

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Don't you just love these two verses and how they tell us the benefits of reading God's word. What are those benefits? Well it says that it *is profitable for doctrine, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Yeah that sounds so cool. But wait, if you actually read what I just posted, against what the verses actually say, you may not enjoy the actual verses so much.

So, what did I leave out? *for reproof* and *for correction*

What's *reproof*, you may be thinking? If you read it in the NLT it will make more sense.

‡ 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT) *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

Reproof: *make us realize what is wrong in our lives*. So if you think about that, along with **correction**, now how do you feel about today's devotional verses now?

Yet we need everything that the scriptures say, not just the things we like. The reason why is very clear in verse 17 of today's devotional verses *that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.* (underlined for emphasis)

If we just learn *what is true* and *to do what is right*, we are only getting part of the picture or the true intent of God's word, which includes, *for reproof* and *for correction*. Yet we pick and choose those verses or parts of the verses that make us feel good, or that sounds cool, and we highlight and underline those parts of the verses to look something like this:

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

It would be like trying to make a cake from scratch and leaving out the eggs and flour. You wouldn't have a delicious cake if you left those two key ingredients out. Neither are we complete unless we listen to, read and follow the entire council of God in His word.

Even the apostle Paul said:

‡ Acts 20:27 *For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.*

No matter how much people may not have liked what Paul taught them, he still had to teach the entire word of God, not just those parts that make you feel good.

That's why the writer of Hebrews says:

† **Hebrews 5:12-14** *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

I'm not a big veggie person, but I know they are good for me, so I will eat them anyway. Just like there are tough parts of the bible, yet we must read them, meditate on them and learn from them or we will never grow into adults spiritually.

† **2 Corinthians 13:11 (NLT)** *Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.*