



Background/ Context:

Paul is in prison in Rome. He knows that Rome is planning on executing him. He has been investing in a young man named Timothy. In light of his coming execution, Paul is making a plea to Timothy to stay faithful. He urges Timothy to persevere, to continue the fight of faith because there will be opposition.

In the beginning of chapter 3, Paul describes the dangerous days that are ahead. He explains to Timothy why these days will be so dangerous. He describes the state of man in these last days and sandwiches his description between two phrases that can be used as a summary. 1. "Men shall be lovers of their own selves," and even more condemning statement; 2. Men shall be "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." They will always be learning but "never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." In verse 13, Paul says that things will get worse in this world before they get better. Claiming to have truth, they deceive themselves and others.

In verse 14, Paul **commands** Timothy to fight against the deception of the world. He gives Timothy a response that must be our response as well.

Because God has given you Absolute Truth, you must Live in it.

Paul uses the word *continue*, which means "to stay, remain, or abide." We are commanded to live or to dwell in truth.

Question: Where do you live? _____

Why is it so important that you live in the truth of Scripture? Why is it so important that Scripture guide every part of your life? Paul gives us several things to consider in II Timothy 3:14-17.

Consider the Reasons to live in Truth. (14-15)

1. Live in truth because of the personal impact of those who taught you truth.
 - Reference to Paul himself and to Timothy's mother Eunice and grandmother Lois.
2. Live in truth because the source of truth is grounded in Scripture.

Consider the Returns of the Truth. (15-16)

What happens when the truth of Scripture is heeded?

1. The truth of Scripture highlights the way of salvation.
 - Salvation is only through faith in Christ. (Romans 5:9 - Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.)
2. The truth of Scripture is useful to direct Christians how to live out their salvation.
 - Refutes the lies of the world
 - Rebukes sinning Christians
 - Restores sinning Christians
 - Trains in righteousness

Consider the Results of living in the Truth.

1. The truth of Scripture produces someone of integrity. (a complete person)
2. The truth of Scripture produces someone who is prepared for whatever God puts before them.

"If you nurture your spiritual life in the Scriptures, you will be fully qualified and prepared for whatever God puts before you."

In Summary:

So... why is it so important that you dwell in the truth of the Scripture?

- Because it will make you a complete person. You will...
 1. be made wise unto salvation
 2. be trained to live out your salvation
 3. be a person of integrity
 4. be prepared for anything that comes into your life.
 - There is nothing else that can
 1. refute lies
 2. rebuke sin
 3. restore sinners
 4. and train in righteousness.