

THE PERSONAL APPLICATION OF SCRIPTURE

(Taken from the Study Guide *The Bible for Our Times*, by Michael Button)

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Do you see why God inspired the Scriptures to be written? It was so that He could make known His will for the way He wants us to live. Scripture is not given for mere intellectual knowledge but for practical know-how in living righteously.

The passage maybe explained as follows:

Doctrine: Teaching or instruction.

Reproof: Identifying where we have not followed God's instruction, or conviction.

Correction: Putting us right.

Instruction in righteousness: Showing us how to keep following the instruction in the right manner.

Equipped: Knowing how to do that which is good.

Scripture may give us knowledge of the things of God, of His Son Jesus, of the Church, etc. but that knowledge, however interesting it may be, is not an end in itself. Rather it is a means to an end – that in the light of that knowledge we may be able to live in the way God intends (*read* James 1:21-25).

The Scriptures themselves do indicate other purposes for their existence, for example:

- (1) To enable saving faith in Christ (John 20:31 & 1 John 5:13)
- (2) To give us comfort and hope (Rom 15:4)
- (3) As food for the soul (Deut 8:3 & Matt 4:4)
- (4) Enlightenment (Psalm 119:130)
- (5) A sword in spiritual warfare (Eph 6:17)
- (6) To probe the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Heb 4:12)

but none of these purposes will be fulfilled without **applying** the Scriptures in our lives.