

Life Link**Video Illustration:** Diary of a Bible**Slide Background:** GPS**Title: "Real Christians Read the Instructions" Text: 2 Tim 3:14-17****Big Idea:** [Introductory Illustration:](#)

Read Sermon Text The TV series "Home Improvement" who's main character Tim Taylor who host a cable home improvement show. One of Tim's iconic sayings is that "real men don't read the instructions." He proceeds through life with a series of hilarious life situations as he gets himself in in trouble by trying to get more out of less. His words for life are "more power". In real life that's the way most Christians try to live their walk. By not reading the instructions.

The person who has accepted Christ as Savior meanders through their daily living trying to get "more power" by doing less. They cannot seem to understand that living life with our the "Word" of God only leads to a weak spiritual walk with God. They would not think of not putting fuel in their car, which would leave them stranded on the side of the road, yet on the other hand many can't understand that not reading the instruction Book of God's Word will leave them stranded on the road of life.

Text Illustration: Unused Spiritual Resources

During Super bowl XXXVII, FedEx ran a commercial that spoofed the movie Castaway, in which Tom Hanks played a FedEx worker whose company plane went down, stranding him on a desert island for years. Looking like the bedraggled Hanks in the movie, the FedEx employee in the commercial goes up to the door of a suburban home, package in hand.

When the lady comes to the door, he explains that he survived five years on a deserted island, and during that whole time he kept this package in order to deliver it to her. She gives a simple, "Thank you."

But he is curious about what is in the package that he has been protecting for years. He says, "If I may ask, what was in that package after all?"

She opens it and shows him the contents, saying, "Oh, nothing really. Just a satellite telephone, a global positioning device, a compass, a water purifier, and some seeds." Like the contents in this package, the resources for growth and strength are available for every Christian who will take advantage of them. Source: A. Todd Coget

2 Tim 3:14-17 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

NKJV

1. Holy Scripture (vs. 15)

2 Timothy 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. NKJV

- a) Paul who has a wealth of knowledge concerning the ministry is writing to Timothy concerning the ministry to which Timothy is entering. He reminds him of the importance of the Word of God. Something to which many modern day Christians seems to either missed or forgotten. Timothy had been exposed to the God's Word at a very early age. Which Paul points out and he says to Timothy that even as a small child he was exposed to The Word of God.
- b) Matthew 22:29 reminds us of the error of our ways "You are mistaken". Tim Taylor's failure to read the written instructions that are provided got him into a lot of needless difficulties. While it is true that not every pitfall of life can be avoided. When we get in to a situation in life God's word can provide us with Godly wisdom to help us make the right choice to accomplish our task or make the right decision or eve get us out of a jam.

Text Illustration:

- Someone once said: A Bible in the hand is worth two in the bookcase.
- And someone else said: A Bible stored in the mind is worth a dozen stored in the bottom of one's trunk.
- Here's a pop quiz: Which of the following aren't in the Bible? -Cleanliness is next to godliness - God helps those who help themselves - Confession is good for the soul - We are as prone to sin as sparks fly upward - Money is the root of all evil - Honesty is the best policy. Though these are all true, or partially true, none of them is in the Bible. We have learned to treat man's opinions with as much respect as the Bible.
- DL Moody said: "The scriptures were not given for our information but our transformation."
- Mark Twain, not exactly a die-hard Christian, wrote these words: "Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me most are those I do understand."

- No matter how many times you have been through it, let it go through you.
 - God's word is like salt in the back of your car in the winter. It's a lot more useful when you take it out and apply it. - We get more out of the Bible when we let it get into us. Source: Sermon Central-Pat Cook Centreville United Baptist Church

Text Illustration: FILLING UP WITH THE SPIRIT

Speaking to a large audience, D.L. Moody held up a glass and asked, "How can I get the air out of this glass?" One man shouted, "Suck it out with a pump!" Moody replied, "That would create a vacuum and shatter the glass." After numerous other suggestions Moody smiled, picked up a pitcher of water, and filled the glass. "There," he said, "all the air is now removed." He then went on to explain that victory in the Christian life is not accomplished by "sucking out a sin here and there," but by being filled with the Holy Spirit. SOURCE: Today in the Word, September, 1991, p. 30.

Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. NKJV

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. NKJV

Luke 24:32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" NKJV

Luke 24:45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. NKJV

Acts 17:2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, NKJV

Romans 1:2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, NKJV

Romans 16:26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith — NKJV

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, NKJV

2 Peter 1:20-21 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. NKJV

2 Peter 3:16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. NKJV

2. Purpose of Holy Scripture (vs. 16)

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, NKJV

- a) Paul tells us that the Bible is given by inspiration of God. The Bible is continually under attack. There are those who claim the Bible was written by man, while in a word that is true. Just as the encyclopedia was written by men the facts contained within its covers are accounts of actual events that happen.
- b) God's Word can be used to develop our beliefs (doctrine), it can be used to change our lives from wrongful living (correction) and to guide our daily living. It is a roadmap for life. Years ago I was a member of an auto club and as part of the service provided was a trip planner service. When we want to take a trip we contact them and ask for a trip planner packet to our destination. I would receive detailed maps and information about side attractions, places to spend the night and places to stop and eat and get fuel. It was fairly comprehensive packet. The Bible is the trip planner for life. It can be used to avoid the pitfalls and pot holes in our journey. It is a complete and comprehensive guide for life and it is useful not for a short trip but for a life time. It will take us all the way to our destination the Heavenly home that is prepared for us.

2 Sam 23:2 "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me,
And His word was on my tongue. NKJV

The Message: Rom 15:4 4 Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it's written for us. God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next. (from THE MESSAGE: The Bible in Contemporary Language © 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson. All rights reserved.)

Acts 1:16 "Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; NKJV

Acts 28:25 So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, NKJV

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. NKJV

Galatians 3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." NKJV

Hebrews 3:7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:
"Today, if you will hear His voice, NKJV

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. NKJV

2 Peter 1:19-21 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. NKJV

3. Work of Holy Scripture (vs. 17)

2 Timothy 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. NKJV

Text Illustration: MEASURING UP

In Washington D.C. there is a building called the "National Institute of Standards & Technology." This facility is responsible for storing perfect samples of weights and measurements. They have what are called "prototypes" of pound weights and kilograms. Measuring rods for feet, yards & metric measurements like meters. For example, they have a "Meter Standard" a reinforced bar of platinum alloyed with exactly 10% iridium. When they want to know the exact measurement of a "meter" they cool this bar down to 0 degrees Celsius at a sea level of 45 degrees latitude then they know they will have the exact tip to tip measurement of a meter. That bar is known as "prototype #27, because the original is kept in a suburb of Paris at the International Bureau of Weights & Measures.

We Christians also have a measuring rod that never changes. 2Timothy 3:16-17 tells us:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect,

thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

SOURCE: <http://www.nist.gov>

2 Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. NKJV

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. NKJV

2 Tim 2:21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. NKJV

Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, NKJV

Conclusion: How important is the Word of God? The answer is to that question is found in it's name "The Word of God"!