**WHAT IS THE BIBLE**

**AND**

**WHAT THE BIBLE IS GOOD FOR**

WRITTEN BY GREGG LEE

**COLOSIANS 1:27**

**To whom God would make known**

**what is the riches of the glory**

**of this mystery among the Gentiles;**

**which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

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**THE BIBLE**

In this study, I want to look into what the Bible is good for, how we got this Bible, and what is its purpose. The Bible is commonly called the Word of God. Logically speaking this means that the words of the Bible are from God. Based on this premise, let us look at the word’s that are in the Bible, and see what they have to say about themselves.

**2 Pe 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.** Whenever I look into the scripture for the purpose of understanding what it is saying, I keep this verse in mind. We are not allowed to say what we think the scripture means. So, the process to understanding God’s Word then becomes understanding what the words that are in God’s Word mean. All language has rules that are steadfast. These rules offer a guidepost to the written word. Understanding the structure and usage of the words that are in God’s Word, according to the rules of grammar, can help unfold the mysteries, and misunderstandings that are obscuring the meaning of God’s Word.

**2 Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

 **17That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

This verse says that all scripture, in God’s Word, is inspired by God. Then it goes on to say, what God’s Word is good for.

What is the first word? It is the word “all”. All is always used as “all without exception,” or “all with distinction.” All without exception means everything is included, it is all inclusive, nothing gets left out. On the other hand, “All with distinction” has qualifications involved that have to be met, before inclusion can be met into the group of all. For example, **John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

God gave His Son to the whole world. This is everybody in the world that has ever been alive, past-present-future. This is an example of all without exception. Anybody can believe on Him, believe on Jesus Christ, and get everlasting life. This usage would be “all without exception,” anybody can receive this everlasting life, and be part of this group.

All with distinction is also found, in this same verse. God gave His only begotten son, so thatwhosoever,Whosoever - this is another word that means all. With this usage of whosoever, there are qualifying factors that have to be met. Only those who “believe in him” (this is “believe on Him” in the Greek,) can receive this everlasting life, and be part of this group.

This invitation went out to the whole world, but only those who made to choose to accept this invitation and believe on Jesus Christ can be included. God made this so simple, it is not His choice but ours, to be part of this group.

Since the definition of everlasting life is not gone into detail here we will have to keep our eyes open, and read some more of God’s Word.

#### Romans 10:9, 10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.  10For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Anybody can confess Jesus as Lord, and anybody can believe Jesus got up from the dead. This means anybody can get saved.

**11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed**. Here again we have the word whosoever/all. This is all with distinction, only those who believe on Him get salvation. It also says here that all who believe on Him, shall (absolutely) not be ashamed. There will be no disappointment for believing on Jesus Christ.

God will fulfill all of His Word. **Psalms 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.**

This verse confirms: **John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** The invitation is only profitable to whomever would believe.

What is this “**believeth unto righteousness**” in verse 10, talking about. To learn more about this, we have to go back a few verses to verse 6. To talk about verse 6, I have to go back even farther. Let’s look at chapter 9 where God first starts talking about righteousness in verse 30.

**Ron 9:30 ¶ What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.**

It says here that the Gentiles got righteousness, which is of faith.

**31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.**

It says here that Israel did not make it to the law of righteousness. Israel, the chosen of God, did not get righteousness; in contrast the gentiles, whom were considered less than dogs by Israel, did get righteousness. Somebody, in these two groups, did something different. Let’s see what it was that was done, to inherent this righteousness which is of faith.

**32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;**

Israel looked for righteousness, through the works of the law. God says here that they stumbled in finding righteousness, by looking for righteousness in the works of the law. So, if you are seeking after righteousness, you will not find it in the works of the law. Do not stumble at the same stumblingstone to find righteousness that Israel did. If we do not want to stumble, we need to look for righteousness in the right direction. We need to seek righteousness through faith. Israel lost out because they sought righteousness “not by faith.” Let us keep reading.

**33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**

God talks funny here. He says that this stumblingstone is a person that you can believe on. We read these words “believe on him,” earlier in John 3:16. Are they talking about the same thing? Also, God says here that when you believe on Him you will not be ashamed (*disappointed*). By not believing on this person you stumble over this rock of offence, (which is a person). Is believing on this person the road to righteousness? What are we supposed to believe?

**Rom 10:1 ¶ Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.**

I know this is talking to Israel (Israel was Paul’s brethren, not the gentiles), and it is Israel that Paul is saying he wants to be saved, but stay with me for a bit.

**2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.**

Israel had tremendous zeal for God in their religion. Their zeal was not in listening to the words, that were in the Word of God. We read earlier that they stumbled over “looking for faith,” in the works of the law. They were getting excited over the wrong things. God is saying here that Israel did not know what they were talking about. God is also saying that zeal alone, towards God, is not enough to get righteousness. Having the right religion: attending church the right number of days, saying the right Ecumenical, or Creed, or any other confession of faith in the church is not enough to get us righteousness.

We need to have zeal, according to the knowledge found in God’s Word. This would not be knowledge that we get in school, or from a book off the shelf. We need to have the knowledge, of the subject, of Jesus Christ, given by God. We need to look to God’s Word.

**3 For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.**

See here, it says they ignored God; they acted, while being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and tried to did it their own way. By doing this they did not bow to Gods Way of righteousness. They figured that by all of the special things they did, (God calls these things works in another place in the bible,) they were righteousness before God. But here God says that this is not the righteousness that He offered to Israel. God gave His Word to Israel so that it could be written down. This Word was now a substance that could be looked upon, touched, heard, and believed.

They paid attention to the things in the Word that they had to do, but not to the heart behind the acts that they found in God’s Word.

**4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**

If you want the righteousness that is from God, you have to go through Jesus Christ. The start of this path of righteousness is to believe on Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is that stumblingstone that God gave first to Israel, then to the whole world. Jesus Christ was promised in the Old Testament as a Savior to Israel. The Leadership of Israel believed on the law, and then ignored Jesus Christ as their savior, when they saw Him.

They did not believe on Him as their Messiah, because they had their own opinion on how He should act, and what He should look like. They were waiting for the “King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.” Jesus reached out and touched the people, He did not sit in a throne and rule. His Kingdom was Spiritual, not Physical**. Mr 4:41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?** **Mt 12:28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.**

What showed up was the man Jesus, the one who could identify with us as people. Our Lord and Savior who looked at us eye to eye. What are you to believe? All we can believe on is those things which we know. To believe on Jesus Christ, we first have to know about Jesus Christ. God’s Word is the place to go, to learn about Jesus Christ, and to learn what we need to believe. Jesus Christ is the subject of the entire bible, from Genesis 3:15 to Revelation 22:21. The woman’s seed that was mentioned in Genesis 3:15 was the promised seed of Jesus Christ.

 A trap here is to believe on the things people that say about Jesus Christ, without looking in the Word of God, for the truth of what God is saying. **Ac 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.** Even God says, don’t take peoples word as to what His Word says. The result, of deciding for yourself, what God’s Word is saying is why there are so many different Christian Religions in the world today.

In the Old Testament, faithful people looked forward to their Savior, and believed upon the words of God’s Word. Today, we do the same; we look upon God’s Word, and believe the words God has given to His prophets.

**5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.**

To be righteousness by the law, you have to live by the law. The rules of the law are written in God’s Word.

**6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise**

Now, we are again talking about the righteousness which is by faith. We saw this righteousness talked about in verse 30. This is something brand new to the world. This righteousness is obtained by believing on the person, like it says in Rom. 9:33. That person that we are to believe on, is Jesus Christ. The rules before Jesus Christ, were to believe on the words that came from God. Israel was to live by these words that God gave to His prophets. Moses was one of those prophets through whom God gave written laws for the people of Israel to believe unto, and to live by. Now Righteousness which is of faith is not obtained by works. We need to believe on “Jesus Christ who is righteous; on Jesus Christ who is free from sin,” to receive this righteousness which is by faith.

**6** cont. **Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)**

**7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)**

**8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;** God’s Word is the word of faith. We need to seek the righteousness which is by faith. So, how do we find this righteousness which is by faith. We need to keep reading.

**Romans 10:9, 10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**

**10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

**11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**

**12 ¶ For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.**

**13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.** See it is all about Jesus Christ, He is the fulcrum to salvation. It is only through believing on Jesus Christ that we are lifted into heaven.

This is only the beginning; salvation comes first through believing the words of faith about salvation. What else do these words of faith teach us? **Romans 10:13** teach us that anybody can call upon the name of the Lord and be saved. As we read **Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** This faith which is the road to righteousness comes by hearing God’s Word. It is through these words of faith that we are to believe on to get faith, and through faith we then get righteousness.

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

**17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.**

If thou shalt confess (vrs 10)…. this is addressed to everybody (we know this is true because of Rom 10:11, and other places like John 3:16), anybody can believe Gods word and confess in their innermost heart what these words of God say (that Jesus is their Lord and savior). These words “**confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus”** (*confess that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior*) are followed by the word and. This word “and,” is a conjunction which connects two separate thoughts. In this case it is required not only to confess Jesus as Lord, but also, to **believe in thine heart** that what you are confessing “Jesus as your personal Lord and savior” is true.

God gave this invitation to everybody, so that all people could believe these words.

God breaks it down for us to make it simple. Confess the words that are in the Word, about Jesus Christ, and believe the words that are in the Word, about Jesus Christ.

Has everybody in the world confessed that Jesus is Lord? I think you know the answer to that. Think about those people that you know, and those whom you have met. Do they all respect and love God, do they all respect and love their brothers, and sisters, and their friends.

There is a time coming when every knee shall bow, and everybody shall know that Jesus Christ is Lord.

**Ro 14:11 For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.** This is every knee, every person that is living or has ever been alive.

**1 Corinthians 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption**

Is this talking to everybody, well who is the book of Corinthians talking to? Let’s look at verse 2.

**1 Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and our's**

This book, “the Bible” was written, so that all who would believe on the words given by God, could be reconciled to God. Adam and Eve had a spiritual relationship with God. When they sinned, this relationship was lost to them, and all of the children to come. On the day that God confronted Adam and Eve, along with satan, He promised a man that would come from the seed of the woman. This man would bruise satan’s head. This seed of the woman was Jesus Christ, the one whom God sent to reconcile mankind to Himself. **Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**

Before Jesus was born, people looked forward to, and believed on the promise of the Savior of mankind coming. The bible as a whole has always been a guideline for Gods people. Does God want everybody on earth to serve Him, yes! Yet in spite of this desire of God, for all to serve Him, He gave us all a choice. This choice is to believe, or not to believe on Jesus Christ. Will you choose to believe, on the one, whom God has sent for mankind’s redemption?

This bible that we love so much, teaches those of us who love God how to live. God sent Jesus for the redemption of mankind; but as individuals we have to choose to believe on Jesus Christ, to receive that redemption.

Look at the word all. This is all with distinction. **Corinthians 1:2 All that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ**. All that Believe what God says in his word.

**Ro 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.** Whosoever/all who call upon the name of the Lord.

While the invitation from God was for all people to call upon the name of the Lord; and God made it possible for all people to believe those things that were written in His Word. This distinction becomes a reality when only some people accept the invitation which is from God. The instruction that comes with the invitation is to everybody: this instruction is to call upon the name of the Lord as Lord, and believe in the heart the words that God has placed in His Word, concerning the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9)

So, what happens is that only some believe: only some call upon the name of the Lord, only some receive the benefits of being saved. God would not ask us to doo something that we are not able to do. When we act upon God’s Words, believing upon those words, God gives us the strength to carry through. **1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.** We need this help with all of the distractions that confront us daily as we call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you want to be saved, to be born again, you need to obey these words. **Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** God promises that we will not be disappointed. **Rom. 10:11** **For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**

We have been given a ministry by God, because we answered that call from God. We were given the responsibility of reconciling other people that are willing to listen, back to God. God uses us to bring people back to him. We do the talking, and God does the calling. God talks through us, to reach all people who will listen.

**2 Corinthians 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;**

**2 Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

**“inspiration of God”** This phrase is one word in the Greek, it is theopeunustos, literally saying God breathed. The words came from God to the man of God. I know this is true because of other verses in Gods word.

**Gal 1:11, 12 but I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.**

**12For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

**Amplified version**

 **11For I want you to know, brethren, that the Gospel which was proclaimed and made known by me is not man's gospel [a human invention, according to or patterned after any human standard].**

**12For indeed I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but [it came to me] through a [direct] revelation [given] by Jesus Christ (the Messiah).**

This verse says the word was given thru [direct] revelation of Jesus Christ. Does everybody know what revelation is; revelation would be God talking to you through the spirit. There are 3 types of revelation in God’s word: **Word of knowledge, Word of wisdom, and Discerning of spirits**. **Word of knowledge** tells you -“the what about”- anything that God wants to talk to you about. Word of wisdom is “the what to do about” that “what about” that God has already talked to you about. These two work as partners allowing God to guide us in our day to day lives. We know “what is going on” and “what to do about it” according to God’s Word. Discerning of spirits is always God talking to you about spirits, and whether they are good or bad. Discerning of spirits always works together with Word of wisdom, and Word of knowledge. So if you get some knowledge about something that is going on, Wait, in prayer for the what to do about it, before you act. We want God’s thoughts to guide our life, not our own.

**2 Peter 1:20, 21  Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**

**21For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

This verse says moved by the Holy Ghost. This is not talking about God grabbing hold of you and making you do something. Just look at **Jeremiah 36:1 ¶ And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 2 Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day. 3 It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.** Here we have an example of God given His Word to one of His prophets. What do you think Jeremiah’s reaction should be to God talking to him. God gave him a bunch of words for the house of Judah to hear.

Jeremiah immediately acted upon the words of God, and did as he was told.

**36:4 Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book**. It does not say here why Jeremiah did not write these words from God down himself. It is apparent that being able to read and write is not a requirement to being faithful to God. Jeremiah got a faithful scribe to write the words of God down.

**5 And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, I am shut up; I cannot go into the house of the LORD: 6Therefore go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the LORD in the ears of the people in the LORD's house upon the fasting day: and also thou shalt read them in the ears of all Judah that come out of their cities.** Jeremiah could not go in to the house of the Lord because he was shut up, **Jer 39:15 Now the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, while he was shut up in the court of the prison** Baruch went into the the Lord’s House and did all that Jeremiah commanded of him **36:8 And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading in the book the words of the LORD in the LORD’S house.**

**17And they asked Baruch, saying, Tell us now, How didst thou write all these words at his mouth?  18Then Baruch answered them, He pronounced all these words unto me with his mouth, and I wrote them with ink in the book.**

God spoke to Jeremiah, Jeremiah spoke to Baruch, Baruch did as Jeremiah told him. Jeremiah obeyed God and got the words from God written down, He then got these words to be read in the House of God. Jeremiah did all as God commanded. Jeremiah moved by Gods instructions. **2 Peter 1:21  For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**

The King ended up hearing all of the words that God gave to Jeremiah.

**21 So the king sent Jehudi to fetch the roll: and he took it out of Elishama the scribe’s chamber. And Jehudi read it in the ears of the king, and in the ears of all the princes which stood beside the king. 22 Now the king sat in the winterhouse in the ninth month: and there was a fire on the hearth burning before him. 23 And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.**

God reacted to this by talking to Jeremiah again.

**27 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, after that the king had burned the roll, and the words which Baruch wrote at the mouth of Jeremiah, saying, 28 Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned. 29 And thou shalt say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, Thus saith the LORD; Thou hast burned this roll, saying, Why hast thou written therein, saying, The king of Babylon shall certainly come and destroy this land, and shall cause to cease from thence man and beast? 30 Therefore thus saith the LORD of Jehoiakim king of Judah; He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David: and his dead body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost. 31 And I will punish him and his seed and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring upon them, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and upon the men of Judah, all the evil that I have pronounced against them; but they hearkened not.**

Jeremiah now has to act again because God told him to.

**32Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words.**

This says that the man of God Jeremiah spoke the words he received from the Lord, and that the scribe wrote those words. Jeremiah had to do this because he was in prison. Paul had to do the same thing for some of the epistles. God can deal with any obstacle that gets in our path. **Jer 33:1 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the second time, while he was yet shut up in the court of the prison, saying,**

God does not need a man of God to be able to read and write, He only needs that man or woman to be faithful to Him. God will always provide a way.

**2Pe 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost**

**2 Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**

 **Ga 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ**

All three of these verses agree. They say that Prophesy of the Scripture did not come out of the thoughts of man but: moved by the Holy Ghost, inspiration of God, or revelation of Jesus Christ. The words that are in the bible are all from God. We are in the middle of an example in Jeremiah, of how we got the Word of God.

 He (Barach, talking about Jeremiah talking to Barach) pronounced all these words unto me with his mouth, and I wrote. These verses, all tell us how we got this word. God talked to his faithful servants, and they all wrote or had written by somebody else what God said to them. Sometimes the prophets only spoke the words given to them by God. It was still God’s Word, with all of the authority from God. **2Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God,**

It works just like I am talking to you, if you are taking notes you would be writing what I am saying. If you are a secretary you write what the boss dictates, it works the same way.

**2 Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

This says all scripture was given by inspiration of God, all scripture from Genesis to Revelation was given by God. This is an example of all without distinction. Each and every word in God’s Word is given by God, to holy men of God, who spoke by the words that God gave them.

And all scripture is profitable…. We all know what profitable is right, that is when you get more back that you had in the first place. Everybody likes to make a profit. God’s Word says here that: all scripture is profitable for doctrine, and that all scripture is profitable for reproof, and that all scripture is profitable for correction, and that all scripture is profitable for instruction in righteousness.

For doctrine, this is right learning for living rightly, the right way to think. Here is one example of how this works from 11 Peter. This section is not a quick seminar, but a lifetime effort to reach the pentacle of walking in the steps of Jesus Christ. God wants us to be the example to this world, of what it means to have Christ in you, the Hope of Glory. This is part of the ministry of reconciliation at work. The other part is speaking out to others what God has taught you from your studies in His Word, and what He speaks to you directly. Reconciling people to God is not a onetime thing. You stay with them, and encourage them, and walk with them, in their daily growth through Jesus Christ.

For reproof, this is when we are making a mistake in living rightly. God puts us back on the right track with His word, and with those around us who are listening to God, and talking for God. He-God tells us what is wrong, where our thoughts are on the wrong track; then He shows us how to live rightly, thinking the thoughts we need to be thinking. The profit to us is when we listen and get back on the right track.

For correction, this is when we are way off the doctrine of how to live rightly. Odds are we are having a hard time listening to God about some point. God still uses the word, and other sons and daughters of His to get us back on track. He still shows us where our thoughts are off, and then shows us what to put in our thoughts. God encourages all of His children to work together; your spiritual family will be encouraged by God to work with you. Listen to your family, and spend time in the Word of God, and prayer. Meditate on the Words in God’s Word, and be whole.

**11 Peter 1:1 ¶ Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 ¶ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;**

I would like to look at this conjunction, and in the last verse. Conjunctions connect, contrast, or continue. This one is the word “de” #1161 according to the Strong’s numbering system. This conjunction is an adversative conjunction usually bringing up a statement against another statement. However it is also used as a continuative: moreover, even also. This is how this word “de” is used in vrs’s: 5, 6,7, 8. The conjunction and adds all of these characteristics together; faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity.

 **6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.**

**Charity is both the foundation, and the pentacle for all spiritual matters in God’s Word.**

***1 Corinthians 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way***. (this more excellent way is charity) ***1 Corinthians 13:1 ¶ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.*** (without charity we are empty) ***2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 4 ¶ Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 ¶ Charity never faileth:*** (charity gets us through all things that we encounter in life) ***but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*** (all things need to be done with charity) ***1 Corinthians 14:1 ¶ Follow after charity,*** Charity is “agape”, which is spiritual love. This love that we get from God, allows us to succeed in all that He asks of us. This word “follow” is to pursue avidly. We are to chase charity with energy, using all of our energy to catch it.

**8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

All scripture is given to us so that we can live rightly.

1. Why would God give us His word? 2. What is in it for God?

**2 Timothy 3:1 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

**17That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.**

Besides showing us how to live, it is so that you may be perfect, throughly furnished. Did God just say perfect? Yes, He did. This word perfect is the Greek work artios, it means complete. This word is used today by joint surgeons; the usage of this word artios is of the joint from one of our limbs fitting into the socket. The joint fills the space so completely that there is no room for the slightest particle of dust. God wants us so complete in Him, so capable in our walk with Him, that there is no doubt; no fear, no distraction, or temptation that will pull us away from Him. So close to God that there is no room for anything that could get in the way, between us and Him.

Throughly, not thoroughly they mean different things. In the original King James, this word is always translated throughly. One is all around and the other is all through, which would be the inside, and the outside. “Throughly furnished unto all good works.” Throughly Furnished is the Greek word exartizo, it was used in secular literature of the day, as a ship ready to sail having everything on board needed. We say this today, “are you ready” meaning do you have everything done.

Perfect (artios a verb,) and throughly furnished (exartizo a noun) are the same word in the Greek, they are just used differently. Perfect is in action; we are to become fully capable, or completely practiced, in our walk with God. This is accomplished by putting the words of God’s Word on, in our minds, as our thoughts. We are to then use these words for thoughts in our everyday life. We can become so full of God’s word that there is no room for anything else; we will then be walking by God’s word, artios-perfect in the English. Throughly furnished is the end result having everything we need from God. This is what we will be when we are completely filled with Gods word: completely, complete; or perfectly, perfect. At this point you will be a perfect reflection of Jesus Christ in this world.

**Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

God predestined us to be conformed to the image of His Son. When people see us as Christians, they see the reflection of Jesus Christ in us. Our job is to keep that reflection focused. As we get distracted with other things in life our attention is pulled away from the things of God. When this happens, the reflection of Jesus Christ that is seen in us, our image becomes a little bit blurred. The more our attention is pulled away from the things of God, the more our reflection becomes unclear. We all reflect the things that are on our mind. When our mind becomes cluttered with many different things, our image that we reflect in life becomes cluttered also. Our life becomes a collage, and is no longer picture perfect. Having different interests is ok; we just need to keep our priorities in order. It says here to bring every thought into captivity under the obedience of Christ.

We need to put all of our interests under the subjection of Jesus Christ. This is to be our lifetime focus. As Jesus said **Mathew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

**2Co 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ**

**2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:  4Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

This is how we can do all that we are asked. It is through the applied knowledge that is from God (this is what is in the pages of the bible you own, The Knowledge from God.) This knowledge God has called us to. Acting on this knowledge that God placed His exceeding great and precious promises to us in, is what allows us to partake in the divine nature that God has given to us. These same promises allow us to **escape the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

So what does God want us to do, let’s read the next 4 verses in 2 Timothy.

**2 Timothy 4:1-4  I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;**

**2Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.**

**3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

**4And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

God wants us to teach others all the time. He wants us to teach whether the time seems right or not. The time will come when some of Gods people will no longer listen to Gods words, but look for other things to hear.

How are we going to be able to teach the word to others, what are we going to say?

**11 Corinthians 5:18-19 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;**

**19To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**

God has given us the words to use, and God has given us the tools so that we can do that job. How many people think God is great? Wouldn’t you like your friends and family, wouldn’t you like everybody you know to have the same feelings about God that you do.

**11 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Shew, this is a funny word. This word used to be how people would say show. It means the same thing as saying to show something. To put in somebody’s face, you know, with your arm out and you say here look at this. Hey let me show you something. But here we are showing ourselves to God. And not just showing ourselves, but showing ourselves because God has promised His approval of us. Wouldn’t you like to be approved of God, I know I would. And it says needeth not to be ashamed. We won’t need to be ashamed in front of God. God will look at us, and say you are OK.

So what should we do?

**Jas 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the ingrafted word, which is able to save your souls.** Receive God’s word with meekness, fill your head and heart with the words of God from the bible.

**Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.** Retain God’s word with conviction. Don’t let go of God’s word for anything. Do not let anybody, or any book talk you out of believing Gods word. These words are your very life, so hang onto them with conviction.

**Philippians 2:16 Holding forth the word of life;** Speak Gods word to everybody, you are saving their life and making a friend.

One last thought.

**God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4:24**

Gods wants us to worship Him (by choice He wants us to choose Him), **in spirit and in truth** this is what God gets out of all that He does for us. He gets children who worship Him in spirit and in truth.

**John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**

Freedom from what, what does it take to be free, what kinds of things hold us in chains? Fears, doubts, unbelief, self-loathing, there are all kinds of things that fall into these categories; thinking that people will not love us; that we will not be good enough, that we don’t belong, that God won’t, that God can’t. I think maybe all emotional bondage falls under these categories. These are all things that stop us in our tracks, things that stop us from going forward with God.

**John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**

Trust on Jesus Christ, believe on Jesus Christ, and you too will be free.

This freedom from all bondage is some of what the Words in the bible are good for.

This reminds me of a song I like to sing.

He’s the healer of broken hearts;

He’ll mend your shattered dreams;

He’ll pick up the threads of your broken heart,

and weave them together again.

To your soul he’ll bring peace and joy;

Your friend indeed he’ll be.

He’s the healer of broken hearts,

this Jesus of blue Galilee.

Choose Jesus Christ and receive life.