

**Rooted in the Bible**

This week we will be looking at why we need to be 'Rooted in the Bible'; as Billy Graham said, "The Bible is not an option; it is a necessity. You cannot grow spiritually strong without it."

**Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17**

Our passage finishes with a statement that – from reading the Bible, you will be thoroughly equipped for every good work. *This can't be a physical equipping, so what does this mean? Can we achieve any 'good work' without whatever this equipping is?*

Verse 16 is a well-known and often recited – 'All Scripture is God-breathed.' (some translations – God inspired) *Do you accept this? It says ALL scripture (not most or some Scripture). What about those passages often ignored, or quietly forgotten, or not understood that we choose rarely or never to read – does this include these scriptures?*

Protestant Christians accept that the Bible is, in totality, the Word of God. Of course, we can and should debate (with love and respect) how some difficult scriptures are to be understood, but we need to accept the authority of the Bible, be rooted in the Bible, as it is the prime source of our spiritual food; it is God's gift to us, 'the manual for life', where we most commonly 'hear' from God when reading his Word. *Perhaps members of the group could share instances when God has 'spoken to them' through reading specific scriptures? Why is it that we should be rooted in the Bible and not books or words produced by leading theologians or Bible teachers, past or present?*

I have been challenged (by God I think) twice in the past couple of weeks about the priceless value of the Bible, the challenge being around 'what would you do if you did not have any access to a Bible'. One example being in Uganda, where the people with whom I was sharing/teaching/encouraging were expected, on completion of the course, to return to their communities to 'start a group with the objectives of making disciples', some without actually owning a Bible themselves. We were teaching them to memorise verses in order that they would have 'the Bible within themselves'. *How many Bible verses can you recite from memory? How often do you use these in everyday life? Do you think learning more verses would be beneficial? If so, then how will you challenge yourself to achieve this?*

**Read Hebrews 4: 12-16**

We have in church often, including recently, been shown the many offerings there are to access the Bible, to daily reading/listening notes. There is almost no media platform, channel or publisher without a Bible reading offering. Whatever way best suits your need can be met. *Have you considered the benefits, the challenge, of trying a new daily reading provider, something to take us out of our comfort zone which is our daily 'quiet time with God'. Or perhaps adding another provider to your existing one?*

**Prayer:** Father God, thank you for the gift of your holy Word, and thank you that we enjoy unlimited access to it. Please renew my hunger to consume all that you are wanting to say to me through the pages of this priceless book. Amen.