanded to love
God with our minds.

■ And do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the **renewing of
your mind** . . . Romans 12:2

■ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and **with all your mind**, and your neighbor as yourself.
Luke 10:27

■ Set your **minds** on things that are above,
not on things that are on earth.

– Colossians 3:2

3 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. . .

II Timothy 3-4 (partial)

A Final Charge to Timothy

¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² **In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,** ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God^[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: **² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.**

³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. **⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.** **⁵ But you,** keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

We must learn to think God's
thoughts so we can live in a
manner that glorifies our
Father in heaven.

Scripture is where we get doctrine?

“Doctrine is basically a system of beliefs For Christians, it is a set of accepted beliefs . . . like the sinless-ness of Christ, His divinity, His all-sufficient sacrifice on the cross and so on. . . .”

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
– 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

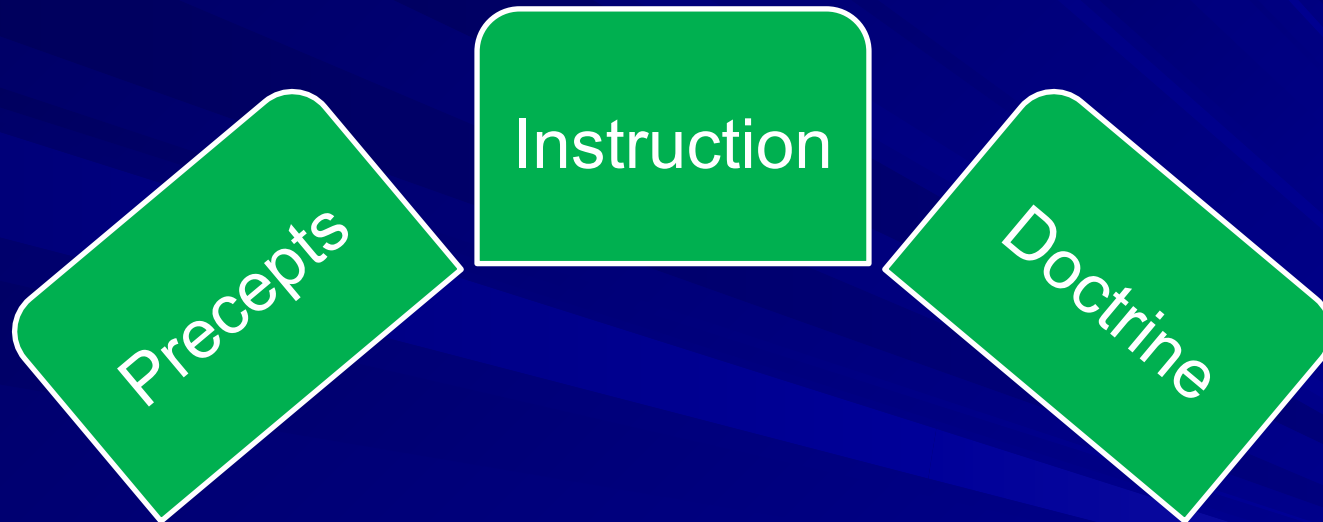
All Scripture is breathed out by God

Profitable for

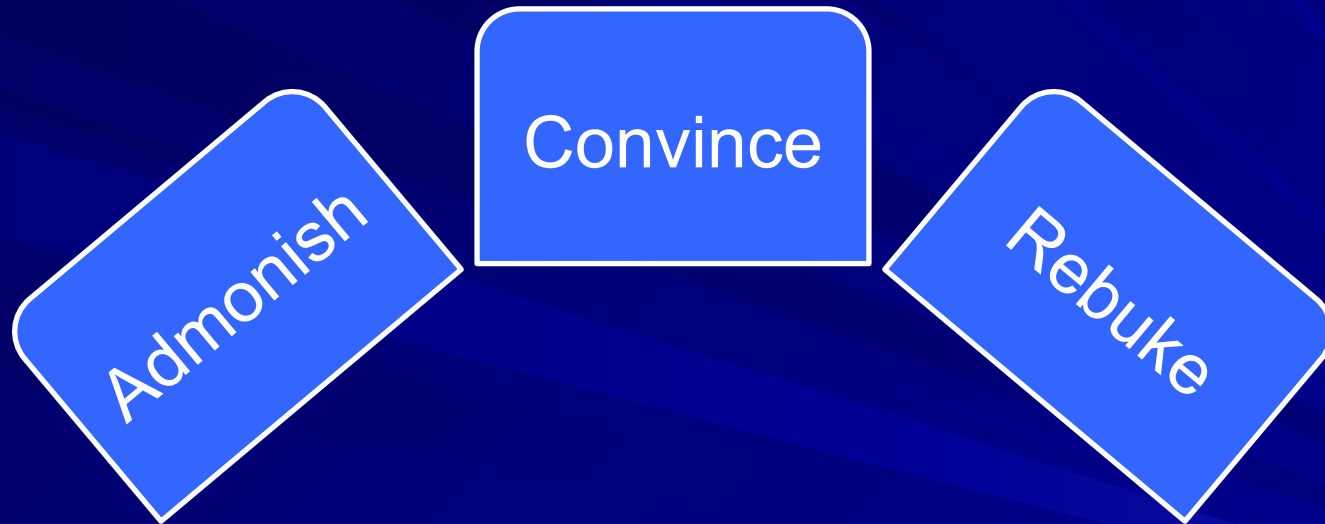
- Teaching
- Reproof
- Correction
- Training in righteousness

that the man of God may be
complete, equipped for every good
work.

Profitable for Teaching



Profitable for Reproof

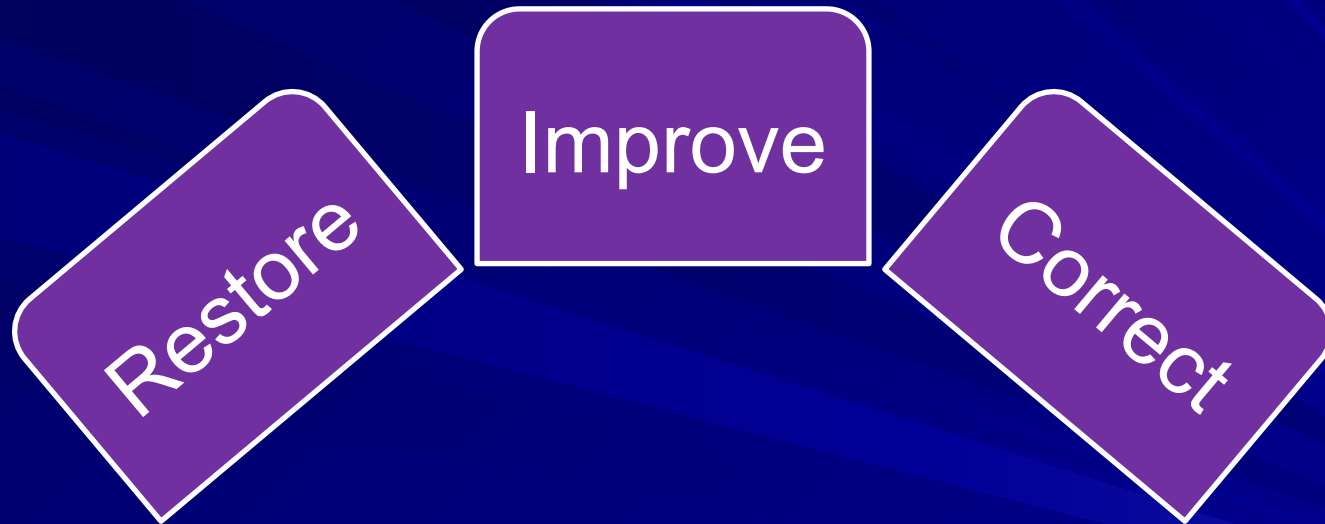


Teaching
+
Reproof

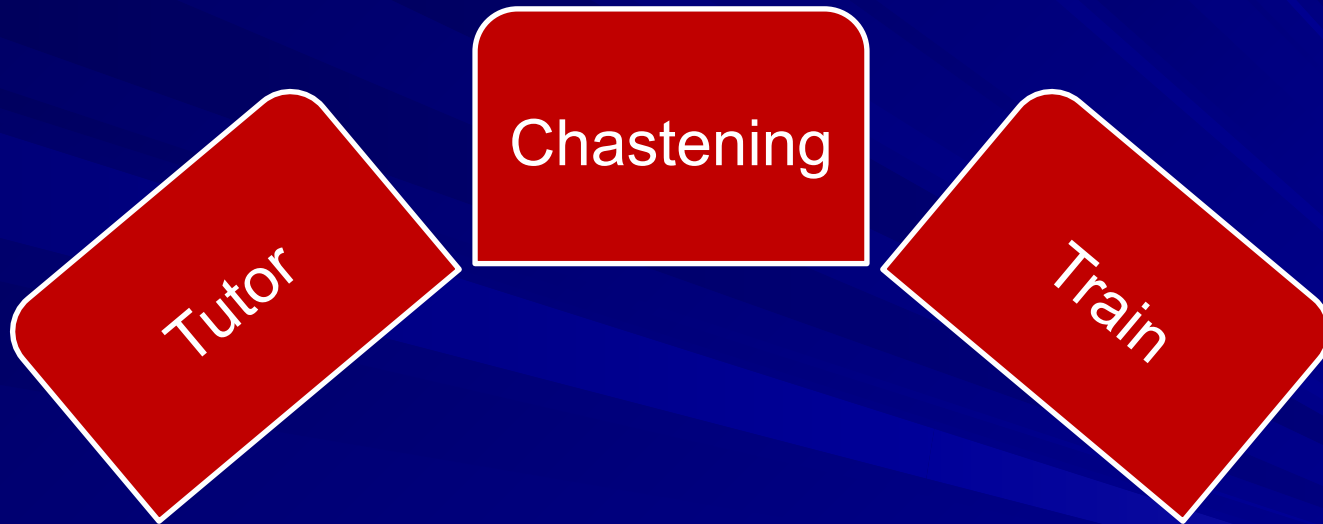
= Sound Doctrine

What we understand, think, and
believe in our minds about God

Profitable for Correction



Profitable for Training in Righteousness



Correction
+
Training in Righteousness

= Sound Conduct

How we behave, What we do

How can we apply this?

- “Zeal without knowledge is a runaway horse.” (from an old English proverb).
Passion without truth.
- Knowledge without zeal creates people who know about God, but don’t really know God.

- Our desire as believers is to have . . .
 - Sound Doctrine (correct beliefs) and Sound Conduct (correct behavior) start from a foundation built on scripture.

