2 Timothy 3:16

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

* Day 1

Read 2 Timothy 3:16.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

**16**All Scripture is inspired by God

and profitable for teaching,

for reproof,

for correction,

for training in righteousness;

1. What Scriptures are inspired by God?
2. What do you think of when you hear the word inspired?
3. Look up 2 Timothy 3:16 in several translations (NASB, ESV, LSB, NIV, KJV). What different words are used for inspired?
4. The word choice, God-breathed or breathed out by God, that some translations use helps clarify the meaning of inspiration in this text. How does the concept of scripture being God-breathed help you understand inspiration?
5. Read 2 Peter 1:20-21. How does this text help us understand the writing of scripture?
6. How should we understand the human author and divine author’s roles in the writing of scripture?
7. What does it mean for something to be profitable?

* Day 2

Read 2 Timothy 3:16 again.

1. Look up a biblical definition for each of following words using either Literal Word or Blue Letter Bible. Compare these definitions with an English dictionary and note any differences:
   1. Define teaching.
   2. Define reproof.
   3. Define correction.
   4. Define training in righteousness.
2. What is the difference between reproof and correction?
3. What does vs. 17 tell us about the purpose or result of vs. 16?
4. What in the Christian life is not included in these verses? How does this inform our understanding of the sufficiency of scripture?

* Day 3

Read 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

1. If vs. 17 relates to the Christian life what does vs. 15 relate too? How could you summarize the two categories covered in 15 and 16 that scripture is sufficient for?
2. If we are to be equipped by the Word in the way 2 Timothy 3:16-17 describes what attitudes and actions must define our personal approach to scripture? What about our approach to scripture as a church?
3. What would Paul primarily have in mind when referencing scripture at this time?
4. Knowing that Paul and the authors of the New Testament affirmed that the Old Testament was scripture, what do we learn about the importance of the Old Testament from this verse?
5. It has been said that it takes a whole Bible to make a whole Christian. How does this apply to difficult or seemingly insignificant passages?
6. Consider what this verse means for every individual word in the Bible. Are there any unimportant words? How does this understanding impact your Bible study?
7. Read 2 Peter 3:15-16. What does this text tell us about the New Testament authors’ understanding of their writing?
8. Summarize 2 Timothy 3:16 in 21 words or less.

In preparation for Sunday, pray our hearts would be prepared to receive teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness from the preaching of the Word and that it would result in our body being built up in spiritual maturity.