

FOUNDATIONS: WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE AND WHY IT MATTERS

The Bible We Can Build Our Lives On

2 Timothy 3:14–17

Introduction: No building can rise higher than the strength of its foundation. The same principle is true spiritually. Scripture is our foundation for truth, ethics, and relationships. (Mt. 24:35)

I. The Bible provides a steadfast foundation: (vv. 14-15)

A. Truth must be continued

2 Tim 3:14 — *"But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of..."*

1. Continue means to *remain, abide, stay put.*

2. *Paul is telling Timothy – don't drift! Stay anchored in the Word!*

Jesus said in Jn 8:31-32 — *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

Freedom is found in continuing in God's truth.

B. Truth must be learned

2 Tim. 3:14 — *"Knowing from whom you have learned them."*

1. Timothy had been taught by godly influences.

2. *You may think your greatest years of ministry are behind you.*

God often uses faithful people to build a lasting spiritual legacy.

C. Truth must be believed

2 Tim. 3:14 — *"...and been assured of..."*

1. Not merely informed –

2. Convinced

The storms of life reveal whether our faith is built on emotion or truth.

II. The Bible possesses a supernatural author: (v. 16)

2 Tim. 3:16 — *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..."*

This verse may be the most important statement in the Bible about the Bible

A. The Bible is not man's opinion

2 Pe. 1:21 — *"Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."* The biblical writers were the pens; God was the Author.

B. The Bible reveals God's character

Tit. 1:2 — *"God, who cannot lie..."*

Ps 119:89 — *"Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven."*

Because God is truthful, His Word is trustworthy.

III. The Bible performs a transforming work: (v. 16)

2 Tim. 3:16 — *"...and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

A. It instructs us — for doctrine (Teaching) Scripture teaches us what is right.

B. It inspects us — for reproof – Scripture functions like a mirror.

Heb. 4:12 — *"For the word of God is living and powerful..."*

Scripture reveals what is wrong.

C. It improves us — for correction – Like straightening a cooked picture, scripture shows us how to get right.

D. It Increases Us — For Instruction in Righteousness - Scripture shows us how to stay right.

God's goal is not simply that we know Scripture. God's goal is that Scripture shapes us.

IV. The Bible prepares a successful believer (v. 17)

2 Tim. 3:17 — *"That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

A. Equipped for life's challenges - God's Word sustains us through life's trials.

B. Equipped for life's calling -

Ephesians 2:10 — *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works..."* Retirement does not mean withdrawal from ministry.

C. Equipped for life's finish

2 Tim. 4:7 — *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* We finish well by staying anchored to God's Word.

Conclusion: The question today is not: Do you own a Bible? The question is: Are you building your life upon it? (Mt. 7:24)

The Bible is God's inspired, trustworthy, and sufficient Word. It is our final authority for what we believe, how we live, and how we relate to God and one another.