

Rom. 14:19  
So then let  
us follow  
after things  
which make  
for peace,  
and things  
whereby  
we may  
edify one  
another.

John 8:32 And  
ye shall know  
the truth and  
the truth shall  
make you free.

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## “ALL SCRIPTURE”

by Barry Kercheville

*“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. I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching” (2 Tim. 3:16 – 4:2, ESV).*

The above passage is arguably one of the most quoted text among Christians. We usually quote it to emphasize the inspiration of Scripture. However, inspiration was not the primary purpose of Paul’s instruction. Timothy hardly needed to be told that the Scriptures had been delivered by the mouth of God. From what we see in Paul’s words at the beginning of the letter, Timothy needed to rid himself of timidity and give higher regard to the study and teaching of God’s word. Our text is urging Timothy in that direction. The fact that the Scriptures are inspired is primarily motivational. If all Scripture comes from the breath of the Almighty, Timothy and all Christians, should give the highest regard and devotion to knowing and proclaiming it.

Consider further the words, *“All Scripture,”* and *“that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”* The words “all,” “complete,” and “every,” are connected. For the man of God to be complete and equipped for every good work, he will need *all* Scripture. Part of the scripture will not do. Half, or even most of the Scripture, will not meet the goal. For the man of God to be complete, equipped for every good work, nothing short of all Scripture is needed. In other words, that includes Zechariah, Zephaniah, Isaiah, Chronicles, Psalms, Revelation, and even Leviticus. Without these, and the rest of Scripture, the man of God cannot be complete.

It saddens me that for years I did not appreciate the word of God as God desired me to read and

appreciate it.

Part of the reason for my slowness was because I was taking the wrong approach in my reading. I started with, “What is God saying to me? What are his commands for me? Where are others wrong in how they are following and worshiping God?” Often, I searched the Scriptures to justify something I wanted to believe. At times, I had the attitude that parts of the Bible were beyond my ability to understand, or maybe even worse, there were parts of the Bible I simply didn’t like to study or that I decided were not really important to know. I now understand that these attitudes disrespected God and displeased God. He gave *all* scripture to make the man of God complete, and God does not waste inspiration paper.

### “Searching the Scripture?” or Seeing God?

Paul’s challenge in our text not only addresses the neglect of certain sections of Scripture, it is also addresses one’s approach to reading the Scripture. In **2 Timothy 3:14-15**, Paul urged Timothy, *“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.”* Did you notice that Timothy was commanded to continue in the sacred writings (the OT) because they will *“make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”* I cannot count the number of times I have heard Christians say, “Why study the Old Testament? We are not under it!” And yet, Paul said it was those very writings that would make one wise for salvation through faith in Christ. If we want to understand salvation through faith in Christ, it is first going to come from the Old Testament.

This reminds us of Jesus’ words to the Jews: *“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me” (John 5:39).* Who could “proof-text” better than the scribes and Pharisees? Who had spent more of their lives dissecting every part of the sacred

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writings? Jesus illustrates the need to know more than simply what is *in* the Scripture or the commands of Scripture. It is necessary to see the God *of* the Scripture. God, through Hosea said, *“I desire the knowledge of God more than burnt offering”* (Hos. 6:6). What does God *desire*? While his commands and worship rules are not to be neglected, his primary desire is that we know and understand him. In so doing, we are drawn to love him and are motivated by that love to be careful to obey him and please him. Further, understanding what God desires will cause us to adjust our starting point in teaching our children and others. Instead of emphasizing baptism and God’s commands, we will begin with, “Look what God has done! Look at the wonder of who God is!” Baptism and obedience to other adult commands will then be generated from being drawn to God out of a deep love for him (Cf. **John 6:44-45**).

Think of *“all Scripture”* as a giant jigsaw puzzle with 66 large sections, all of which are self-contained puzzles within the larger puzzle. What is the big picture of the puzzle? In other words, when the puzzle is complete, what do we see? The puzzle is a picture of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. But what happens if we leave out or gloss over major sections of the puzzle? Obviously, we do not see the real picture; we do not see the picture God intends for us to see. Even worse, we conclude that the picture we are seeing is complete and is the real picture, even though it is not. Our neglect causes us to see a “God” that does not exist and a “Jesus” who is different from the Jesus actually revealed. How can we justify that?

There is one other important message in this text. In **2 Timothy 4:1-4**, Paul charges Timothy to *“preach the word...”* What word? The very sacred writings that will make one wise unto salvation through faith in Christ. How many are truly preaching *all* the Scripture? How many Christians would tolerate textual sermons on the messages of the prophets and other neglected sections of Scripture? To do otherwise is a violation of Paul’s charge *“in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead.”* To be obedient to God, we need to study all scripture and we need to preach all scripture. Only then will we be complete, equipped for every good work.

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focusmagazine.org***

## THE GREAT PHYSICIAN Randy Harshbarger

*“Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors sinners?”*

*When Jesus heard that, He said to them, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice. For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance”* (**Matthew 9:10-13**).

Tax collectors were notoriously corrupt; they were rich and hated. As agents of the Roman government they were constant reminders of the oppressive regime of a foreign power. Matthew surely (probably?) had heard something about Jesus’ activities in the areas around Capernaum. And now he answers the call to join Jesus as a disciple. Jesus accepted Matthew’s invitation to dinner and was soon surrounded by other tax collectors and sinners and His own disciples—a motley crew of diners to be sure! Some, though, were on the outside looking in. The Pharisees didn’t want to be inside; they would have refused any invitation to such a gathering. They were happy to be excluded. They were, however, critical of Jesus’ actions.

The Pharisees were scrupulous in offering the required sacrifices prescribed by the Law of Moses; there was no doubt about that. They were not sick; they did not need a doctor. Or, did they? Jesus’ quotation of **Hosea 6:6** (*“For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings”*) highlights the inconsistencies of these religious leaders. They are now linked with the recalcitrant Israelites of old. Sacrifices were required and authorized. What about mercy? What about generosity? The Pharisees would say: Why worry about those things; after all, we have gotten the sacrifices right! And after all, tax collectors and sinners are not deserving of mercy! Did the Pharisees forget that their righteousness didn’t get the job done (**Matthew 5:20**)?

People who are not sick do not need a doctor. And people who are sick but do not know they are sick will not go to the doctor. People without mercy, without generosity cannot see their own needs. So, Jesus told the Pharisees: *“Go and learn.”* That is, you go and study and consider and seek to apply correctly the word of God—the very word you say you know so well. In fact, they did not know, they did not understand, they did not apply correctly what God’s word said. Had they done so, they would have recognized their need for mercy; they could then see that all need Jesus’ mercy.

When Jesus says follow Me, what is He saying? Is He saying that He is fortunate to be able to find someone as good and clean and righteous as you are? Is He saying that your wealth, education, social status, land and houses are the true instruments of righteousness, and because of these things that He just can’t do without you? The need and quest for holiness is right and noble. But apart from the Great Physician that pursuit will be in vain. Maybe it is time for all of us



to go see the Doctor.

## **The Mirror For The Heart**

**Terry W. Benton**

We need a mirror to examine our physical health and appearance. If there is something wrong in our appearance we can adjust the hair or brush the teeth, or we can deal with blemishes or see how to shave or apply makeup. Mirrors serve us well on a daily basis, but only if we **do** something about what we see in the mirror.

There is a more important mirror that is neglected to our own peril. It tells us both how we look on the inside, at the heart and soul level, and how we **should** look. You were made in the image of God (**Genesis 1:26**). We are born in perfect innocence and then as we become more and more exposed to the world of sin, we get tainted. We fail to think of our Creator, and our heart becomes corrupted and distant to God. We fail to look like God on the inside and in our words and behavior. God gave us the Bible to tell us the truth about ourselves so that we can adjust our hearts and return to bearing His image. If we fail to adjust, and we come to the moment of our death, dying in a lost condition before God, we will be separated from God and all good for eternity.

*"And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:30, NKJV ).*

We do not want this to happen to us, but it will happen to many because many are living life with no relationship to the Creator now, and there will be no relationship in eternity. This is why it is so important to look into the mirror of God's word, see the truth, and face the truth about our condition before God and **do** something about it.

*"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does" ( James 1:22-25, NKJV ).*

Are you looking daily into God's mirror for the soul? Are you **doing** what God calls upon you to do? Can we encourage you to make sure that your soul is right before God and that you are prepared to face God in judgment?

There is nothing in this world more important than studying the Bible, adjusting our hearts to it, and prioritizing the principles of God's word in our own way of thinking and living. Have you looked into His mirror today?

~via **Gardendale Church Bulletin**; Gardendale, Alabama. **Taken from Market Street Messenger**

## **What We Learn From The Old Testament: God's Judgment Sleeps Not Forever!**

In this final installment of our series on What We Learn from the Old Testament we look at what can be argued is the most important lesson for us to learn. If we learn this lesson we will find it easier to motivate ourselves to learn all the other lessons contained in the Old Testament scriptures and the New Testament as well. The lesson is simply this: sin will never escape judgment. Never! It may be slow in coming. It may even seem like God has forgotten about it. But you can rest assured that sin will be judged.

We can just see the people of Noah's day laughing at him for building that big box to escape something they had never seen: rain! Jesus said, *"And as were the days of Noah, so shall be the coming of the Son of man. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and they knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall be the coming of the Son of man."* (**Mat. 24:37f**) Things must have been good in Sodom and Gomorrah before the angels came, at least good enough to draw Lot and his family, **Genesis 13**. Of course we all know how that turned out! Amalek probably thought the Lord took no notice of what they did when Israel came out of the land of Egypt but when the time was right the Lord sent Saul the King with his army to extinguish their candle from the earth (**Exodus 17:8, 14; 1 Samuel 15**). Knowing this let us fear God!

**Cleveland Reddinger**

### **Some Quotes Worth Pondering . . .**

"Wearing a cross cannot take the place of bearing a cross."

"The cross bearers here will be the crown wearers 'over there'."

The man who walks with God always knows in what direction he is going."

"Christians are the only product where the content improves while the package is deteriorating."

"He who plants kindness reaps love."

"If there is no God then nothing really matters, but if there is a God then nothing else really matters."

**Taken from the Beacon Electronic Edition 1/10/17  
Collegeview church of Christ, Columbia, Tn.**

**Eph. 2:19** So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

**1Pet. 2:9** But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**Psa. 1:1** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

## HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

**Visitors welcome**

**We conduct in home Bible Studies**

**We offer Correspondence Courses**

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

**Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer**

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[facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist](https://facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist)

[lenexachurchofchrist.org](http://lenexachurchofchrist.org)

### NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN PATRICK, STEPHEN KIMKER, WENDY TAYLOR AND STEVE WIMP IN PRAYER AS THEY DEAL WITH HEALTH ISSUES.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS  
- FOLLOWING THE MESSIAH  
RON PECK

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE  
CLASS - FORGIVENESS  
JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON:  
GUEST SPEAKER:  
BRENT DYER



## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10