

**Women's Bible Study, February 21, 2025**  
**Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church**

**The Pastoral Epistles**  
**Lesson 10 (2 Timothy 3)**

**Highlights/Notes for 2 Timothy 3 -- Our Security in these Last Days in an Evil World**

**1. Objectives and Introduction of this week's study**

a. Theme Verse (SG p.101): "From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 3:15)

b. Objectives (SG p.101): "By the power of the Holy Spirit working through God's Word, we will...

1) ...become aware of the influence of sin in the Church and how it affects our lives;

2) ...understand how necessary it is for Christians to have a sound knowledge of the Scriptures in order to resist the evil in the world, remain in faith, and serve God with good works;

3) ...gain awareness of the threat of false doctrine."

c. Introduction: Our world today (and our sinful flesh) likes to boast of its wisdom and accomplishments, and its being perhaps superior to all previous generations. But how easily we can be deceived by foolish ideas and led astray by religious-sounding, yet very much false teachings. Paul shows us that rejecting (or even attempting to add to) the grace of God, can cause us to sink into the mire of self-idolizing godlessness. Therefore, Paul warns of our need to be diligent and faithful in the use of God's Word, which is our security in the midst of self-glorifying deception and worldly godlessness in these last days of an evil world. (SG p.101)

**2. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 -- The Moral Condition of the World; Godlessness in the Last Days**

a. **v. 1**, "But mark this," -- *know* this (EHV), *understand* this (ESV), *be certain* of this. Know this is true:

1) "There will be terrible times" ("*times of difficulty*" ESV) -- The world in which we live, and in which Timothy and the Church would continue to carry on their work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is and will be terrible. (I know... not very comforting...yet. Why? Because we need to hear it and be aware. But wait for what is coming! Let's stick with Paul in his *terrible* prison cell for now; he will explain, and we, like him, will rejoice even in the midst of terrible/difficult times.)

2) When will this be? "In the last days" -- "What will be in the last days was already present at Paul's own time. These days had already begun." (TPB p.140)

\* "In the last days" is "an expression that refers to the whole period introduced by Christ's first coming. These days are last in comparison to OT days, which were preliminary and preparatory. Also, the Christian era is the time of the beginnings of prophetic fulfillment." (CSB, 2 Peter 3:3 note)

\*\* It is natural that we would think of the days immediately preceding Christ's return as the "last days." However, it is best to understand that every day between Christ's ascension and His return is part of the Last Days. (TLSB 3:1) (Note: It helps me to understand this ["to mark this"] better in light of Acts 1:6-11 [words written about the ascension of Jesus].)

\*\*\* Also see Acts 3:17-21 (Again, recall our study of Acts. I think this passage gives great comfort & assurance for us here in this context of 2 Timothy 3.). Peter (in Acts 3) describes the "last days" by quoting Joel's prophecy in order to indicate that "the decisive stage and climax of history has arrived with Christ and the Church." (TLSB, Acts 3:17)

3) In what light are we to "mark this" and "understand this," to "know" this is true... that these times are and will be "terrible"? What would Paul say if he were to get a glimpse of the world today? Was His prophecy accurate? What is our light and our source of security during such dark and terrible times today? (Keep these questions in mind as we proceed to briefly look at "terrible times." Our answers to these questions will influence our reaction and response when facing such times.)

\* **Discussion question (SG #78, pp. 48 & 101-102):** Why do we believe that we are living in the last days, the time near the end of the world? (Hint: Why did Paul believe this?)

"As Paul's life was drawing to a close, it was natural for him to become deeply concerned about the Church of the future. God granted him some glimpses into the future so that he could warn the believers of dangers they would encounter in the course of time (2 Thess. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; Matt. 24:11-12). By divine revelation, Paul knew that the Church would face perilous times and that conditions in the world would get worse the nearer Judgment Day approached. The increase of wickedness in the world would

endanger the faith of believers, and weak Christians would be tempted to adopt the sinful ways of the ungodly. *Paul wanted to fortify the believers against this danger.* Therefore, he painted a dark but true picture of a Christless world. It should be interesting for us to note how much people of today resemble those whom the apostle describes." (SG pp.101-102)

b. **vv. 2-5, "People will be..."** (vv. 2-5 describe people who have lived in every era of history, right up to this day. See notes on "last days" above. [TLSB 3:2-5]; Includes people who will be, who are, who have been, and yet they will be worse than ever before...)

v.2 1) "**Lovers of themselves**" -- the "me first" and "I'm worth it" mentality (TPB p.141) "What is wrong with the world today? Selfishness is the cause of much of the world's troubles... Many people are concerned only about themselves and their own interests." (SG p.102)

\* "'Lovers of self' aptly heads the list since it is the essence of all sin and the root from which all the other characteristics spring. The word is literally 'self-lovers' and points to the fact that the center of gravity of the natural man is self rather than God." (EW 3:2)

2) "**Lovers of money**" -- "materialism; acquiring money becomes one's major concern" (TPB p.141) (Why? Perhaps because people trust in money more than God? And because people are lovers of self.)

3) "**Boastful, proud**" -- not only individuals, but also society; "confident that we can solve all problems given time, money, and scientific research." (TPB p.141)

4) "**Abusive**" (**blasphemous** [EHV]) -- literally, "blasphemers" (also see 2 Pet. 2:10-12); "speaking evil of God and ridiculing His Word" (TPB p.141) This is, indeed, abusive towards God, abusive of His Word.

5) "**Disobedient to parents**" -- even encouraged by society (TPB p.141)

6) "**Ungrateful**" -- no regard of being thankful since "the world owes it to me" & "I deserve this"

7) "**Unholy**" -- seeing nothing as sacred, no regard for being set apart unto God.

v.3 8) "**Unloving**" (**heartless** [ESV]) -- literally, "without family love"; it's an attitude of growing disregard of normal family love and obligation (EW 3:3), as well as having no love towards others.

9) "Unforgiving" (unappeasable [ESV], not able to reconcile with others [EHV]) -- "Having wrathful anger and demanding punishment rather than showing mercy" (TLSB 3:3) "Disagreeable in every way and impossible to satisfy." (SG p.102)

10) "Slanderous" (dictionary definition: false accusations to defame) -- literally 'diabolical' (dictionary's definition of 'diabolical': characteristic of the devil); making false accusations like...the father of lies." (TPB p.142); gossiping and making false accusations (SG p.102)

11) "Without self-control" -- exercising no restraint (TPB p.142) to get what they want (SG p.102)

12) "Brutal" -- literally "untamed"; acting like savage beasts, even towards family (TPB p.142); having a brutal temper (SG p.102)

13) "Not lovers of good" (haters of what it is good [EHV]) -- "what is 'good' is looked upon as unexciting, uninteresting, boring" (TPB), and even worse, becoming angry at God's goodness and those who do good

v. 4 14) "Treacherous" (dictionary definition: involving betrayal or deception, especially from someone you trust; hidden or unpredictable dangers) -- "traitorous; willing to betray even a friend for one's own gain" (TPB p.142)

15) "Rash" (reckless [ESV, EHV]) -- "proceeding with no thought of others" (TPB p.142) in having their own way (SG p.102)

16) "Conceited" (puffed up with conceit [EHV]) -- "blinded by an inflated self-esteem" (TPB p.142)

17) "Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" -- turning pleasure, self-indulgence and entertainment into idols (TLSB 3:4)

v. 5 18) "Holding to an outward form (appearance [ESV]) of godliness but denying its power" -- "people who look holy, but inwardly are unbelievers (see Matthew 23:27-28)." (TLSB 3:5) "They still pretend to follow 'religion' by going through the right motions, but they live as though God has no control and needs not to be taken into account. Although they may profess faith in God, they are practicing atheists." (TPB p.142)

a) Those "who still externally want to be known as Christians and belong to a church, go through the motions, and yet 'deny its power.' They reject its influence in their attitudes and conduct, which are like those of the people Paul describes." (TPB p.140)

b) "In our self-obsessed world, people feel very free to have a "salad bar" religion – they pick and choose what they want. They feel free to be very "spiritual," but sense no obligation to be *Biblical*." (EW 3:5)

c) v.5b, "Have nothing to do with them." (*Turn away from such people* [EHV]; *Avoid such people* [ESV]) -- "Do not allow them to influence your thoughts and behavior." (See Romans 16:17-18) (TLSB 3:5) This includes avoiding their false teachings (such as in books & media).

\*\*\* "This is sound advice not only to every pastor and teacher but to every Christian. Paul is not calling on Christians to withdraw into monastic seclusion. They will still be *in* the world although *not of* the world. They will not join it in its ungodly philosophy of life, attitudes, and conduct. Christians are to go into this world and be the 'salt of the earth' and the 'light of the world' (Matt. 5:13-14) by living and proclaiming the good news of forgiveness and a new life in Christ." (TPB p.142)

c. **Discussion question (SG #79, pp. 48 & 102):** Which sins mentioned by Paul are especially common today? Why are these a peril to Christians? (Personally reflect on which ones are perhaps particularly concerning for you.)

### 3. 2 Timothy 3:6-13 -- The World's Attitude toward the Church

a. vv. 6-9, False teachers (errorists who "*oppose the truth*") who **lead others astray:**

1) v.6a, "*For among them are those who worm (creep [ESV]) their way into homes...*"

\* "Satan's chief aim is to bring the world into the Church, so that through laxity of religion and morals [*weak*] believers may lose their faith.. He knows that his success will be greatest if he succeeds in undermining the home." (SG p.48)

2) v.6b-7, "gain control over (*capture [ESV]*)  
weak women, (*vulnerable [EHV]*)  
burdened with sins" (*overwhelmed [EHV]*)

\* This is not a description of women in general, but rather those who are struggling with sin and are looking for relief from their guilty consciences. False teachers "*treacherous[ly]*"(v.4) misled them, as they would seek to "persuade the women to accept their false teachings... Religious quackery was widely received by women in the Roman Empire during this time." (TLSB 3:6; [also TPB p.143])

\*\* "One is sometimes surprised at the kind of control unscrupulous errorists can gain over others who fit Paul's description. We think of the control that some cults gain over their adherents in the name of religion." (TPB p.143)

3) vv.8-9, "Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth..."

\* These names are not mentioned in the OT, but Jewish tradition held that these men were magicians in Pharaoh's court when Moses came to ask for Israel's release from Egypt (Exodus 7). "By their 'secret arts' they were able, for a time, to imitate the miraculous signs Moses had performed with the power of God... It became evident that Jannes and Jambres could not stand up against the truth and power of God (see Exodus 8:18-19)." (TPB p.144)

4) Discussion questions (SG #80 & #81), pp. 49 & 102-103):

(Note: I've reworded these questions from the wording in study guide.)

(a. [#80]) How aware are we of false teachings, false teachers, and cults in our society these days? How do they gain access into our homes today, trying to "capture" our attention, in order to undermine homes (and church families) and to counteract the influence of God's Word?

\* "False teachers have used the media -- radio, television, the Internet, tapes, books, CDs, and other forms of communication -- to undermine homes and to counteract the influence of God's Word. Satan's agents succeed especially with those who are weak in the faith, looking for some doctrine that will permit them to sin in security, or with such as have never had a foundation of sound Christian knowledge (v.7)." (SG pp.102-103)

\*\* Additional note of interest for us as women studying God's Word here: "All people are potential victims of false teaching. However, today women are especially targeted by so-called Bible teachers on the radio, television, Internet, and even the Christian bookstore. They claim to be ministering to the body of Christ, but they are improperly doing the work of the ministry and supplanting pastors. Christ has not called them to perform this work but has established the Church and the pastoral office to minister the Word of God." (SG p.103)

(b. [#81]) Why do so many people fall sway to so many false teachings "out there" today? Why do they come to believe these false claims more than the truth of God's Word?

\* "There are two main reasons for the acceptance of error by people. To begin with, people are born spiritually blind and lack any ability to discern truth from error. They can be made to believe anything since they are devoid of the knowledge of the truth.

\*\* "The other cause is much worse. This occurs because people turn from the truth. Such people have been illuminated by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. But instead of remaining true to the faith, they become discontented and seek after what will satisfy their carnal and sinful desires." (SG p.103)

5) A good little devotional summary regarding vv.1-9:

"Although Paul wrote these words specifically about temptations that attack the pastoral office, they clearly apply to all Christians. Men, like Jannes and Jambres, allowed themselves to be enticed, and in so doing they disqualified themselves regarding the faith (v.8)...

[Oh, the blessing for us in] God's baptismal gift of the Holy Spirit creating within us an ongoing desire for repentance and forgiveness. Although we may regularly fall into sin (such falls are easy for all Christians), God calls us to faith again through His Word, reminding us of the forgiveness and cleansing that are ours in Christ Jesus.

Lord, it is exceedingly easy to be deceived and to fall into sin. Guard me against all temptation. Amen." (TLSB 3:1-9)

b. vv. 10-13, Persecution: A Living faith in Christ Jesus in the midst of persecution:

1) **Note:** "If the world fails to entice the Christian away from the truth, it has another method by which it tries to destroy him or her: persecution." (SG p.48)

2) **v. 10a**, "You, however" ("*But you*" [EHV]) -- Emphasizing the contrast between Timothy and the sway of false teachers that Paul had been describing. (TPB p.144)

3) **v.10b-11a**, "But you have faithfully followed [*know* (NIV)] my teaching..." (EHV) -- Here Paul "humbly and gratefully recognizes what God has worked in him with His amazing grace." (Paul is not boasting here, but emphasizes the life of faith in Christ.) The list here "is impressive and can serve as a model for every pastor, teacher, and Christian." (TPB p.144-145):

*"You have faithfully followed..."*

(a) "*my teaching*" - God's inspired truth (1 Thess. 2:13)

(b) "*my way of life*" - Paul's life/conduct showed the influence of God's Spirit upon him

(c) "*my purpose*" - God's plan & direction (not meaningless serving of self); Ministry of the Word in Christ

(d) *"my faith"* - upon Christ & His grace alone; (also see Hebrews 11)

(e) *"my patience,"* - which is essential in serving others; goes together with love (1 Cor. 13:4)...

(f) *"my love"* - essential for pastors (& all) in sharing the love of God in Christ Jesus

(g) *"my steadfast endurance"* - enabled by God to bear up under hard & painful circumstances

(h) *"my persecutions & sufferings"* - Paul names the three Galatian provinces in particular, perhaps because Timothy was a native of Lystra and would have already been familiar with Paul's persecutions in that region [Acts 13:50-52 & Acts 14]. (Paul gives a more complete list of his many sufferings in 2 Cor. 11:23-29)

4) **v.11b**, *"Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them"* --

a) Romans 8:31-39 (a portion here:)

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors ('we are completely victorious') through Him who loves us." (Rom. 8:35, 37)

b) Philippians 1:20-21 (a portion here:)

"...so even now, Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. Yes, for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

5) **v.12** -- Persecution will affect all who follow Christ.

a) Jesus said, "No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also." (see John 15:18-20)

b) "This does not mean that we must seek persecution or conduct ourselves in a way that antagonizes. Paul sought to 'become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some' (1 Cor. 9:22). Yet persecutions came, because of Christ. So it will ever be when Christ is preached and lived. Let the Christian not consider this an evil. The early Christians in their persecutions rejoiced 'because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name' (Acts 5:41)." (TPB p.146)

c) "Persecution includes not only the physical beatings such as Paul's but also derision (ridicule, scorn) and exclusion." (TLSB 3:12)

d) **Discussion questions** (**SG #82, #83, #84**, pp. 49 & 103):

\*(#82) Are Christians still persecuted today?



In many parts of the modern world, Christians continue to suffer for their faith. This is to be expected, but God furnishes strength and endurance, and we continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in the faith.

**\*\*(#83)** How does the world show that it hates the true believers?

"The world manifests its hatred of Christians in many ways. They accuse, slander, and ridicule them, and they try to do them harm. They oppose their doctrine and mischaracterize the Christian faith in order to prejudice others." (SG p.102)

**\*\*\*(#84)** Why is persecution a blessing to the Church?

Recall our study of Acts and how the early Church began to grow. See Acts 8:1 and Acts 11:19-21. The first great persecution scattered these new Christians, the Church, into new parts of the world. As the Christians fled to new parts, they continued to live forth the Gospel so evident in their lives (the fruit of the Spirit) and tell of the Good News of Jesus. The Gospel quickly spread.

Additionally, Christians need not fear persecutions and afflictions, for by such trials the Church has often been purified and made strong. (SG p.104)

The only real danger for Christians [dangers from the evil world outside the Church] is not persecution, but the real concerning danger is heresy or false doctrine... It is against such deceptive false teachers that believers must constantly be on their guard." (SG p.104)

"Though persecution scatters believers, the Lord uses the persecution to proclaim the Gospel even more broadly. And as believers grow in faith, they commit themselves to acts of service." (TLSB, Acts 11:19-30)

#### **4. 2 Timothy 3:14-17 -- The Source of the Christian's Faith, Life, & Power**

One of the most familiar passages of the Pastoral Epistles, but we will be examining it closely. (Every word & phrase is so rich... It is God's divine Word, after all !!)

**a. v.14, "*continue in what you have learned and about which you have become convinced*"**

1) "***Continue***" -- While the evil & deceitful, false teachers "will go on from bad to worse" (v. 13), Timothy will *continue* on in the Faith.

a) Note: This can also mean "abide in what you have learned." The same Greek verb used as "continue" here is used by the apostle John in 1 John 2:24: "Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you, If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father" (TLSB). In 2 Timothy 3:14 Paul is telling Timothy

(and every Christian) to *continue* / to *abide* in the Word of God. "We must never go beyond, but [abide and] continue to grow in, the foundational truths of Christ crucified for the sins of the world and raised for our salvation." (TLSB 1 John 2:24; EW 2 Timothy 3:14)

b) Our faith also must be *continually* nourished, in order to not become weak, in order to be able to remain discerning of false doctrine. We remain strong in the Lord & in His strength (not in our own strength) in these "evil last days." And recall that as we *continue in* [abide in] God's Word, we are equipped with God's own armor, the sword of the Spirit (which is the Word of God) in Christian warfare. (Lesson 9, 2 Tim. 2) . Also see **Ephesians 6:10-17**. (Luther himself sang of the devil, "...One little Word can fell him." [CW 863])

2) **"Convinced"/ "Firmly believed"** (ESV) -- Faith, pure & simple, grounded on the Word & in Christ.

3) **Reliable teachers ("you know those from whom you learned it")** -- Timothy's mother & grandmother who had a "sincere faith" (and which Timothy now also had) (2 Tim. 1:5); and also Paul (2 Tim. 2:2,10). We can each be thankful to the Lord for parents, teachers, pastors, and others who with sincere faith have brought us up, taught, and modeled for us the truth and grace of Scripture, of salvation, of life in and through Jesus Christ alone. Pray for the Lord to continue providing our churches with the same, and that we would continue living and sharing the Gospel message with others & for future generations. (TPB pp.148-149)

b. **v.15a, "from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures"**

1) **"from infancy" / "from childhood"** (ESV) -- Oh, to be exposed to the Scriptures from birth and to have sincere role models in the Faith. And to *"continue"* throughout life, learning & growing in faith, far beyond confirmation, which is just the beginning of our *"having known"* Scripture. (SG #85 #86 p.104)

2) **"have known"** -- Knowledge is often used as a synonym for faith in Scripture. See Titus 1:1 *"knowledge of the truth."* (TLSB 3:15). It refers to knowing within the heart & soul; not just an intellectual "head-knowledge."

3) **"the Holy Scriptures" / "the sacred writings"** (ESV) --

"The Scriptures Timothy had known since infancy were the writings of the Old Testament. From them he already had been brought to faith in the Christ, the promised Messiah. Jesus too had said of them that they 'testify about me' (**John 5:39**)\*.

When Paul came to Lystra and showed that Jesus had fulfilled all promises regarding the Messiah, Lois and Eunice and Timothy believed. This was not a new and different faith, but they now knew the identity of the one in whom they already, on the basis of the Old Testament promises, believed." (TPB p.149)

c. **v.15b**, "*to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus*"

"What makes the Holy Scriptures so important is that they and they alone reveal the way of salvation, which is through faith in Christ Jesus. 'As it is written: 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him'--but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit' (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)." (TPB pp.149-150)

d. **v.16a**, "*All Scripture is God-breathed*" / "*breathed out by God*" (ESV) / "*inspired by God*" (EHV note)

1) "**All Scripture**" -- This definitely refers to the "sacred writings" of Old Testament (from which Lois & Eunice had learned of the prophecies of the promised Messiah to come). This also refers to the inspired writings of the apostolic writers, later to be referred to as the New Testament. See **1 Corinthians 2:12-13\*\***, "...words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words." "Yes, God even taught them the very words in which to express His revealed truth. The Scriptures are verbally inspired. This is true of both the Old and New Testament writings." (TPB p.150)

2) "**...is God-breathed**"

a) "...what is written is the infallible and authoritative Word of God." (CSB 3:16)

b) "*breathed out by God*" - "An allusion to creation. Words are formed by breath, and breath is synonymous with life" (TLSB 3:16). See the Scriptural connection: God's Words created. God's breath at Creation breathed life into Adam; Life-giving Words through God-breathed Scripture; And the Word that became breathing-flesh and dwelled among us to bring us life that was the light of men shining in the darkness (John 1).

c) "The Holy Spirit makes His revelation in and through the Scriptures. There is a close relationship between the Holy Scriptures and the Holy Spirit... All Scriptures being God-breathed. This makes the Scriptures unique... divinely inspired." (TPB p.150)

\* "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." (**2 Peter 1:20-21**)\*\*\*

e. **v.16b, "...and is useful"** ("*profitable*" [ESV])... -- for pastors, teachers, and every Christian (TPB p.150)

1) **"...for teaching"** -- Matthew 28:19-21, "make disciples of all nations," by "baptizing," and "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." This "everything" is what God has given us in His Word. Scripture alone is "useful" for the kind of *teaching* we are to do. (TBP p.151)

2) **"for rebuking" / "reproof"** (EHV) -- convicting of sin (TPB)

"What is sin? Is abortion sin? Is sex outside of marriage sin? Is drunkenness sin? Is divorce sin? Is failure to pay one's taxes sin? Not everyone gives the same answer. Who is right? The confusion in the world can also confuse the Christian. God determines what is sin. In Scripture, God gives us the only reliable criterion on which to determine what is right and what is wrong." Scripture (Law) convicts of sin. (TPB p.151)

3) **"for correcting"** -- "restoring or improving those who fall." (TPB p.151)

"The law rebukes, convicts; but to restore the sinner, the Gospel is essential. The Gospel moves the heart, strengthens faith, and builds up so that correction takes place. Only Holy Scripture proclaims the saving Gospel that leads us to Christ, without whom we can do nothing (John 15:5)" (This is fundamentally different from what many churches [and individuals misguidedly] teach. Many believe "correcting" comes through use of the Law. It is the Gospel that brings correction, restoration, improvement in hearts & lives. The Holy Spirit brings us to repentance/faith through and by Christ's redemptive love.)

4) **"for training in righteousness"** -- which is "...ongoing training to attain to the righteousness of life (sanctification) that is part of being a Christian in this world of sin... Scripture [Gospel] is useful 'for training in righteousness,' for it reveals to us the 'Grace of God that brings salvation,' that 'teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age' (Titus 2:11-12)." (TBP pp.151-152) God's Grace does this. His work in our hearts.

f. **v.17, "thoroughly equipped for every good work"**

1) **"thoroughly equipped"** / "complete, well equipped" (EHV)

"God has given us His holy, inspired, infallible, powerful Word, the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Having this, a pastor and teacher, yes every Christian, is "thoroughly equipped for every good work" that the Lord may ask of him. "Thoroughly equipped" means he has everything he needs to accomplish the task." (TPB p.152)

2) **"for every good work"** -- For pastors, the work of the Ministry of God's Word. For teachers, the work of teaching God's Word. And for every Christian, the work of service according to God's Word, which is service in Christ's name, and the sharing of His love & grace with others.

a) We are equipped to do good works through God's inspired Word, the Gospel of Christ Jesus, the Holy Spirit's working in our lives. Good works are surely an overflow of love for Christ that meets the needs of others. We are well-equipped for every good work. (I'm sure we'll be studying this further when we get to the next Pastoral Epistle [Titus]).

b) "Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10, EHV)

g. **Discussion questions (SG #85-89, pp.50-51 & 104-105):**

(These questions are simply a review of the information above, answers found & discussed in this last section "[2 Timothy 3:14-17](#) -- The Source of the Christian's Faith, Life, & Power")

- 1) #85. Who taught Timothy the Scriptures (2 Timothy 1:2,5)?
- 2) #86. How long should one continue to study the Bible? Why?
- 3) #87. In what respects is the Bible different from all other books?
- 4) #88. How do we know that every word in the Bible was written by divine inspiration?

\*John 5:39 - testified (prophesied accurately) of the Messiah, Jesus Christ

\*\*1 Corinthians 2:13 - words, not from human wisdom, but from the Spirit alone

\*\*\*2 Peter 1:21 - prophets spoke precisely, accurately from God, carried along by the Holy Spirit

2 Thess. 2:14-15 - It proves itself as evidenced in its work in our lives

5) #89. Why should we hold firmly to the doctrine of "plenary (complete full Bible) verbal (each word) inspiration" of the Bible? Why do we believe that every single word in the Bible is the very word of God)?:

It is not just the ideas or thoughts that are inspired, but the words themselves that are breathed out by God. We firmly believe this because Scripture teaches this (and God cannot lie). To deny this is to put the Bible's authority and infallibility in doubt. We know it is the living active Word of God through which the Holy Spirit actively moves. The Source of our faith, life, & power! This is evident in our lives, in this world, in the Church.

A note about the Holy Divine Inspiration of Scripture (taken from The Lutheran Study Bible):

"The biblical teaching about inspiration of Scripture deserves special attention. When Paul wrote to Timothy about the inspiration of Scripture, he had in mind particularly the Hebrew Scripture, what we today call the Old Testament. (Paul also considered NT Scripture inspired...). 'Inspired' is simply a shorter way of saying 'breathed out by God' and indicates the source of Sacred Scripture--God Himself.

"God breathed His Spirit into His prophets (OT) and apostles (NT), so that the words they wrote down would be God's words. Inspiration means that, not just the thought or general idea came from God, but also the wording, the sentence structure, and the literary composition flowed from God as well as from the authors onto the written page. God worked with the personalities, skills, and abilities of these writers. As a result, the Scripture reflects the writers' diversity of styles and perception. We get to know the authors as well as the message when we read God's Holy Word. Yet the Holy Scripture also displays a remarkable unity because God inspired it." (TLSB p.1560)

## **References:**

TPB = "The People's Bible (Commentary): 1,2 Timothy, Titus" 2nd edition, by Armin W. Schuetze. Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, WI. 2000 (2nd ed.). (Originally published 1988)

TLSB = The Lutheran Study Bible, English Standard Version, General editor Rev. Edward A. Engelbrecht. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. Published 2009.

CSB = Concordia Self-Study Bible, New International Version, General editor Robert G. Hoerber. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis MO. 1986.

SG = Study Guide used in our Women's Bible Study (by participants in-person and via Zoom): "1 and 2 Timothy, Titus: Keeping the Faith" by A.C. Mueller. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO. 2006. (This is part of the Bible study series "God's Word for Today")

EW = Enduring Word Bible Commentary, Online, for 2 Timothy 3. (Minor supplemental resource only.)

CW = "Christian Worship Hymnal" as authorized by the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, WI. First edition, 2021.

"Luther's Catechism: The Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther" (Anniversary Edition). Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, WI. 2017.

## **Bible translations used:**

EHV = Evangelical Heritage Version

ESV = English Standard Version

NIV = New International Version