

## 2 Timothy 3:14-17 — How Do I Stand Strong For Jesus?

**April 25, 2021**

Today, it is hard to find the truth.

When President Trump was in office, he coined the term fake news. That term stuck. People still use that to describe the news. A recent Gallup pole revealed that seven out of every 10 Americans no longer trust the media. They believe the news is fake. People consider the news a political propaganda tool that is designed to manipulate the public. Does anyone feel like that might be true?

Pedaling false information to manipulate people is nothing new. The media and politics are not the only places where deception is found. There is even more religious deception taking place than there is political deception. Since the Garden of Eden, Satan has been hard at work twisting truth to manipulate people away from the God of the universe who loves them. That continues today.

That means even more important than learning how to avoid political and media deception is learning how to avoid religious deception, because Satan is working hard to lead us astray. Today, we are going to find out how we can be the kind of people who stand strong for Jesus. We are going to learn how we can avoid being deceived by Satan so we can be faithful to Jesus all the way to the end of our lives.

As a church, we are studying our way through 2 Timothy. We are in chapter 3. If you have been with us for a few weeks, you know that in the first half of this chapter Paul took the first nine verses to warn Timothy, and to warn us, about the religious scammers. These are people that are Satan's puppets. They

are working to lead us astray. First, Paul taught Timothy how to recognize a spiritual scammer. They are people who are always more interested in worshipping themselves than in worshipping Jesus. Self-love is their primary character quality. Paul also told us about the techniques they use to lead people astray. They love to worm their way into households. They love to prey on lonely and vulnerable people.

Last week, Paul switched from talking about how we can recognize spiritual scammers and how they work to talking about how we can be the kind of people who avoid being deceived. There are three pillars of strong Christians who avoid being deceived that Paul gave Timothy and us.

Last week, we looked at the first of the three pillars.

**Strong Christians avoid deception by learning from the lives of great Christians that lived before them.**

We all need spiritual heroes. Strong Christians find and follow the lives of other strong Christian heroes that lived in an earlier generation. When we learn about the way great Christians followed Christ in hard times, that inspires us to follow Christ well when we hit hard times.

Last week, we saw this is what Timothy did. Rather than imitating the spiritual frauds around him in Ephesus, Timothy made an intentional choice to pattern his life after the apostle Paul, the man who was his spiritual hero. Paul was one of the best people anyone could follow. Last week, we saw how Timothy studied Paul's pastoring. He tried to pastor the way Paul pastored. He studied Paul's life. He tried to live with the same purpose and faithfulness that Paul displayed. Most importantly, he studied how Paul handled hard times,

persecution, and suffering. Timothy learned from Paul how to suffer well for Jesus. He tried to follow the example of Paul when it came to suffering for Jesus. This helped Timothy suffer well.

This is true for all of us. If we are going to live faithfully for Jesus in a world where people hate Jesus, all of us need to find and follow the lives of spiritual heroes who lived before us so we can be inspired by the example of their lives.

At this point, Paul gave Timothy two more pillars of a strong Christian life. They are found in verses 14-17. Let's read them together before we study them this morning.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:14–17 (ESV)

**Strong Christians avoid deception by having deep-rooted biblical convictions.**

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how 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 3:14–15 (ESV)

Let's look at some of the important words in these verses.

Paul told Timothy to continue in what he *learned*. The word learned means to be disciplined in, taught in. In other words, hold on to what you were taught. Don't chase after spiritually new things. Stay rooted and faithful to what you learned about Jesus and know about Jesus.

Chasing spiritual novelties was not just a temptation for Timothy. It is a temptation for all of us. It is easy to chase the latest conference, the latest book,

the latest hip program. Many of those things lead us away from the tried and trusted truth of Jesus. Don't follow Oprah's latest spiritual craze. It is a dead-end road.

Not only was Timothy to continue in what he was taught about Christ but he was to continue in what he had come to *firmly believe* about Jesus. This is another important word. Firmly believe means to be convinced of something you know is true even if at the moment you cannot articulate why it is true. It is to hold something as a conviction. Paul told Timothy not to change his convictions.

Why would Paul tell Timothy that firmly holding to his convictions, even if he could not fully explain them, would be important if he was to be a strong Christian that avoided the devil's deceptions?

Put yourself in Timothy's shoes. He was a very young pastor in the church of Ephesus. Paul was his hero, his mentor. Unfortunately, Paul was not around. He was in Rome in prison. We know Ephesus had many spiritual scammers in the church. Do you think these devious people tried to trip Timothy up? Do you think they intentionally tried to ask him questions he could not answer? Do you think they tried to make him look bad? You bet they did! Paul wasn't around to help. There were times when they undermined Jesus and Timothy did not have an answer to their questions. What was he to do in those times? He had a choice. He could either jettison his faith or he could continue to hold to what he firmly believed even if he couldn't fully explain it because he was too young and inexperienced.

This is incredibly important if we are going to be strong Christians that avoid the devil's deceptions. When there are times we don't have all the answers to our faith and people push us into the corner, rather than dropping our faith, we must continue to hold to it while we are wrestling with our questions. That is what Timothy had to do. That is what we have to do if we are going to be faithful to the end.

This reminds me of what happens when the Jehovah's Witnesses come knocking at your door. They always ask if they can talk to you about the Bible. Everything sounds so innocent. Then they give you a pamphlet that tells you Jesus isn't God, what is wrong with the church, and why they are the only source of truth. If you are not familiar with their material, it is a convincing sales pitch. Most people are not prepared with answers. The Jehovah's Witness sales pitch sounds convincing. When they leave, you need to choose one of two responses. Either you believe their material, ditch Jesus and 2,000 years of church history because you don't have an answer or you hold to your convictions, even though at the moment you don't have a good answer for your convictions. You need to say to them something like, "Let me take some time to read this more, study it, and talk to other Christians I respect about this. Until I have thought through your pamphlet, I am going to continue in what I have learned and stay firm in my belief."

This is not just a theoretical situation. This happened to me right after I graduated from college. At that time a Jehovah's Witness tried to convert me. I read their material. At first, it appeared convincing. I didn't have an answer for

them. I chose to hold on to my faith even when I didn't have a good answer for them about my faith. Then I took time to study their pamphlet. The more I studied it, the more it fell apart as I found them misquoting the Bible and twisting history. The more I studied, the more I became convinced the Christian faith I grew up with was definitely right and the Jehovah's Witnesses and their pamphlet were deceptive and wrong. They were spiritual scammers. I look back on my life and thank God I was able to hold firmly to what I believed even when I initially didn't have a good answer for what I believed.

This situation doesn't just happen when the Jehovah's Witnesses come to your door. Students, let me talk to you. When you go to college, you will run across a professor who will do everything he can to unseat your faith in Jesus. At first, he will be smarter than you. He will ask you questions you cannot answer. He will tell you things you have never heard and never researched. In those moments, you have a choice. Will you believe your professor and walk away from Jesus or will you firmly hold to what you believe? Will you stick to your convictions? Then will you take the time to study, research, and learn the truth on your own? Let me tell you. Those professors are spiritual deceivers. They are the spiritual scammers talked about in this passage. They are the kind of people who love to take young Timothys and put them in a corner by giving them questions they cannot answer. This is why we must hold firmly to what we believe even when we don't initially have good answers.

What do you do when you are holding to your faith in Jesus but you don't have a great answer for your faith in Jesus? How do you find strength to hold to the truth of Jesus you were taught? Paul answered that in the next phrase.

Remember who you learned it from. Remember the character and trustworthiness of your teachers. If you don't have all the answers for your faith, at least you know that you can rely on the trustworthy character of the teachers who taught you the faith. In Timothy's case, who were these people? While I am sure there are many people, at least three came to mind.

The first would have been the apostle Paul. He was Timothy's best friend. He was the man Timothy admired, was learning from, and tried to pattern his life after. If Timothy didn't know all the answers Paul had for tough questions, what he did know was Paul's character. He knew Paul's life. He knew Paul could be trusted and faith in Jesus was something he could trust because he trusted Paul.

Here is the principle. *The character of a teacher helps a student to know the trustworthiness of what the or she is taught.* If we want to convince people something is true, we must not just teach it. We must believe it and live it.

It wasn't just the character of Paul that helped Timothy hold onto his faith when challenged. It was also the character of two other teachers, his mother and his grandmother.

Paul said, "Remember from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings." From childhood, Timothy was taught the Bible by his mother and grandmother. When Paul began this letter to Timothy, he began it with a compliment to his mother and his grandmother.

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. 2 Timothy 1:5 (ESV)

The faith of Timothy's mother and his grandmother was sincere. It was pure. It was genuine. It was the way his mother and grandmother lived that gave Timothy confidence in Jesus, not just what they said.

Paul said that from Timothy's childhood, these women had taught him the sacred writings. Timothy's father was a Gentile. We have almost no information on him. It is possible that Timothy grew up with a single mother. While Timothy's father was not there to be a good spiritual influence on him, his mother and grandmother went out of their way to educate him in the Old Testament.

When Paul said Timothy was educated in the Old Testament from childhood, the word childhood is sometimes used to describe a fetus. It is sometimes used to describe a very tiny infant. The point is that from the very earliest moments of his life, his mother and grandmother began teaching Timothy the Bible. They were very godly women. Timothy believed them about Jesus, not just because of what they taught about Jesus but because he admired their lives.

While the father always plays an important role in the home, we never want to underestimate the role of a mother. A godly mother plays an extremely important role in the life of her children when it comes to teaching them the Bible.

While formal education of children began at age five, before age five it was the mother's job to pour the Bible into her children so they knew God's Word as well as they knew their own names.

How did Jewish parents teach their children the Word of God? There were three primary ways.



### **1. They taught their children as they went about daily life.**

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (ESV)

You talk about God, the Bible and Jesus as you sit at home instead of watching television. When you go for a walk, you point out the flowers and the sun then tell your children about the beauty, goodness, and power of the God who made them. When your children get up in the morning, you tell them to thank the good God who gave them a new day. When your children go to bed at night, you pray over them, blessing them in your prayers. All day long throughout the day you teach them the things of God as you go through life. It is a mother and father's job to initiate these conversations with their children.

### **2. They taught their children by having them memorize Scripture.**

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11 (ESV)

Jewish parents were big on Scripture memory, just like we are in AWANA. They wanted to get the Bible stuck in children's minds when they were young so they could quote the Bible when they were old. That way the Holy Spirit would bring to the mind of their adult children the Bible they learned when they were young when they needed the wisdom of the Bible when they were old.

**3. They taught their children by catechism.** A catechism is a question and answer format. We have fallen out of the habit of using home catechisms. There is nothing wrong with them. They are good things. If you are a parent, and you are looking for a good catechism to teach your children, go to Amazon and order

The New City Catechism: 52 Questions and Answers For Our Hearts And Minds.<sup>1</sup>

You can order a children's edition. The questions are like this: What is our only hope in life and death? What is God? How and why did God create us? What is sin? These are all important questions we need to be able to answer.

So, Timothy was a fortunate young man. Even if he didn't have all the answers for his faith, he was to continue in what he learned and to hold firmly to the faith he was taught even when people challenged or undermined him. He was to continue holding to his convictions.

The first two pillars of strong Christians that avoid being deceived are, first, they have carefully chosen their heroes and they are imitating their lives, and second, they have strong convictions. They stay firmly rooted in what they believe about Christ even when they are challenged beyond their ability to provide answers about Jesus. This brings us to our third pillar.

**Strong Christians avoid deception by holding to the Word of God.**

...and how 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 (ESV)

Notice what Paul said about the Old Testament. He said, "It is able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus." The Old Testament can make you wise for salvation by faith in Jesus. The Old Testament is able to lead us to faith in Jesus even before Jesus had come. How does it do that?

It tells us about a holy God. It tells us about our sinfulness. The Ten Commandments show us how far short we fall from God, not how good we are before God. The Old Testament tells us the only way to handle sin is there needs

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.amazon.com/dp/1433555077/ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_mt\\_dp\\_7EYPT510GKW2WQ1W5V4Z](https://www.amazon.com/dp/1433555077/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_7EYPT510GKW2WQ1W5V4Z)

to be a blood sacrifice for sin. The Old Testament tells us the sacrificial system could never fix the sin problem because it had to be repeatedly offered. The Old Testament also tells us a savior is coming. The Old Testament also tells us the only way to be made right with God is by faith and not a sacrificial system. Abraham was made right with God by faith; David and Moses were made right with God by faith.

Not only did Timothy stay anchored to the Word of God that is able to save us, but here Paul gave us an explanation of what the Bible is that we hold in our hands. Second Timothy 3:16-17 are very important verses. They teach us the nature of the Word of God. Since these verses and the topic of the nature of the Bible is so important, we will study these verses this morning then come back to them next week and learn even more about them.

**All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness... 2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)**

Strong men and women who defend the truth are committed to the Bible as the Word of God.

**All Scripture is inspired by God.**

**All Scripture is breathed out by God...**

Let's break that down. First, we find that all Scripture is breathed out by God. Not some of it, but *all* of it. The entire Bible is authored by God. Today it is fashionable in woke circles to say that some of the Bible is inspired by God and other parts are not. The immediate problem with that line of thinking is who determines which parts of the Bible are inspired and who determines which parts

of the Bible are not inspired? The answer to that question is the parts we disagree with are the part that must not be inspired so we can ignore them.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America is an example of a denomination that has done this. On its website it comes right out and says that these Lutherans believe the authors of the Bible sometimes missed what God was saying to them or that now God is doing something new so they can ignore what he wrote in the past.

Not only did Paul not see it that way but Jesus also did not see it that way.

**If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken... John 10:35 (ESV)**

Jesus said Scripture cannot be broken. We cannot break it apart. Breaking apart the Bible into parts that are from God and parts that are not from God is like breaking a windshield. As soon as you put a crack in one piece of the glass, you shatter all of the glass. The Bible is a unit.

The next key word is Scripture. What does that mean? It is the Greek word *graphe*, which means writings. It is a commonly used term in the Bible to refer to the words of God given to us in the Bible. When Paul wrote to Timothy about the sacred writings that his mother and grandmother taught him, Paul was referring to the Old Testament. When the Bible uses the term Scripture, it is referring to both the Old and the New Testament, even though the New Testament was not fully written. Let me show you an example.

**For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.” 1 Timothy 5:18 (ESV)**

This passage is talking about elders and that they can be compensated for their service. To support that idea, Paul talked about the Scriptures giving support

to this idea. He gave two quotes. "You shall not muzzle an ox when he is treading out the grain" comes from Deuteronomy 25:4. This reference to the Scriptures refers to the Old Testament. Look at the second quote which says, "The laborer deserves his wages." Where does that come from? It is not found anywhere in the Old Testament! Who said it? Jesus said it. It is found in Luke 10:7. Paul knew that. When Paul talked about the Scriptures, he used a quote from both the Old Testament and New Testament, saying that both of them are sacred Scriptures. Remember Paul wrote this before the official list of New Testament books was recognized by church councils hundreds of years later. It appears Luke's Gospel was recognized as scripture by the church from the very time it was written.

Let's look at other interesting verses.

And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. 2 Peter 3:15–16 (ESV)

Here Peter was referring to Paul's letters. He admitted some of the things Paul said in his letters are hard to understand. I can agree! Since they are hard to understand, some people distort them, like they do the other Scriptures. Here Peter was referring to Paul's letters as Scripture.

Paul just said Luke wrote Scripture when he quoted the Gospel of Luke about a saying of Jesus. Peter then quoted Paul and called Paul's writings sacred Scripture. Paul considered Luke's Gospel about Jesus a sacred writing like the Old Testament. Peter considered Paul's writings as sacred Scripture like the Old Testament.

Add to this Paul's insistence that his letters be read in church gatherings, just like Scripture is read in church gatherings.

I put you under oath before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers. 1 Thessalonians 5:27 (ESV)

Add to this that Paul insisted his church-specific letters be read, exchanged, and shared between churches.

And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. Colossians 4:16 (ESV)

Paul recognized his church specific letters would have value to guide the lives of people in other churches. Other churches should study them, just like we study them.

In addition, Paul was very clear that when he wrote a letter, he was not writing what merely his wisdom that came from his own mind. What he was writing was given to him by God.

If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 14:37 (ESV)

And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. 1 Corinthians 2:13 (ESV)

Paul was adamant that when he wrote a letter he was not speaking his own wisdom but he was speaking from the Holy Spirit. God was speaking through him!

This brings us to our next key term. Paul said all Scripture --- that is both the Old and New Testament --- is *breathed out* by God. Some translations say all Scripture is inspired by God. Inspired is a poor word. Inspired can mean you had too much coffee. You had so much energy you were inspired to write a song.

That is not what happened in the writing of the Bible. People didn't have too much caffeine so they wrote a book.

It is not that God blows on a man and the man writes down God's own words. The Greek word is breathed out. God breathes out his words and the writer was caused to write them down. God spoke and used a man as his mouthpiece. All the words of the Bible are not human words that people decided to write down. They are God's words. God spoke the Bible through the authors and caused the writer to write down his words.

This explains why the Bible is a completely different book. It is not a collection of 66 different books written by 40 different authors. It is one book written by one author who used 40 different people to write down his words. This is why the Bible, even though it was written over thousands of years in Greek, Hebrew and a little Aramaic by men of completely different backgrounds --- kings, shepherd, farmers, and fisherman --- it all hangs together as one story. That is because there is one author.

Since the words of the Bible are God's words, this means the words of the Bible are powerful words. Think of creation. God spoke, and things were created. God spoke, and something came out of nothing. God spoke, and light came where there was darkness. God spoke, and life came out of death. If that is the power of God's words to make creation, imagine the power of God's words given to us in the Bible? God uses his words in the Bible to create spiritual life where there is death. God uses the words to make us into new creations, completely new people.

The truth of these verses is not just talked about by the apostle Paul. It is also affirmed by Peter.

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21 (ESV)

Nobody woke up one morning and decided to write a book of the Bible. God spoke through the authors of the Bible as God wrote breathed out his words through the human authors so they said exactly what God wanted to say. This is amazing. What I find most amazing is God wrote the Bible in such a way that he did not violate the training and background of the writers. The authors of the Bible were caused by God to infallibly write down God's very words using their own languages, styles, and backgrounds.

This is why the words of the Bible are different.. When we read them and immerse ourselves in them, they change us. I like the way the writer of Hebrews wrote about the words of the Bible.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

The words of the Bible are literally alive! They create life. There is nothing we can do to protect ourselves from them. They pierce us. They penetrate us. They convict us. They draw us to God. This doesn't happen with anything else we read or anyplace else other than this book!

**Scripture is profitable.**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness... 2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)

The Bible is not just God's words to us but it is profitable for us. The words of the Bible are useful to us. Paul gave us four ways the Bible is profitable for us.



The first two deal with doctrine and how the Bible trains us in right thinking. The second two deal with actions and how the Bible trains us in right choices, right living.

**The Bible is profitable for teaching us the right way to think.**

The Bible is profitable for **teaching**. The word teaching means just what it says. It teaches us the truth. It tells us the truth about where the world came from. Folks, we did not evolve from nothing. The Bible tells us the truth. God created everything. Don't buy the lie of evolution. The Bible tells us the truth is creation. In addition, you did not evolve from an ape. The Bible tells us God created a first man and a first woman named Adam and Eve. They are the origins of the human race. This is the truth.

Remember that all Scripture is not just breathed out by God but all Scripture is profitable for us. If we discarded the Old Testament, we wouldn't know the truth about our origins. This is why it is so dangerous when some denominations want to get rid of the Old Testament. They are getting rid of a large portion of their Bible that God has deemed profitable for them!

The Bible is also profitable for **reproof**. That means correction. When we read the Bible, we should feel it convicting us. We should experience the Bible correcting patterns of wrong thinking in our lives. This is a good thing.

Some people do not like to read the Bible because they do not like feeling convicted. They avoid the Bible because they want to avoid conviction. That is not good. The conviction we feel from the Bible is the process of correcting our

wrong thinking patterns and beliefs. It doesn't do any good to continue in wrong thinking patterns.

For example, when children are young, parents often tell them about Santa Claus. Parents tell their children about a guy from the North Pole, with his elves, presents and a sleigh, that comes down the chimney. That is a fun story for kids but somewhere along the line, somebody needs to tell a kid Santa Claus is not real. The toys come from China, not the Pole. If you have a 16-year-old kid running around talking about Santa Claus, you will wish somebody straightened out his wrong thinking.

It is the same way with the Bible. Even though it sometimes hurts to have our thinking corrected by the Bible, it is always a good thing. It is never a bad thing, although sometimes it is a painful thing.

**The Bible is profitable for teaching us the right way to live.**

While the first two terms, **teaching** and **reproof**, dealt with how we think, the next two terms, **correction** and **training in righteousness**, pertain to how we live.

**Correction** comes from the Greek word which means to straighten out what is crooked. The Bible straightens out crooked living. It helps us live rightly.

On the positive side, it doesn't just correct wrong living but it trains us in righteous living!

If we want to live rightly in this world, do not go to Google with your questions. Group think is not the same as truth think. Go to the Bible instead of Google. The Bible tells us the right way to live. The Bible tells us the right way to

parent, the right way to raise our children, the right way to be a husband, the right way to be a wife. The Bible tells us the right way to run a company.

I know what some of you are thinking. You agree with me, but only partially. Yes, the Bible does correct wrong living and it does tell us how to go about right living, but it doesn't tell me everything I need to know. The Bible is only one of my sources of truth. I may start with the Bible but then I need to read what a psychologist has to say. Next I need to find out what my friends have to say. That is the way I find my truth.

If that is you, I want to challenge you. Look what the Bible says about itself.

**The Bible equips us with everything we need for every good work.**

...that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:17 (ESV)

Paul closed his thought by telling us the completeness of the Bible. The Bible gives us everything we need for every good work in life. I like the way Paul said this. He said the Bible completely equips us or fully equips us for every good work. The idea is the Bible gives us absolutely everything we need to know how to be made right with God through Jesus and how to live a pleasing life for God through Jesus.

If you got rid of your phone and every other source of media in your life, and you only had the Bible, you and I would have everything we need in this book to know God and to do every good work for him. That is how complete the Bible is for us!

I cannot commend the Bible to you highly enough. I cannot commend the Bible to you strongly enough. This is why I challenged you at the beginning of this year to join your church family in reading through the Bible five days a week. We are currently reading through the book of Acts as a church family. Next Sunday we will start reading through the book of Hebrews and 1 and 2 Thessalonians. Will you join us in reading through the book that gives us everything we need?

### **Conclusion**

In this world there are many spiritual scammers. Satan and his cronies are trying to deceive us and lead us astray. God doesn't want us to fall for their tricks. He want us to be strong men and women in Christ who are faithful to the end. There are three pillars of strong men and women in Christ who are faithful to the end. They are:

1. Spiritually courageous people have carefully chosen the heroes they follow. They are following the example of Christian heroes who suffered well for Christ in an earlier generation so they also will live and suffer well for Jesus in their generation.
2. Spiritually courageous people hold firmly to their convictions. Even if they don't have all the answers for those who want to lead them astray, they don't give up on their convictions. They hold to their convictions and keep studying until they have answers.
3. Spiritually courageous people have confidence in the Word of God. They are confident the Bible is the very words of God. It is without error and can be trusted. It is the truth. It imparts life. They are also confident that the Sord of

God is profitable for living. It teaches them, corrects them, and trains them for righteousness and every good work.



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