

2 Timothy 3:16-17: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

The next big thing in the religious world is already here, and it has me shaking my head at the "gall" (a good old word!) of those leading the parade. As far as I can figure, it is a marriage of the present day "grace" movement and the old "liberation theology" movement. Simply put, its message is; the Kingdom of God is here on earth now and we are called to prepare it for King Jesus by cleaning up the environment, meeting the needs of the poor, correcting social injustices, etc. I may want proof they are doing all this with a 1 Corinthians 13 mindset, but leaving that aside, one of the tenets they are now open about that I take issue with is; "no doctrine." They point to Jesus' life of doing good while on earth and claim that is their message. They say they preach only Jesus, but my question is: "How can you preach Jesus without preaching what Jesus taught?"

When the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy who was overseeing the church at Ephesus he stressed the importance of the Holy Scriptures. He says they are profitable in 4 ways:

1. For doctrine so that you might know what to believe,
2. For reproof that you might know what NOT to believe,
3. For correction so you will learn what NOT to do, and
4. For instruction in righteousness so you will learn what you are to do.

Now, friends, how much plainer could Paul have made it? And Jesus never sacrificed the spiritual (His reason for coming to earth) for the physical (His doing good while he was here). The Gospels are a record of His teaching. He spent 3 yrs teaching His disciples in preparation for the beginning of this Church Age. He knew men's hearts and that even in the 1st century false teachers would be coming out of the woodwork to gain for themselves a following. Young Christians needed to be taught the difference between truth and error and how to discern it.

Paul wrote to another of his co-workers, Titus, who he had left on the island of Crete to instruct

the young church there that the elders were to “hold fast the faithful word as he has been taught that he may be able by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict.” John Calvin’s comment on this verse says; “A Pastor or Elder needs two voices, one for gathering the sheep and the other for driving away the wolves and thieves. The Scripture supplies him with the means for doing both, for he who has been rightly instructed in it will be able both to rule those who are teachable and to refute the enemies of the truth.”

Would not discerning men agree that this is just common sense?