

**Sermon Title: The Attributes of Defending Against Apostasy Part IV**

**Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 3:14-17**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to develop a strong foundation on the authority and sufficiency of Scripture for life and ministry.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 foundations a defender of the faith must establish in their lives.**

**I. There must be a strong foundation of Scriptural teaching. V.14a**

A. The disciple is to be taught the Scriptures.

B. The disciple is to learn the Scriptures.

C. The disciple is to be assured of the Scriptures.

D. The disciple is to continue in the Scriptures.

“The disciple is to be deeply rooted in biblical background, they are to keep on continuing in the doctrine that is based on the Word of God, they are to establish fixed and firm convictions, taught to them and modeled by teachers throughout their lives.”

**II. There must be a strong foundation of Scriptural convictions. V.14b-15**

1) The disciple must consider the quality, character, and convictions of their teachers. They are to seek and be sought out by godly, trustworthy men and women who give them a strong foundation in God’s Word.

2) If you and I want to convince somebody that something is really true, you not only teach it, you convince them that you also believe it and that you will not compromise on it.

3) You also convince them by your living that you are a worthy pattern to follow and that you’re an authority to accept.

4) If you want to pass a conviction to someone else, it isn’t as simple as just telling them its true, you have to show them by how you live that you believe it’s true and you must show them by how you live that they ought to trust what you believe.

5) People of conviction are usually formed out of the soil of a strong parentage and a strong scriptural teaching environment. **(Deut. 6:4ff; John 17:17; Rom. 15:4)**

**Psalm 19:7** The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple;

**John 15:3** "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

**I Corinthians 10:11** Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

**III. There must be a strong foundation of Scriptural authority. V.16a**

A. The Scriptures are authoritative in every part. V.16

B. The Scriptures are authoritative in Old Testament and New Testament. V.16

1) Paul was of course referring to the Old Testament; the New Testament Scriptures had not yet been completed. However, this passage applies.

2) William Barclay says: “If what Paul claims for Scripture is true of the Old Testament how much truer it is for the New Testament.

3) A.T. Robertson, the great Greek scholar says: “There is no doubt that the apostles and prophets spoke by the help of the Holy Spirit. **(1 Peter 1:20ff)**

**1 Thessalonians 5:27** I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.

**Colossians 4:6** Let your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

C. The Scriptures are authoritative because of it’s source. **(1 Pet. 1:19-21; John 16:12-15; 1 Cor. 2:9-10; Ps. 19:1ff; Ps. 119:1ff)**

**Psalm 33:6** By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

**Matthew 24:35** "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

**John 10:34** Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods "'? **35** "If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

**IV. There must be a strong foundation of Scriptural sufficiency. V.16b-17**

- A. The Scriptures are sufficient for Spiritual **growth**. V.16b  
 Scripture is profitable to man, the word profitable (ophelimos) means useful, beneficial, and helpful. Scripture is useful in 4 aspects of spiritual growth.
- 1) The Scriptures are useful for doctrine – the principles for life are found in the Scriptures. **(John 7:16-17)**  
**John 8:31** Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. **32** "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
  - 2) The Scriptures are useful for reproof – God wants man to sense conviction and to be rebuked when he is disobedient to God's will. The Scriptures rewards God's will and the consequences of disobedience to His will.  
**John 16:7** "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. **8** "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: . . . **13** "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.  
**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.
  - 3) The Scriptures are useful for corrections – God wants man to set straight when he is wrong. The Bible teaches and calls for obedience by teaching a person to discipline himself, even to the point of suffering. **(Eph. 5:26; 1 Pet. 1:22)**  
**Hebrews 5:8** though He was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.  
**Psalms 119:9** How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.
  - 4) The Scriptures are useful for instructions in righteousness – God wants man to know the right things to do, to think, and to say. The Bible reveals how to live righteously. **(1 Pet. 2:2-3; Deut. 1:18; Ps. 119:11)**  
**Titus 2:12** teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, **13** looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

B. The Scriptures are sufficient for **equipping** the Saints. V.17

Scripture perfects a man and equips him for every good work. By "perfect" (artios) is meant complete, matured, filled. No one can or will be perfected or matured apart from Scripture. Man was made by God and he is to live by the Word of God. When we fail to live by God's Word, man fails life. This is absolutely true of the "man of God." Pastor, Bishop, Elder, the person who claims to be a defender or teacher of God's Word.

William Barclay states: "The study of the Scriptures trains a man in righteousness until he is equipped for every good work. Here is the essential conclusion. The study of the Scriptures must never be selfish, it must never be simply for the good of man's own soul. Any change, any conversion which makes a man think of nothing but of the fact that he has been saved is no true change and no true conversion.

He must study the Scriptures to make himself useful to God and useful to his fellow men. He must study, not simply and solely to save his own soul, but that he may make himself such that God will use him to help to save the souls and disciple the lives of others. No man is saved unless he is on fire to save his fellow man." (The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon, p. 232) **(Deut. 17:19)**

**Acts 17:11** These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. **12** Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.