

What Is Scripture For?

BibleWay Sermon Alignment | 2 Timothy 3:14–17

We are the 111th generation. From Moses to us—over 3,600 years, more than 110 generations of faithful people who received God’s Word, trusted it, lived under it, and passed it down. Now it sits in our hands. That alone should slow us down. It should humble us. And it should force us to ask a question that matters far more than we often admit: What is this ancient book actually for?

Not just historically. Not just theologically. But practically. What does it do in your life? What does it do in mine? Paul answers that question clearly in his final letter to Timothy.

Scripture Is Passed Down and Shared Together

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it...” (2 Timothy 3:14–15a)

Paul begins by reminding Timothy that Scripture always comes to us through people. Timothy didn’t stumble upon the Bible by himself. He received it. He learned it within relationships—first through his family, then through Paul, and within the life of the church.

That pattern matters. God’s Word moves from generation to generation—parent to child, pastor to congregation, mentor to disciple. Scripture is not merely written. It is entrusted.

For many of us, hearing that Scripture has been passed down for 111 generations raises a natural question: Is it reliable? That question isn’t new. One of my Greek professors, Dr. Daniel Wallace, a leading textual critic, has shown that by ancient standards the Bible is remarkably reliable. We have nearly 20,000 New Testament manuscripts. Homer’s Iliad has fewer than 650. Plato has fewer than seven. And the Gospel of John appears within about 30 years of its original writing.

Could God have given us the originals? Of course. But God consistently leaves a small gap—not because He wants us uncertain, but because He wants us faithful. The relationship He desires is built not on certainty but on faith.

Scripture is communal. It was never meant to be studied in isolation. We all have blind spots. That is why Scripture is read together—not to shame one another, but to love one another.

Group Discussion

- *How has receiving Scripture through people—family, pastors, mentors—shaped your faith more than private study alone? (see 2 Timothy 3:14; Deuteronomy 6:6–7)*
- *What risks do we face when Scripture becomes purely individual rather than communal? (see Acts 2:42)*
- *Who has most shaped how you trust and understand Scripture, for better or worse? (see Psalm 145:4)*
- *Where might God be inviting you to read Scripture more intentionally with others? (see Proverbs 27:17)*

Scripture Points to Jesus

“...which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:15b)

Paul names the center of Scripture’s purpose. The sacred writings do not exist merely to inform us. They exist to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Everything points here.

Think about cultural taglines: “Live long and prosper.” “You’re gonna need a bigger boat.” “This is the way.” “Got milk?” Each short phrase carries an entire story. Scripture’s defining message is just as clear: Jesus saves.

From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture tells one unified story. The Old Testament is Jesus concealed. The New Testament is Jesus revealed. Scripture does not teach us how to save ourselves—it teaches us how to trust the Savior.

Group Discussion

- *How does reading Scripture as one unified story centered on Jesus change the way we approach difficult passages? (see Luke 24:27)*
- *Why is it important that Scripture makes us wise for salvation rather than merely moral or informed? (see Romans 10:17)*
- *Where have you been tempted to treat Scripture as self-improvement rather than as a call to trust Christ? (see Mark 2:17)*
- *In what area of your life do you most need to rest in the truth that Jesus saves? (see Acts 4:12)*

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Scripture Brings Life

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...” (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

“Breathed out by God” is creation language. When God breathes, life follows. Left to ourselves, we drift toward death—not always physically, but spiritually.

Paul uses a framework that feels almost medical. Teaching provides foundation. Reproof diagnoses what is wrong. Correction is surgical intervention. Training in righteousness is rehabilitation.

Diagnosis alone does not heal. Surgery without rehabilitation fails. Scripture tells the truth, restores what is broken, and retrains us so we do not return to old patterns.

Paul lands with the purpose: that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. Scripture exists to make us faithful, not impressive.

Group Discussion

- *How have you experienced Scripture confronting something in your life that needed real change, not just encouragement? (see Hebrews 4:12)*
- *Why does growth often involve discomfort before fruit becomes visible? (see Hebrews 12:11)*
- *Where is God’s Word currently diagnosing something in your life that needs attention? (see Psalm 119:105)*

- Where do you need patience with God's ongoing work rather than quick fixes? (see Philippians 1:6)

Opening Ourselves Up

This journey will look different for each of us. Some will feel eager. Some cautious. Some resistant. That's okay.

But the question that remains is simple: Have you actually opened yourself up to God's Word? Not defensively or selectively, but honestly.

Our commitment is to read Scripture plainly, faithfully, and together—and to trust the Spirit to do what only the Spirit can do.

So here is the invitation for this year: Open yourself up to God's Word—and let it do what it was always meant to do.