2 Timothy 3:14-17

“Sweeter than Honey!”

1. **Intro:**

1.1. **Prayer:** Lord, Your Word is **durable** - outlasting all its critics, **surviving** all the attempts of its enemies to exterminate it.
   It is **miraculous in its results** - transforming the lives of those who read and believe it.
   It is **marvelous in its harmony** - agreeing in all its parts, written over a period of 1600 years, by about 40 different authors.
   It is **Fabulous in its preservation** - maintaining its **accuracy** and reliability down through the centuries.

1.2. **Position Wanted:** I would like a job as tutor, teacher and advisor to your family. I will never take a vacation. I will never be out of humor. I don't drink or smoke. I won't borrow your clothes or raid your refrigerator. I will be up in the morning as early as anyone in the household and will stay up as late as anyone wishes. I will help solve any problems your children might have. I will give you the satisfaction of knowing that no question your children ask will go unanswered. For that matter, I will answer any of your own questions on subjects that range from "How we got here?" to "Where are we headed?" I will help settle bets and differences of opinion. I will give you information that will help you with your job, your family and all of your other interests. In short, I will give you the knowledge that will insure the continued success of your family. **I am your Bible. Do I get the job?**

1.3. **I had my bible rebound:** I could write anything on it in gold writing. I chose one thing to place on it… **"Holy Bible"** [It's ok if you have your name on it]  
   1.3.1. **Why?** – Often when we say less, it says more!  
   1.3.2. **Holy (set apart) & Bible (book)** – It is **set apart, unique, exclusive, & matchless from any other writing!**

1.4. **Last Week:** Q: **How do we live for Christ in such exceedingly fierce times?**  
   1.4.1. **1st Expect Terrible Times!** (2-9)  
   1.4.2. **2nd Follow the Right Examples!** (10-13)  
   1.4.3. **3rd Stick with the Scriptures!** (Now this week, 14-17)

1.5. **Q:** What is our **only weapon** against the **spiritual warfare** of vs.13?  
   1.5.1. The only answers to Satan's lies is **God's truth!**

1.6. **Q:** What is the longest ch. in the bible? (Ps.119)  
   **Q:** What is its theme? (the Word) [every vs of the 176 vss speak of it, except 1-3]  
   **Q:** What is unique about that Psalm? [it uses the 22 letters of the Heb alphabet; in effect saying, the Word of God is everything from A to Z]
2. **STICK WITH THE SCRIPTURES!** (14-17)

2.1. This section sums up the whole purpose of the bible!

2.1.1. **Salvation** (14,15) & **Christian Living** (16,17)

2.2. **Our sub-points will cover...** *What the bible will do for us! It will:*

2.2.1. **Assure us** of God’s word; **Make Us** – wise for salvation;
**Teach Us** – what’s right; **Show Us** – what’s wrong;
**Correct Us** – How to be right; **Instruct Us** – How to stay right;
**Complete Us** – for eternity; **Equip Us** – for every good work.

2.3. **[1] SALVATION!** (14,15)

2.4. “What the **brush** is to the artist in painting a picture, what the **hammer** is to the carpenter in driving a nail, what **water** is to the laundress in washing clothes, so the **Bible** is to **God** in saving souls.” (Donald Grey Barnhouse)

2.5. **(14) Assure Us** – of God’s Word!

2.6. **Continue** – the “pres. imp.” calls for a **constant & continual** habit of life.

2.8. **Learned & been Assured of** – They did not merely teach him the facts of the bible; they gave him **assurance & spiritual understanding.**
(i.e. his mom, grandmother, & best friend Paul)

2.9. **(15) Make Us** – wise for salvation!

2.10. **Childhood** - the Jewish parents’ duty was to teach their children the law when in their **fifth** year. (LKGNT)

2.10.1. **Start your children young...getting them into the Word.**
2.10.2. **You know your pastors, Sunday School teachers, fathers, mothers, grandparents. You know they have taught you, you know their lives match the teaching of their lips.**

2.11. **Holy Scriptures** – O.T.

2.12. **[2] CHRISTIAN LIVING!** (16,17)

2.12.1. **Spurgeon said,** “The scriptures were not given for our **information,** but for our **transformation!**”

2.13. **All** – not some!

2.13.1. **Not Concept, or Thought Inspiration, but Verbal Inspiration!**
2.13.2. **Concept, or Thought Inspiration** = only the concept, or thoughts, of men were given by inspiration. {Trouble w/this? Pick & chose}
2.13.3. **Verbal Inspiration** = the **very words** were given by the H.S.(the writers weren’t left absolutely to themselves in the choice of words they should use)

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1 Kent Hughes
2.13.4. **Not Partial Inspiration, but Plenary/Full Inspiration!**
2.13.5. **Partial Inspiration** = The bible only “contains” the word of God.
   2.13.5.1. This implies the bible contains much that is not inspired.
   2.13.5.2. And then who decides which is, or isn’t?
2.13.6. **Plenary/Full Inspiration** = It holds All Scripture to be inspired.
   [Plenary = full and complete and not limited in any respect]

2.14. **Inspiration** – God-Breathed, filled with the breath of God. Out-breathed!
2.14.1. Just as we must expel breath from our mouths when we speak, so ultimately Scripture is God speaking.
2.14.2. Mt.4:4 “Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”.
2.14.3. Yet, though the Bible is the *Vox Dei* (the voice of God) & the *Verbum Dei* (the Word of God) that doesn’t suggest it was written by God’s own hand nor fell from a parachute from heaven.¹
   2.14.3.1. **The Spirit of God,** enabled the men of God, to write the **Word of God!** (www)
   2.14.3.2. **See - 2 Pet.1:20,21.** [for the Spirit of God is the Breath of God!]
   2.14.3.2.1. Though penned by man its ultimate source is God.

2.14.4. **Revelation** = means God’s presence in the events of history.
2.14.5. **Inspiration** = means His presence in the recording of those events.³
2.14.6. **Illumination** = spiritual Illumination refers to the influence of the H.S. common to all Christians.

2.14.9. [2] They recorded what they observed, or that fell upon their ears (like Luke’s careful investigation).

2.14.10. **Infallible & Inerrant** – It is incapable of making a mistake, it always tells the truth.

2.14.11. **Not Natural Inspiration** – They would say, “The bible is inspired the way Shakespeare was inspired!”
   2.14.11.1. No, David said, “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me*”.
   2.14.11.2. The Spirit’s operation was in & upon the writers.
2.14.12. **Not Verbatim Inspiration** – Go did not dictate his messages to the writers. They were not robbed of their individuality, personalities, or memories.
2.14.13. **Not Mechanical Inspiration** – The writers were not passive instruments or machines.
2.14.14. **Inspiration** then is the process whereby God breathed out His Word…in which He is its source & superintendent!

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¹ R.C.Sproul; Essentials; pg.15.
³ C.A. Trentham; Studies in Timothy; pg.128.
2.15. (16a) **Teach Us** – what’s right!
2.16. **Doctrine** – teaching.
   2.16.1. **Q:** Where do you find instruction for right living?
       2.16.1.1. {Dr. Phil, Dr. Laura, Oprah, Rush, Bill O’Reilly}
       2.16.1.2. Oh, they have pretty good instruction at times.
   2.16.2. But, the only **inspired source** of instruction is the **Word of God**!

2.17. (16b) **Show Us** – what’s wrong!
2.18. **Reproof** – proving, convicting, i.e. for refuting error & rebuking sin.
   2.18.1. In Judaism **reproof** was especially important, where it had to be done **privately & gently** first.⁴
   2.18.2. Scripture can **show** sinners their failures, **clarify** the point of doctrine, & **lead** them to a new sense of peace & wholeness.⁵

2.19. (16c) **Correct Us** – How to be right!
2.20. **Correction** – setting up straight (the setting upright on their feet).
   2.20.1. Scripture can **help** the **misguided & disobedient** of their errors & **restoring** them to the **right paths**.⁶
   2.20.2. If we accept Scriptures **reproofs** we will start **straightening out**!

2.21. (16d) **Instruct Us** – How to stay right!
2.22. **Instruction** – training in righteousness.
   2.22.1. **Moral training** that leads to righteous living!
   2.22.2. **Same word** as Eph.6:4 “**bring them up** in the **training** and instruction of the Lord” where a **system of discipline** is used by the parent to develop Christian Character in a child.
   2.22.3. Here, it refers to a **system of discipline** that leads to a **holy lifestyle**.

2.23. Wiersbe observed an interesting comparison with the order of the epistles:
   2.23.1. **Doctrine/Romans; Reproof/1 & 2 Corinth; Correction/Gal.; Instruction in Rt/Eph & Col.**

2.24. (17a) **Complete Us** – for eternity!
2.25. **Complete** – capable, sufficient, i.e. able to meet all demands.
   2.25.1. It’s becoming **matured** in the things of God!
   2.25.2. The bible transforms the “child” of vs.15 into the mature person in Christ in vs.17.
      2.25.2.1. It **equips** the **saints** to become **servants**! (www)

⁴ IVP Bible Background Commentary; pg.630
⁵ Shepherd’s Notes; pg.58.
⁶ Ibid; pg.58.
2.26. (17b) **Equip Us** – for every good work! [super-equipped!]

2.27. **Thoroughly/Adequately equipped** – completely outfitted, fully furnished, fully equipped, fully supplied.\(^7\)

2.27.1. Q: Ever show up on a job sight & **forget some tools**?
2.27.2. Q: Ever put together a bicycle, swing set, or a BBQ & then were **lacking some parts**?
2.27.3. Q: Ever have to buy the **stripped down model** of automobile, when you really wanted the **fully loaded model**?
2.27.4. Q: Ever go to cook or bake something where half way through you realized you were **missing a couple ingredients**?

2.27.4.1. We don’t like it – and God isn’t any different?
2.27.4.2. It’s the difference in an **unfurnished** vs. **furnished apartment**!
2.27.4.3. **God wants you Christian**...“**completely outfitted, fully furnished, fully equipped, fully supplied**” **so He can use you** to your fullest potential!
2.27.4.4. What a tragedy for any Christian to be labeled **spiritually unprepared for a task** when the means of preparation are readily at hand!

2.28. **We must study & practice** the Word of God!

2.28.1. Study books tell us **how**, but the Bible gives us the **motivation & power** to live what we learn.

2.29. **End:** Ps.19:7-11. [1 Sam.14:24-30 Jonathon, honey on a rod]

2.30. If you are **cold**, let it **WARM** you,
If you are **asleep**, let it **WAKE** you,
If you are a **backslider**, let it **WARN** you,
If you are **defiled**, let it **WASH** you.
If you are **disobedient**, let it **WHIP** you.
If you are **uncertain**, let it **WITNESS** to you.
If you are **unsaved**, let it **WIN** you!

\(^7\) LKGNT