GOD WROTE THE BOOK ON LIFE  
II Timothy 3: 16, 17

16 All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

We are living in a time when man has more knowledge and information readily available to him than in any other generation in all of history.

-It took roughly from the time of ADAM until the end of the 1800’s for man’s knowledge to DOUBLE. Currently……man’s knowledge is doubling at the rate of every SEVEN YEARS. This explosion in knowledge is something the Prophet Daniel prophesied would happen before the return of Jesus Christ. (Daniel 12:4)

Yet in spite of the fact we have more books, more information, more technology and more knowledge available to us than any generation before us, modern man is more confused and disillusioned about LIFE than ever before.

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The Late George Carlin on “The State of Modern Man”

ILLUSTRATION: Shortly after his wife’s death, the late comedian GEORGE CARLIN, who is...
We have MORE DEGREES, but less ense……MORE KNOWLEDGE, but less judgment……MORE EXPERTS, yet more problems……MORE MEDICINE, but less wellness.

We DRINK TOO MUCH, SMOKE TOO MUCH, SPEND TOO RECKLESSLY, LAUGH TOO LITTLE, WATCH TOO TV TOO MUCH AND PRAY TOO SELDOM.

We have MULTIPLIED our possessions, but reduced our VALUES. We TALK TOO MUCH and LISTEN too little. We learned how to MAKE A LIVING, but not how to make a life. We’ve ADDED YEARS to our life, but NOT LIFE TO OUR YEARS. We’ve been to the MOON and back……but have trouble crossing the street to meet our new neighbor.

We’ve CONQUERED OUTER SPACE, but not our INNER SPACE. We’ve done LARGER THINGS, but not better things. We’ve CLEANED UP our air, but POLLUTED our souls.

These are the times of FAST FOOD and SLOW DIGESTION……BIG MEN, but small character…….STEEP PROFITS, but shallow relationships. These are the days of TWO INCOMES, but more divorce……FANCIER HOUSES, but more broken homes. It is a time where there’s so much in the SHOWROOM WINDOW, but so little in the STOCK ROOM OF LIFE.

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Where can man find the true meaning and purpose of life? Where can man turn to find the answers he’s searching for? He can find them in the WORD OF GOD!

ILLUSTRATION

Every time you and I buy an appliance or a machine……the manufacturer includes an “Instruction Book” that tells you everything you need to know about the operation and proper maintenance of the product you have purchased.

The premise behind those instructions is that NO ONE KNOWS MORE ABOUT THAT PRODUCT THAN THE ONE WHO MADE IT.

God is the CREATOR and the SUSTAINER of all LIFE.

GENESIS 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
No one knows more about LIFE than GOD. Who else but GOD, could take a lump of clay from the ground He created, and mold and fashion it into the form of a human being........then breathe His own breath into that lump of clay and make it come to life?

And so I ask you this morning, what better source can we turn to to find answers to life’s greatest questions than this WONDERFUL BOOK given to us by the Creator of Life, our Heavenly Father.

As we go back to our text in II TIMOTHY 3, let’s consider THREE REASONS why we can rely on the BIBLE to help us with life’s most important issues.

First of all........

I. The Bible Gives Us Un-Erring Information

verse 16a All scripture is God-breathed

1. Every day our lives are affected by information.

-We get information about the WEATHER from the Weather Channel one of our local TV stations. Yet in spite of the fact there are 6,000 weather stations around the world.... ......and 12 weather satellites floating through space, the accuracy of a three day weather forecast is only about 80% at best.

-We get our NEWS information from the TV and NEWSPAPERS. Yet recent statistics show the accuracy of MEDIA NEWS information is only around 65%; because much of what we hear in the news is heavily slanted toward a liberal or conservative view point.

2. Now what does all this tell us? It tells us “Information will never be any more reliable or trustworthy than its source.”
3. The Bible claims GOD as its source.

Paul says in verse 16 “All scripture is God-breathed.”

Every book
Every chapter
Every verse
Every sentence
Every phrase
Every word
Every crossing of a “t”
Every dotting of an “i ”

ALL SCRIPTURE is God-breathed! Not some of it! Not part of it! Not most of it! But ALL SCRIPTURE

4. The Bible is NOT a book of man’s viewpoints.
   It is NOT a book of man’s opinions.
   It is NOT a book of man’s theories.
   It is NOT a book of man’s ideas or concepts.

Everything in this book originated from the MIND, the HEART and the VERY BREATH of the GOD who created US!

II PETER 1: 20, 21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

6. If you want the most reliable, most dependable, most trustworthy information on LIFE........the best source to go to is THE UN-ERRING WORD OF GOD!

GOD WROTE THE BOOK ON LIFE!
Secondly,

II. The Bible Gives Us Useful Information

16 All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

17 So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1. Earlier I told you we have more information available to us right now than all the generations that lived before us.

But have you ever stopped to consider just how much of the information we have is totally USELESS?

Let me give you some examples:

*Did you know the first couple to ever be shown in bed together on prime-time TV was Fred & Wilma Flintstone?

*Did you know Coca-Cola was originally GREEN?

*Did you know more MONOPOLY MONEY is printed every day than REAL MONEY?

*Did you know there are 259 RAISINS in each box of RAISIN BRAN?

*Did you know MCDONALD*S FRENCH FRIES are made with BEEF FLAVORING? (you thought I was going to say chihuahua by-products didn’t you?)

*Did you know one of the ingredients used in the making of DYNAMITE is peanuts?

*Did you know there are 336 DIMPLES in a regulation GOLF BALL?

*Did you know the word RACECAR is spelled the same way forward or backward? And so is the word KAYAK.

*Did you know the ELECTRIC CHAIR was invented by A DENTIST?
2. Now all that is interesting.......but it is absolutely USELESS INFORMATION.

    I mean next time you go apply for a job, don’t write on your application that you know there’s 259 raisins in every box of Raisin Bran. Believe me it won’t improve your chances of getting a job.

    Or the next time you go golfing, don’t expect the club manager to let you play 18 holes for free just because you know there are 336 dimples on a golf ball.

    Useless information is just that........USELESS!

3. But when it comes to the information we find in the Bible, now that’s a different story!

    Paul says in verse 16..........

    “All scripture is God-breathed and is USEFUL........”

4. That word USEFUL in the original Greek language meant, something that is “helpful, beneficial or profitable.”

5. Well, what is GOD’S WORD “useful” for? Paul lists four things:

   (A) It is useful for TEACHING

       Everything GOD wants us to KNOW ABOUT HIM.
       Everything GOD wants us to KNOW ABOUT OURSELVES.
       Everything GOD wants us to KNOW about the MEANING and PURPOSE OF LIFE. Is found right here in this wonderful book called THE BIBLE.

       The Bile is useful for TEACHING me the most important things you and I need to know about life.
(B) It is also useful for **REBUKING**

To “rebuke” means to “reprimand with the purpose of building up or strengthening the character of another.”

GOD’S WORD tells me the difference between RIGHT and WRONG.......it tells me the difference between HOLY and UNHOLY BEHAVIOR. It tells me the difference between ACTIONS that please GOD and actions that displease GOD.

When I live my life by this book, it brings a sense of CONVICTION when I do wrong. It reveals that there will be CONSEQUENCES when I do wrong. And it teaches me there is great reward in doing right.

THE BIBLE IS USEFUL FOR REBUKING!

(C) It is also useful for **CORRECTING**.

Can you imagine what “paths” you and I might take in life if there were no Bible to keep us on course?

The Psalmist says in PSALM 119: 105  *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

ILLUSTRATION: One thing most of us men are notorious for is refusing to ask directions or look at a map when we’re traveling.

We will drive miles and miles in the wrong direction before we will ever admit we’re lost. But eventually we have to pull over to the side of the road and pull out the map to find our way back to where we are supposed to be, or if we are really desperate we might actually stop and ask for help.

The Bible is the best road map ever given to man. And if we will humble ourselves and accept its teachings the Word of God will keep us on the right road!

THE BIBLE IS USEFUL FOR TEACHING.
THE BIBLE IS USEFUL FOR REBUKING.
THE BIBLE IS USEFUL FOR CORRECTION!
(D) The Bible is also useful for TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

God knows what kind of life is the best life. In his Word, God gives us useful information on the things to stay away from that will make our lives worse, and the beneficial things that will make our lives better.

He teaches us the importance of “self-control” and “discipline” and “selflessness” and “sacrifice” and “service to others” to help us live the very best life possible!

6. Yes, the BIBLE gives us USEFUL information: Information that is USEFUL for TEACHING, USEFUL for REBUKING, USEFUL for CORRECTING and USEFUL for TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Yes, GOD WROTE THE BOOK ON LIFE!

The Bible gives us UN-ERRING INFORMATION.

The Bible gives us USEFUL INFORMATION.

And finally.......  

III. The Bible Gives Us Un-Changing Information

PSALM 119: 89 Your word, O Lord, is eternal; its stands firm in the heavens.

MATTHEW 5: 18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.
1. INFORMATION in this world is constantly changing.

*WEBSTER’S DICTIONARY is revised every 10 years.

*THE ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA----is revised quarterly.

*There has been nearly 8,000 revisions, corrections or editions in the WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA since the 2003 Edition was first published.

* COMPUTER SOFTWARE that came out 4 months ago is now outdated.

* MEDICAL JOURNALS written three years ago are now outdated.

Even the THEORY OF EVOLUTION has undergone drastic changes and revisions. For years the Theory of Evolution taught that MAN evolved from MONKEYS. But with the discovery of DNA, proponents of evolution have had to revise their theory, because the DNA in MAN and the DNA in monkeys aren’t even closely the same.

As one poet put it:  *Once I was a tadpole, beginning to begin; then I was a frog with my tail tucked in; Then I was a monkey in a Banyon tree; Now I’m a professor with a Ph.D.*

2. But while INFORMATION around us is constantly changing, the information in GOD’S WORD never changes!

3. God’s Word is permanent........His Word has been settled “forever!”

4. It is amazing when you stop to consider that when GOD inspired the writers to write HIS WORD thousands of years ago, HE already knew there would come a time when there would be COMPUTERS, SPACE SHIPS, SATELLITES, SMART PHONES, IPODS, IPADS, NOOKS AND KINDLES.
5. GOD knew you and I would need a source of un-changing information to go to in this constantly changing world in which we live. That’s why he gave us THE BIBLE.

GOD WROTE THE BOOK ON LIFE!!!

CONCLUSION

The story is told of a SOUTH DAKOTA RANCHER and HIS BRIDE who received an expensive BIBLE as a wedding gift from the groom’s grandfather. They sent a “thank you” note and put the Bible away on a closet shelf and forgot about it.

Each time the GRANDFATHER would see the couple he would ask, “How do you like the Bible I gave you?” Thinking they had adequately expressed their gratitude in the “thank you” note they sent shortly after the wedding, the couple seemed perplexed that the grandfather kept asking “how they liked the Bible.”

Out of curiosity the young couple got the Bible down off the closet shelf one day and imagine their surprise when a bunch of $100 bills fell out, sixty six in all, one for each Book of the Bible.

But while the rancher and his young bride had discovered the monetary treasure hidden in the Bible, they failed to discover the greatest treasure of all, and was the spiritual riches buried in the pages of God’s Holy Word!

This morning I want to challenge each and everyone of you to open up God’s wonderful word each and every day and dig for the rich treasures within its pages. And when you do I think you will agree with David, who said of God’s word:

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb, by them is your servant warned, in keeping them there is great reward. (Psalm 19:10,11)