



# **PATHFINDERS**

Leading this generation into true manhood!!

**Pathfinders are Equipped!**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

**Men's Breakfast**

**Sermon given on October 15, 2022**



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# Pathfinders are Equipped!

## 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### Opening Comments

- Today we continue the series: **PATHFINDERS: Leading this generation into true manhood!**
- I don't think this makes me unique, but I don't like it when I can't do something
- I really don't like asking for help, especially on something I think I should be able to do
- We have a situation going with our clothes washer
- It is giving an error message and shutting down after a minute or two into the wash cycle
- I was able to find out what the error message meant, but can't seem to solve the issue
- I ended up scheduling an appointment with a repair service
- I am not equipped to solve this problem, so I had to reach out to someone that I am hoping is equipped, experienced, and able to do it
- I am not able to solve this problem with our washer because it is not my job to know how to do that
- As a man, I am going to try to be as independent as I can
- As men, we should be able to do things for ourselves
- But at the same time, we need to be humble enough to ask for help when we can't do it for ourselves
- As men, God created us to be leaders
- This series, Pathfinders, is all about that
- The Apostle Paul told us that God made us for a purpose **Ephesians 2:10**

**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

- Leading is one of the good works God prepared for you to do
- How we do that is important to God and to the ones He has called us to lead
- That means we need to take it seriously and prepare ourselves **Titus 1:16**

**They profess to know God, but in works they deny *Him*, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.**

- Turn in your Bible to **2 Timothy 3**
- As a child of God, He has appointed good works for you to do
- You are automatically qualified to do those good works
- You can disqualify yourself from those good works through unfaithfulness and disobedience
- And it is possible to be requalified through repentance and obedience
- If you are doing your best to do what God wants, you are qualified to do the good works He assigned for you
- But that doesn't mean you are equipped to do that work
- When I married Kelly, God gave me the good work of being her husband
- I was qualified to do it, but I wasn't equipped to do it very well
- I had no experience at it – I had only a small amount of knowledge and a lot of that knowledge was pretty questionable – I lacked most of the tools I needed to do the job well
- I have spent the last forty years becoming better equipped to be her husband
- The first question we need to answer is, 'How well should we be seeking to do the good works God assigned to us?'
- How good is good enough? **Matthew 5:48**

**Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.**

- Our goal is perfection
- One of the lies the Devil convinces God's people to believe is that it is impossible to be perfect – so you should just settle with 'good enough'
- Nothing less than perfection ought to be our goal
- And because God is so good and holy, He provides what we need to reach that goal **2 Corinthians 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.**

- First, God provided His Son as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins
- Without Jesus, none of us would be able to accomplish anything good in this life
- Second, God sent His Holy Spirit to dwell within us to lead us, guide us, empower us to do the good works

- Third, God gave us the church for encouragement and training for good works
- The thing I would like to focus on this morning is laid out for us here in 2 Timothy 3
- Let's read the text and then we will talk about it
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- The 'Scriptures' is another name for the Bible (=book)
- It is also called the Word of God
- The phrase 'given by inspiration of God' is a single Greek word 'theopneutos' = God-breathed
- God breathed His words into the hearts and minds of those He gave the good work of writing down what He wanted to tell humanity
- There are some who disregard the Bible because they say it was written by men
- We can accept the Bible because those men only wrote what they were supernaturally inspired to write
- We are even told how much of the Scriptures are God-breathed
- 'All' = all, every single word
- The first step to be equipped to do the good works God prepared for you is believing that every word of this book is true **Psalm 119:160**  
**The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.**
- Every time you open the Bible, remind yourself that every word you are about to read is true
- Next, Paul tells us that Scriptures are profitable for four things
- First – **Scripture is profitable for doctrine!**
- Doctrine is about what is taught
- This is especially relevant for the church
- What a church believes and teaches is its doctrine
- Doctrines are important because they determine what we do
- As a spiritual leader, you have a responsibility to do your best to make sure the church you are bringing your family to is teaching what the Bible says and not man's ideas
- Doctrine is also important to us as leaders

- What you believe to be true about God and the things of God determine how you behave
  - For example: the church teaches the inerrancy of Scripture
  - If you don't hold to that doctrine, you will question which parts of the Bible are true for you – heresy – cannot do the good works of God
  - Doctrine is important and God's Word is the source of all right doctrine
  - When you read the Bible or listen to a sermon ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you where what you believe differs from what God's Word teaches
  - Second – **Scripture is profitable for Reproof!**
  - How many of you used the word reproof in a sentence this week?
  - Another word is more familiar – rebuke
  - **rebuke n. — an act or expression of criticism and censure.**
  - The Word of God rightly believed to be truth enables us to examine our beliefs and thoughts – whether they are true or not
  - Whether they line up with right doctrine or not
  - Years ago, a man I knew was doing something that wasn't right
  - I sent him a text that simply read **Romans 13:1-3**
- Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.**
- He received it as a reproof
  - It wasn't me criticizing him – it was God's Word
  - It wasn't me that disapproved of what he was doing – it was God
  - When you read the Bible, be open to hearing from the Holy Spirit if there is something in your life that is displeasing to God
  - And if there is, have the courage to repent and do what is right
  - Third – **Scripture is profitable for Correction!**
  - Reproof points out what is wrong – Correction points you to what is right
  - Because none of us is perfect yet, there will always be a need for correction

- In the Navy I was in navigation
- My job was to make sure we got to where the captain wanted us to go
- This took constant evaluation of our position and then determining what the appropriate course correction was needed to get us there
- If we want to do the good works that God has assigned to us, we must be willing to accept correction from God's Word and from God's people who are using God's Word
- The hard part for us as guys is that sometimes pride gets in the way of receiving correction – not good **Proverbs 15:10**

**Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, and he who hates correction will die.**

- If we are going to find our way to the good work God assigned to us, we must humble ourselves before God and allow His Word to correct us
  - Fourth – **Scripture is profitable for Instruction in Righteousness!**
  - The Bible teaches us right from wrong
  - If we want to do the good works God assigned to us, we should want to do them the right way
  - As men, we might want to do things the way we think is best
  - But God's ways are not our ways – righteousness is being right with God and doing what God says is right in the way He says to do it
- Psalm 119:9**

**How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.**

- That applies to you old guys too!
  - God's Word is profitable – Paul goes on to give us the outcome
  - **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
  - 'that the man of God may be complete'
  - Paul is making a connection between your wholeness as a man and your relationship to the Word of God
  - We cannot be whole or complete apart from a regular diet of the Word of God
  - Choose to love God's Word – Ask God the Holy Spirit to cause your heart to long for a deeper understanding of God through His Word
- Job 23:12**

**I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.**

- Paul finishes this verse by saying doing that will thoroughly equip the man of God for every good work
- You were created for good works
- You were qualified to do that work based on God's assignment
- And God's desire is that we would do that work perfectly
- And because none of us is perfect, we need to be made complete, thoroughly equipped through God's Word received, believed, and obey
- Guys, I know I am probably preaching to the choir on this, but take some time and examine your relationship to God's Word
- Are you reading it regularly? Is it important to you that you do?
- Are you reading it as truth?
- Are you allowing it rebuke you when necessary?
- Are you using the Word of God for critical examination of your life?
- Are you letting it correct you and make you more perfect?
- God's Word received, believed, and obeyed will make you complete, equipped for every good work God has assigned to you
- Pathfinders are equipped!
- **Let's pray!**