

Scripture Teaches Us How to Live Right

By Pastor Francis Williams

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”
(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV).

In 2 Timothy 3:16 we read that “All Scripture is inspired of God.” Consequently, God is the source of all Scripture. The result is that Scripture is the creative, life-giving breath of God. Since God is the source of Scripture, it means that Scripture is profitable or useful for us in a variety of ways. Our text lists four areas for which Scripture is useful: doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness. Let us define each of these.

1. **Doctrine:** The first term, doctrine, can also be translated as teaching. With regard to the church, doctrine is that which is taught and believed by the church to be true. Doctrine is important because it helps us to know what we believe. Because what we believe will influence how we live.
2. The second term in the list is “reproof.” It tells us that Scripture is useful for “reproof” or “rebuking.” To rebuke means to express sharp disapproval or criticism of someone because of their behavior or actions. Because we are not perfect, we often need the gentle reproof of Scripture so that we would not stray from what the Bible teaches us.
3. The third term, “correction”, comes from the verb which means to set upright. The Bible does not only rebuke us when we are wrong. It actually sets us on the right path. It does not only warn us of the wrong path. It also teaches us how to live right (see Matt. 7:13-14).
4. Finally, Scripture is also useful for “instruction in righteousness.” The term instruction conveys the idea of training or discipline. Just as athletes need training to reach their potential, so every Christian needs training in righteousness, that is, training to do God’s will. God’s will can be summarized as follows: to love God and our neighbors. This knowledge of God’s will can be found only in what God reveals to us in Scripture.

