

I. Advantageous

- a. We often look at God's word as being our way to heaven (through the blood of Jesus).
 - i. We learn about Jesus through the Gospel (God's word).
 - ii. We learn about His sacrifice.
 - iii. We learn about our response to His sacrifice.
- b. God's word has so much more to tell us.
- c. "Profitable" means useful, beneficial, advantageous.¹
 - i. There is so much more to God's word than just salvation.
 - ii. We learn about God's character through the sacred writings.
 - iii. We learn about the kind of people that God wants us to become.
- d. 2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

II. Teaching

- a. Instruction, doctrine
 - i. We often associate these words with education (rightly so).
 - ii. Our education in the Scriptures did (does) not end at our graduation (high school, college, graduate school).
 - iii. 2 Peter 3:17–18 (ESV)¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
- b. Our education in the Gospel is ongoing and never-ending.
 - i. We are living under the perfect law of liberty (James), but we still must pay attention to the old covenant as well.
 - ii. Romans 15:4 (ESV)⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our **instruction**, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
 - iii. This is the exact same word as in our text, 2 Timothy 3:16.
- c. Jesus was present in the old covenant.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 10:1–4 (ESV)¹ For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.
 - ii. We learn so much of God's character, about the Word of God, and about the Spirit of God through the Old Testament.
- d. God's word is useful, beneficial, advantageous in teaching us about Him.

¹ William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 1108.

III. Reproof

- a. Expression of strong disapproval, reproach, rebuke ²
- b. Jesus uses the very words of God when he rebuked Satan while they were in the wilderness (Luke 4)
 - i. Deuteronomy 8:3 (ESV) ³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.
 - ii. Deuteronomy 6:13 (ESV) ¹³ It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.
 - iii. Deuteronomy 6:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ “You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.
- c. Paul rebukes Elymas.
 - i. In Paul’s first journey they are on and run into a false prophet named Bar-Jesus who opposes them.
 - ii. Acts 13:9–10 (ESV) ⁹ But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰ and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?
- d. God’s word is useful, beneficial, advantageous in rebuking those who would twist or pervert the Truth of the Gospel.

IV. Correction

- a. Restoration, useful for improvement ³
- b. There are a lot of people who just don’t take correction well.
 - i. There are a lot of reasons for that; anger (from either the one reprimanding or the one being reprimanded), embarrassment, shame, pride, etc.
 - ii. Correction is a part of life and we have dealt with it from a very young age.
 - iii. Hebrews 12:4–7 (ESV) ⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?
- c. We must learn to love discipline.
 - i. We tend to hide from discipline; our faces turn red, we avert our eyes, we retreat into ourselves, we want to leave or crawl into a dark hole and wait it out.
 - ii. Proverbs 12:1 (ESV) ¹ Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

² Ibid, 314.

³ Ibid, 359.

- iii. We often carry this shame and embarrassment with us in our discipline instead of the love with which that discipline was given to us (whether by our friends and family or by our Heavenly Father)
 - iv. Only kick yourself hard enough to pick yourself up off the ground. Any more than that and you get the opposite effect. Evan Weiss
 - d. Paul opposes Peter.
 - i. Galatians 2:11 (ESV) ¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.
 - ii. Galatians 2:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"
 - iii. Peter's conduct was at odds, contrary to, the "truth of the Gospel."
 - e. God's word is useful, beneficial, advantageous in correcting those who are not behaving in a manner that corresponds to the Sacred Writings.
- V. Training
 - a. The act of providing guidance for responsible living, upbringing, training, instruction, in our literature chiefly as it is attained by discipline, correction. ⁴
 - b. This is a major aspect of our Christianity, training.
 - i. Those who want to be football players spend 4-6 hours a day training.
 - ii. MMA fighters spend 15-18 hours a week training.
 - iii. To make grandmaster in chess would take 4.2 years at 8 hours a day.
 - iv. 1 Corinthians 9:24–27 (ESV) ²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
 - v. Our training has everlasting results!
 - vi. We 'run the race' to obtain the prize!
 - c. How long do we spend training for our Christianity?
 - i. How long do we spend in God's word (not just reading, which is important too, but studying, meditating, ruminating)?
 - ii. Do we have a training regimen?
 - 1. Start the day in prayer.
 - 2. Spend time in study.
 - 3. Meditate on God's word.
 - 4. Look for opportunities to help others in the community.
 - 5. Spend time reading the Scriptures.
 - 6. What does your training regimen look like?
 - d. God's word is useful, beneficial, advantageous in training us to live like we want to win the prize.

⁴ Ibid, 748.

VI. Equipped

- a. 2 Timothy 3:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
- b. This is why we are taught, rebuked, corrected, and trained by the God-breathed word.
 - i. The word of God (the blood of Jesus) completes us.
 - ii. James 2:22 (ESV) ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;
 - iii. Christianity is not passive!
 - iv. We live out our faith so that others may see, be affected, and glorify God.
- c. Let the word of God teach, reprove, correct, and train you in righteousness so that you, too, may be complete.