

2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; 2 Peter 1:19-2:2
The Word and the Warning

REFLECT:

The priority of God's Word is the theme of our study. God's word is a glorious gift to His saints. It equips us, instructs us, corrects us, moves us, lights our way. Of course believers should place a priority on God's Word. Unfortunately that is not always the case. In fact, the New Testament issues a clear warning for students of God's Word about the challenges that will confront the church and individuals seeking to know God's Word. Questions that we often grapple with inside and outside the church are: Doesn't the Bible mean different things to different people? How can we trust the Bible? Or, isn't that kind of outdated? What does the Bible say about all of that?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Based on 2 Timothy 3:16-17, What is the purpose of God's Word? How comprehensive is that list? Discuss the different applications Paul mentions — How do they relate to one another? What is the ultimate end of applying God's Word in the life of the believer? Are there any other supporting scriptures that describe the purpose of God's Word? (John 17:17; Psalm 119 - for personal study)
2. Paul tells us in the same verses that ALL SCRIPTURE is inspired by God. The Greek term for "given by inspiration of God" is the term theopneustos: theo(God)-pneustos(breathed) or "God breathed." What scripture is Paul talking about, or what does ALL mean? Is there anything prophetic to what he is saying? Since God's Word is God-breathed, how does that impact our study and understanding of the Bible?
3. Read through 1 Peter 1:20-21. Perhaps you have heard this, "The Bible means different things to different people." Is the Bible open for private interpretation? Why or why not? How does that affect personal application?

Extra study: How does all of that relate to 1 John 5:7; John 1:1; Psalm 138:2