

PART 1: ALL SCRIPTURE FOR ALL OF LIFE

 **Read 2 Timothy 3:10–17** 

In this passage, Paul reminds his protégé, Timothy, of the importance of living a truly godly life and stresses that knowing the Scriptures is key to persevering in godliness. According to Paul, “all scripture is breathed out by God.” While human authors wrote the Bible, their inspiration came from God.

List what the Scriptures are profitable for according to verse 16.

In verses 15 and 17, what are the two results of learning the Scriptures?

1.

2.

When Paul writes “all Scripture,” it’s crucial to understand that he is referring to the Old Testament, since the New Testament was still in the process of being written. His words certainly apply to the New Testament by extension, since it too is Holy Scripture. Yet, based on Paul’s words, we are to understand that the Old Testament is sufficient to equip us to live effective, godly lives.

This is not to say that the New Testament is of lesser importance than the Old. But unless we read it for what it is—the fulfillment of, not the *replacement* of, the Old Testament, firmly founded on an Old Testament foundation, then we will not properly understand the

way the New Testament is designed to speak into our lives, both corporately and individually.

WISE FOR SALVATION

According to Paul, one of the benefits of the Old Testament scriptures is that they “are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15). This is not so simply because the Old Testament foreshadows and predicts the coming of Jesus as Messiah, which it certainly does. It’s much more than that! As we immerse ourselves in God’s revelation of himself throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, along with his wisdom for life, we discover God’s purpose in creating human beings and how that purpose can only be realized by being reconciled with God through the Messiah.