

—DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(or some additional ideas to consider):

Our current study is focused on the importance and authority of the Bible. Over the next 2-3 weeks we'll be looking closely at Paul's second letter to Timothy (**2 Timothy**) and this week's message was from 2 Timothy 3:16–17.

—Please read all of chapter 3 & observe flow of thought/sequence of ideas presented by Paul. We can't accurately understand all that Paul was saying without noting the context provided by 3:1–15, but especially verses 1–9. It's not a pleasant perspective that Paul introduces in these verses, but we can't deny that much of what is pictured in this section is happening around us in our culture. It's possible that the key phrase from this section states that people are ***"always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the Truth."*** (3:7) What is the "knowledge of the Truth" and why is this important? In what ways do you sense that our society has lost some of its respect for the authority of the Bible?

—Now let's dig a little deeper into 3:16–17. Basically, the statement that ***"All Scripture is inspired by God"*** points out that the Bible (from Genesis to Revelation) is God's personal revelation to the world. The idea that it's ***"God-breathed"*** teaches us that the Bible is "alive, active, and authoritative" because God breathed the breath of life into it. Notice Genesis 2:7. Why is it important for us to recognize that the Bible is unique and unlike every other book ever written?

—This passage (3:16–17) explains that the Bible is profitable and practical for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in justice and righteousness. Based on what that says, how would you respond to someone who says "I've tried reading/studying the Bible, but I just don't get anything out of it?"

—On a personal level, what's the hardest thing for you about maintaining a consistent routine of Bible reading and Bible study?

—According to 3:16–17, what's the goal and main benefit of personal Bible study?