

# Memory Verse

***2 Timothy 3:16-17***

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

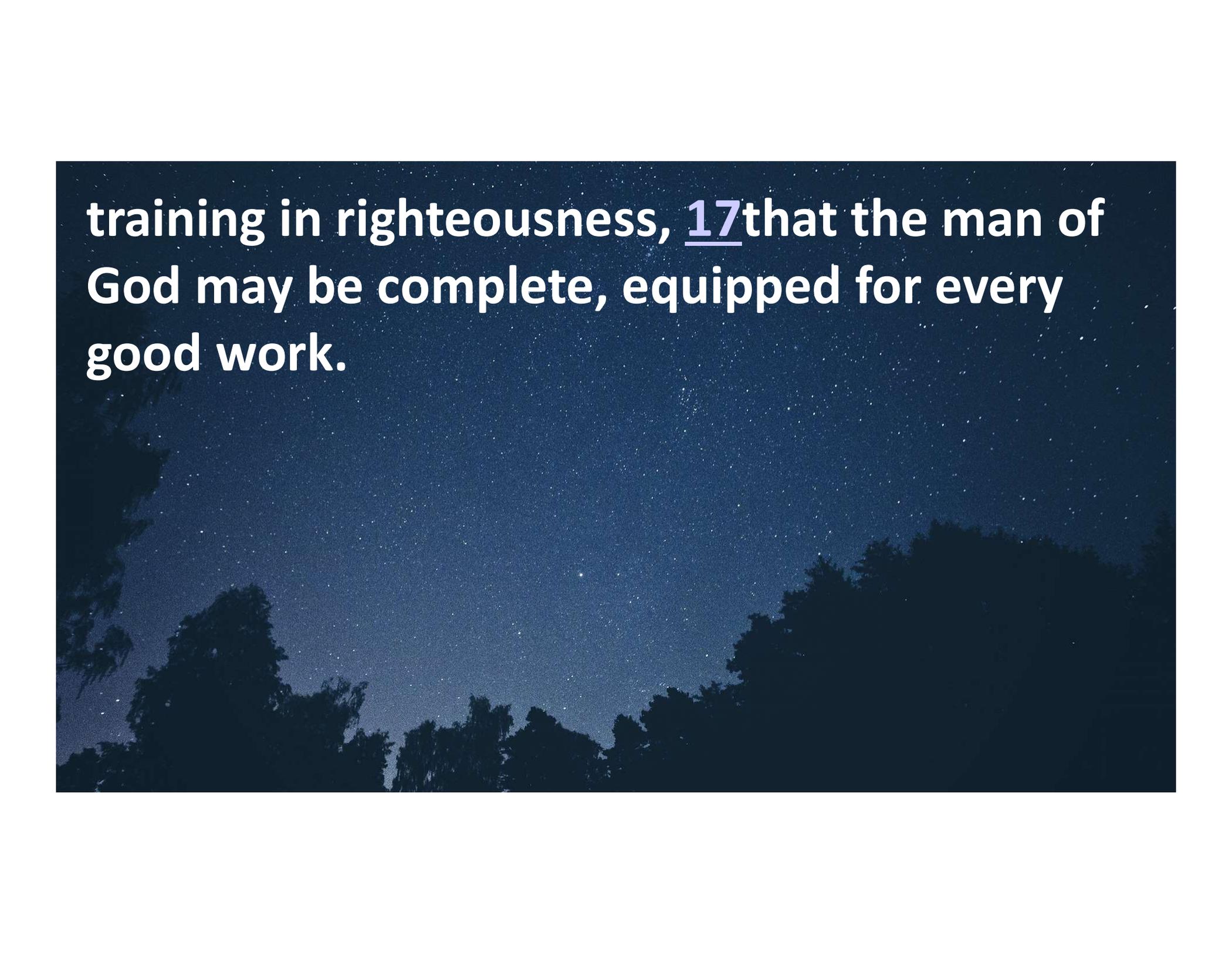
GRACELIFE



CHURCH

There are many questions about the Bible. Where did it come from? Who wrote it and is it reliable? Didn't man write it? Is it full of errors and contradictions? The foundational issue is this: ***If the Bible is true, we should believe everything it says.*** But if we *believe it's true*, is it because someone told us, or because we have looked at it ourselves?

***2 Timothy 3:14-17*** - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15and 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. 16All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for



training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

## A. 3:14-15 – The Reliability of the Bible

Paul challenges Timothy. **You!** *Continue* in what you have *learned and believed*. Not only that, but *recall from whom you learned* these things, back in your childhood. Paul points Timothy to the “*sacred writings*” or “*holy Scriptures*.” The **Old Testament**, which could make him wise for salvation... Manuscripts, Archaeology, Prophecy, and Science.

**A. 3:14-15 – The Reliability of the Bible Manuscripts** - ...We have about **5400 Biblical Greek manuscripts**, *partial or full*. There are more manuscripts for the New Testament than for **ALL** other ancient documents combined. The **Dead Sea Scrolls** were a major find in 1947-1956, with every Old Testament book except for *Esther*. They were written between 250BC-68AD.

## A. 3:14-15 – The Reliability of the Bible

The *Rylands Fragment*,  
and is dated  
around  
100AD,  
contains  
*John 18:31-33*.



**A. 3:14-15 – The Reliability of the Bible**  
**Archaeology - Visit Israel! *No archaeological find has ever contradicted the Bible.*** It has corrected misunderstandings, but never contradicted it. For years, critics said *Pontius Pilate* never existed.

## A. 3:14-15 – The Reliability of the Bible

The *Pontius Pilate Stone*,  
found in  
Caesarea  
Maritima with his  
name on it.



**A. 3:14-15 – The Reliability of the Bible**  
**Prophecy** - ...There are **hundreds** of fulfilled prophecies in the Bible and many yet to be fulfilled. **Micah 5:2** - Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. **Critics** hate the book of **Daniel**, because he prophesies in **chapters 2 and 7**, of the Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Greece and the end times empire ruling over Israel, **before** some those empires existed!

## A. 3:14-15 – The Reliability of the Bible

**Science** - The Bible *isn't a science book*, but One who wrote it created the laws of science. **Ecclesiastes 1:6** speaks of the water cycle. Life is in the blood: **Leviticus 17:11**. **Isaiah 40:22** says earth is a circle. The earth is suspended in space: **Job 26:7**. The Bible is scientifically accurate. Without the Bible, **science would not exist!**

## B. 3:16a – The Authority of the Bible

**All Scripture**, is the Old Testament and by extension the New Testament was “*breathed out by God.*” That means “*God breathed*” or “*inspired by God.*” Paul created a new word. It is made up of **2 parts** - **Theos**, or God. **Pneuma**, breath or spirit. Together it is *theopneustos*. The idea is *God exhaled His word through men who wrote it down.*

**2 Peter 1:19-21** - And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

## B. 3:16a – The Authority of the Bible

No prophecy, Scripture or proclamation from God *ever originated from men*. They were “*carried along by the Holy Spirit*.” The picture is of a ship moved by the wind in its sails. The Holy Spirit **guided** those who wrote Scripture. He used the background, education, experiences, vocabulary and more of those men to write down what He wanted.

## **B. 3:16a – The Authority of the Bible**

*Because God has breathed out His word, through men written down, it is our **authority**. If God says to do something, we do it. If He says to avoid something, we should avoid it. He is gracious when we fail, and His grace is more than sufficient to restore us, though there may be **consequences...***

## C. 3:16b – The Sufficiency of the Bible

...**1**. *Teaching or doctrine*. This is *instruction*, or *teaching*. **1 Timothy 4:6** -“If you put these things (before *verse 6*) before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good (or *sound or healthy*) doctrine that you have followed.

## **C. 3:16b – The Sufficiency of the Bible**

**2. Reproof, refute or rebuke.** This is a *negative aspect...* **Reproof** is *direct confrontation of error or sin.* It is *in your face.* Nathan *directly confronted* David saying, “You are the man.” “You are guilty!” Paul confronted Peter to his face when he wouldn’t eat with Gentiles: **Galatians 2:11-14.** This is for very serious matters, *doctrinal and personal.*

## C. 3:16b – The Sufficiency of the Bible

**3. Correction.** This word is *softer, though still painful*. It is *setting something right or straight, it's disciplining*, like a father disciplines his child, out of love... It's a *gentle warning or caution* to get someone to *go back to what God says* in doctrine and practice. This is *positive* and is about restoration.

## C. 3:16b – The Sufficiency of the Bible

4. *Training in righteousness.* This is *positive*, and is a *system of discipline* that *leads* to a *righteous lifestyle*. **1 Timothy 4:6** mentions *training* too... To be *trained in righteousness*, *requires discipline* and *dedication* to *achieve* the *goal*. Our goal as believers in this context is to be *trained* to live a righteous life. It doesn't happen overnight... It takes effort...

## D. 3:17 – The Efficiency of the Bible

*Verse 17 is the **purpose** for these things – that the man of God may be complete, competent or capable, equipped for every good work. You can cross reference **Titus 2:11-14**, with an added emphasis on the return of Christ. A good doctrinal foundation, in general, leads to a life of doing good works, spoken of often in Paul's pastoral*

**D. 3:17 – The Efficiency of the Bible**  
letters: **1 Timothy 2:10, 5:1, Titus 2:7** and more. Scripture is **efficient** to help us know what these truths are, and by the Holy Spirit, *God changes us from the inside out*. The man or woman of God is complete, or mature and prepared for the *work God has for you*. This is *attitude and action to live out*.

## D. 3:17 – The Efficiency of the Bible

The Bible is *sufficient* for doctrine and *efficient* for practice. Other books or resources are *helpful*. But the Bible must be the foundation of everything, because it is *reliable*, *authoritative* and *sufficient*. If *all you had was the Bible* to guide you in doctrine and practice, you have enough, because the Holy Spirit will help you to understand and live it out.

**D. 3:17 – The Efficiency of the Bible**

**What's my part?**

***Philippians 2:12-13*** - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling, 13for it is **God** who **works in you**, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**1 Corinthians 15:9-10** - For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10But by **the grace of God** I am what I am, and **his grace** toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, **I worked harder** than any of them, though it was **not I**, but the **grace of God** that is **with me**.

## D. 3:17 – The Efficiency of the Bible

As we *read and study*, we learn. Then we **put into practice** what we learn by the *power of the Holy Spirit*. But we can't do it by our strength. It is when we *recognize and realize we can't do it* that we admit our powerlessness, can we depend on His power. Then, HE uses His word to work in us and change us. This is why the Bible is *efficient* to change us. We follow what He says by **faith**, because of His **grace**.