



Sermon Main Idea:

As an Evangelical Covenant Church, we **affirm the centrality of the word of God**. We believe the Bible is the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct. The dynamic, transforming power of the word of God directs the church and the life of each Christian.

Introduction:

1. How have you seen scripture abused by someone using it out of context to support their own idea?
2. How have you experienced scripture as transformative in your own life? In the life of someone else?

SORP:

Scripture | read 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Observation | what do we notice? what stands out?

1. This passage comes from the closing of a letter written by Paul to Timothy. What is some of the context of this letter? What was their relationship? What was the purpose of this letter?
2. What part of our Bible was Paul referring to as he spoke of “all scripture” in that moment?
3. What do Paul’s words about scripture in verse 16 speak about the role of scripture in his life and ministry?
4. What do you think Paul meant by being “thoroughly equipped for every good work”?
5. Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5. What was Paul’s charge to Timothy regarding his role in the application of God’s Word?
6. Where did Timothy receive his training on “careful instruction” and “sound doctrine”?

Response | how can we respond in our lives to what we learn?

1. What are some filters/lenses that we read the Bible through in our time and culture?
2. Do you find this passage as easily applicable to the Old Testament as to the New Testament? Why or why not?
3. How would you answer that question for the Church overall? How does this struggle play out in our faith?
4. Verse 17’s words “so that” gives purpose to the description of scripture in verse 16. How do we struggle with the application of this? What are some other purposes that we falsely assign to scripture?
5. With all of the differing interpretations of different pieces of scripture, how can we be sure that our unintentional filters are not causing us to “say what their itching ears want to hear”? (4:3)
6. How might God be calling you to respond to His Word today?

Prayer | ask God to help you live out your response