

II Timothy 3 (tx: 15-17)

THE SURVIVAL MANUAL FOR LIVING

- I. What is its nature
- II. Why is it necessary

INTRODUCTION

Do you ever wonder how in the world we are ever going to understand & survive & live through all the garbage of filth & falsehood that today's society spews out?

- how are we ever going to get through life's fierce storms of struggles & strife, & then through death?
- how are we ever going face with confidence & courage those crises & catastrophes that have the habit of just keep coming 1 after another?
- how can we ever keep from just throwing in the towel, giving up, & pulling ourselves into a shell & just let the whole bad world go by?

Well, Prov.3 says it won't work to look to human wisdom & words or to lean on our own strength & work to live successfully & serenely.

- but we must truly & totally trust Lord & in all our ways acknowledge & obey Him.
- & that means then we must possess & being reading & living His Word, the Holy Scriptures, as the 1 & only standard to follow for faith & life.

For that's what IITim.3 is telling us in no uncertain terms.

- we look then at what this passage is teaching us about THE SURVIVAL MANUAL FOR LIVING.
- 1st, we will notice what is its nature.
- &, 2nd, why it is necessary.

I. WHAT IS ITS NATURE

Now IITim.3 pts out that, if we want to properly understand & live happily on this earth, then we are going to need a survival manual or guide to help us find our way to real salvation & security.

- for it says in the 1st 9 vs: "Mark this well: The world we live in is terribly evil & it is only going to get worse. It is filled with all kinds of wickedness & wrong that is a real threat to the Christian faith & life. There are tremendous pressures & persecution to get us to conform to the ways of society & adopt its evil, erroneous life-styles that will continue to grow more & more terrible.
- "People will no longer love & live for God, but only be out for themselves. They will only be concerned about getting all they can of life's material pleasures & possessions & power so that they won't care if they stomp over others to get them.

- “They will become more & more proud & conceited & boastful, loveless & unforgiving & brutal, abusive & rash & slanderous, disobedient & unholy with no self-control whatsoever. They will hate & hurt; cheat & kill to get what they want.
- “And they will do it all under the guise of religion & piety. They will knock at our doors & try to worm their way into our homes, produce books & magazines & music & videos claiming they only have the real truth about God & life. And we had then better follow them so we can possess peace & joy.”

But we are told in **2 Tim.3** these people have a false faith, live corrupt lives apart from Lord & His Word & will so that we must never believe & follow them.

- &, if we want to live in such a pressure cooker & survive, & determine who & what is right or wrong, --
 - if we want to keep ourselves from being overcome by evil & error, --
- then there is only 1 manual available to guide us through today's mine fields.
 - only 1 book that will give us what we need to know right from wrong in believing & living so we can stand safe & strong against sin & suffering.
- & that book is Bible.

And that's because it isn't a book that is the ideas & inventions or words & works of human beings.

- if it were, then, of course, we are in big trouble even as we see today.
- yet there are many, probably most people, even so-called Christians including preachers, who view Bible as having no special supernatural character.

Oh, **Bible** is a best seller because people recognize it can tell us a lot about a supreme power & give good insights about a great person called Jesus.

- & it can help us learn to live in love with our fellow human beings.
- but that's all Bible is--just another how-to-do-book.
- or some say it is just an interesting fairy tale, full of fiction & fancy.

And the results of such thinking are devastating & destructive, just as **Scripture** warns in **Rom.1**.

- that, when we turn from God & His Word, then we will become full of filth & falsehood as we see in society around us.
- for then there is no one or nothing any more over & above us as an unchanging, eternal, absolute, true authority to help & guide us about how to live happily.

And surely the ideas & words of human beings aren't reliable because they don't last.

- they say 1 thing today & then another tomorrow so we can't trust them.
- & just look where & what trusting human words & works has gotten us today:
 - embroiled in a moral mess of lot of confusion & conflicts about the truth.
 - a world full of tensions & troubles galore.
 - problems so big we can't handle & solve anymore.

But Bible can get us out of all this mess & misery because it wasn't produced by humans.

- instead our passage says: "All Scripture is God breathed."
- that is to say, the NATURE of Bible is that it is the product of God breathing out.
 - He then made or produced it; He brought it into existence by His breath or Holy Spirit.
 - just like when we talk & produce words, we breathe them out & they are our words.

Therefore God is the author of Bible.

- it originated in His mind & then he communicated it through His mouth.
- in other words, He breathed it out so that Bible is completely His words & work.
 - it is nothing less than the very speech of God.
 - His living voice & spoken word to us so it possesses divine authority & power.

IIPt.1:20,21 also makes that very clear that the nature of Scripture isn't a human product manufactured by the will & private interpretation of human beings.

- no, but Peter says, people spoke & wrote from God as they were carried along & guided by Holy Spirit, the Breath of God.
- that passage then tells us just how Lord breathed out & wrote His Word, Bible.
- it was through the special, unique, one-time, supernatural work of Holy Spirit.
 - He, so to speak, took over the human writers & used & guided them to speak & write, not their own thoughts & words & ideas, but the very Word of God.
 - although we must never forget they wrote it in their own language & style, colored by their own education & experiences, character & culture.

But notice too: IITim.3 says ALL Scripture is God-breathed.

- not just parts of it so Bible contains God's Word, like words of Jesus, while the rest are human words.
- no, but the whole Bible IS God's Word from Genesis to Revelation.

And so, the very words & meanings of Scripture are then God's--all what He wanted.

- that's what Jesus meant when He said in Matt.5: "I tell you the truth, until heaven & earth disappear, not smallest letter, not least stroke of a pen, will disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."
 - & ICor.2:13 talks about "Spirit-taught" words.
- that's why we may never try to put our own meanings on the words of Scripture.
 - but we must determine their meanings by Scripture itself.
 - or let only Scripture interpret Scripture.

But too, it must follow then that, if Bible is God's Word & is Truth so it can't lie, --

- then what it breathes out or produces always has to be the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth.
- therefore His Word is truth, Jo.17 says, so that Bible has to be & is infallible or without error.

- the only totally true & trustworthy saving revelation of God to us.
- we then can completely believe & obey all it says about God & Jesus, us human beings & sin, about salvation & eternal life as being absolutely reliable for faith & life.
 - & we can trust it in our believing & living without any doubt whatsoever that it will never let us down & steer us wrong in this life & about eternity.

II. WHY IT IS NECESSARY

Now, because **Bible** is unique., like no other book for it is God-produced, **IITim.3** also teaches **WHY IT IS NECESSARY** then as the only survival manual for living.

- why we don't need any other book in its place or alongside it to help us understand what's going on in world, & how to keep our lives straight & joyful in midst of it all.
- for example, we don't need the Book of Mormon or any other writings & sayings of any other religious cults or man-made pronouncements to help us know what to believe & live.

I remember dealing with a young man in the **Philippines** who was being persuaded by Mormons that he also □

needed the Book of Mormon to explain these latter days to live right.

- but I told him to turn to **IITim.3** & pointed out to him that **Paul** 1st says things are going to go from bad to worst.
- then I asked him how **Paul** said we must explain & face it all?
 - does it tell us need **Bible** plus some other writings?
 - no, he says we have all we need for salvation & life when we have **Bible**.
- for **IITim.3** says it is God-breathed & produced so that it makes no mistakes about what's wrong with the world & how we can be saved & live everlasting with God.

So, you see, **Bible** is good enough & totally sufficient & absolutely necessary for salvation & life.

- it is because we read in vs.15: it is only is able to make us wise about salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.
 - that's our basic, primary, all important need.
- therefore it is the sole & essential & complete handbook to know about & to get salvation & eternal life.

For that's **Bible's** main point & purpose: to teach us the fundamental facts about Jesus Christ & the way of salvation.

- to focus on what God has done in Him to bring us back to Himself.
- to instruct & inspire us to believe in Him only to be saved from sin & death & live eternally with Lord.

But notice too: II Tim.3 says Bible, as God's Word, is also absolutely useful & necessary to equip us for every good work so that we are His mature people.

- & it when refers to good works that doesn't mean just our religious worship of engaging in prayer & praise, Scripture study & reading, church attendance & giving.
- instead it is Bible talk for our everyday living.
 - it includes then all the affairs & activities of life.
 - be it our work & play, driving our car or any farm machinery, buying & selling, studying or whatever it may be.

And so, Scriptures aren't just necessary for faith & salvation & worship.

- it is also the only guide for all of life.
- all so that we will be totally fitted to believe & live for Lord everyday & everywhere & at all times.

Now II Tim.3 spells all that out & explains how Bible is useful & necessary for faith & salvation & life when it says it is needed to teach & rebuke, to correct & train.

- indeed, we need Bible because it only can & does teach us about faith.
 - all facts & truths we need to know to be saved & live forever with God.
- it only then teaches us that the almighty God exists, & He is sovereign over all because He has created this whole, huge universe & everything & everyone in it.
 - & now He is in charge & control & care of it all.

Therefore from Scriptures we can understand what this world & life are all really about.

- that the universe didn't just start & evolve by chance so that we are drifting aimlessly & endless through space, & life then has no real meaning & worth.
 - & so, all we can do is eat, drink, & be merry for tomorrow we die & that's it.
- no, for Bible reveals God, who made & now masters & maintains it all, is now bringing everything & everyone to its final end.
 - every person to a final judgment & reward according to whether we believe in Jesus or not.
 - & the universe to being renewed & reconciled to Him in eternity.
- & that means this world & life have value & eternal significance.

Well, Scripture, as God's Word, also teaches the true facts about who we humans are.

- without it we will only have very unsatisfying views which claim we aren't much higher than animals because we have evolved from them into a more complex being.
- but with such a view the results are, as we see today, human life is expendable & not treated with dignity & sacredness & seriousness.
 - & if a person gets in the way, born or unborn, well or deformed, we can just rub them out with a saline solution in the womb or with a gun or a knife on the street.

But, when we believe Bible that human life is sacred, then we will treat it with dignity.

- that's because Scripture teaches every person is a God's creation in His image.
- &, even though we are all sinners so that His image is marred & twisted by sin, --
 - yet we are still marvelous, exalted creatures from the hand of God.
- therefore each of us possesses value & virtue, gifts & responsibilities of intellect & feelings & willing, & have an eternal destiny.

Then too it is only **Bible** that teaches us all the straight facts about what's wrong with us & where we are going as sinners apart from Lord.

- that we are sin-filled from the top of our heads to the bottom of our toes so that we can't please God & live with Him.
- & that can only mean death forever experiencing His eternal anger & punishment.

But **Scripture** also teaches us, that despite our sins, God is merciful & still wants to communicate & fellowship & live & work with us.

- He wants then to save us from sin & death & repair His image in us.
- & so, it is in Bible alone where we are told the way of escape from sin & death to eternal life.
 - there alone do we find all the facts about Jesus Christ: who He is: God coming in human flesh.
 - & what He has done with His perfect life & with His death & resurrection.
 - & is doing now with His presence reign in heaven.

And we are told how we must trust & obey Him to receive salvation & possess eternal life & joy.

- how we must be made into a new creation in Christ to be fit to live with Him forever.
- & what then God expects us to be & do to fulfill the purpose He 1st created & now saves us for:
 - to live in obedience & love & praise to Him.

Therefore **IITim.3** also says **Scriptures** are absolutely useful & necessary to rebuke & correct us.

- for, as the word of truth, it is the only book that exposes evil & error to get us to turn from them.
- & it warns us to set us strait by telling the whole truth & nothing but the truth.
 - by telling us when & where we are wrong & we are heading for eternal death.
 - & by showing & sending us in right direction to live.
 - only in God's will & way so we have real everlasting life & joy.

And in that way, it is only **Bible** that is useful & necessary to train us in righteousness.

- you see, it not only warns us where we are going wrong & it's terrible consequences.
 - or just show us the right way to be saved.
 - or just lays down the rules we must follow & live by.

- no, but Scripture also takes & leads & guides us, &, through Holy Spirit, actually gives us the power & desire & ability to do these rules of the Christian faith & life.
 - for Rom.1says it has power to save all those who believe & obey it.

Well then, all this means that only **Bible**, as God's true Word, has the power to make us to be completely the kind of person God wants & wills, as **IITim.3** says.

- with its truths about God & the world, about ourselves & salvation & life, then we will be able to make the right decisions concerning how to be saved & live forever.
 - how to live in our dating & marriage, in business & recreation, in our community & world.
- & with it as the manual of how to live we will be able to survive life & death.
 - be able to stand against Satan & sin & endure all of life's troubles & trials.

CONCLUSION

Well, God says, & we all surely know from experience, there is a jungle out there.

- the path of life is perilous; human society continues to deteriorate; there is much misery & moral confusion & chaos everywhere.
- so, what are we going to do to survive & get through it all & to really live in joy & peace no matter what happens to us or in the world?

Well, there is only 1 way, **IITim.3** says, only 1 guide to help us & it is this:

- it is Bible because it is the true, living, powerful Word of God.
- &, because it is, it only is able to teach us the faith, correct errors, reset the direction of our lives, & train us in the right kind of living.
- & therefore make us mature, fully equipped to really live as Lord's persons.

That's why we must never neglect or ignore **Bible**--let collect dust anywhere.

- but we must take it very seriously.
- read it, study it, meditate on it day & night, believe & obey it.
 - if you haven't, join a Bible study group.
 - make time for a quiet time to be with God & in His Word.
 - have family devotions.

You see, it's matter of life or death for us--of surviving in this life, & getting through death & into eternity.

- that do we make Bible the only lamp to our feet, the only light upon our path.

AMEN