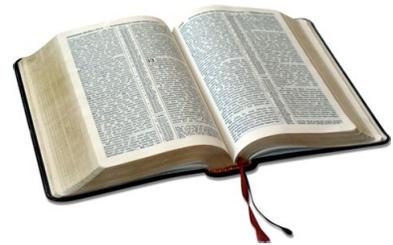


A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHURCH #3
NOV 6, 2022 (Happy Birthday, Sue!)
PRACTICAL TEACHINGS



TODAY'S POINT: LIVE "BY THE BOOK"! (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

A. ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD (v. 16a).

1. Over the course of human history, untold numbers of books have been written and untold numbers of philosophical examinations about "the meaning of life" have been undertaken. So many opinions - who can figure it all out (Ecc 12:12)?
2. But one book stands out among all the others. The Bible - and only the Bible - is the very word of God to mankind (2 Tim 3:16a). Unlike all other writings, it is the living, eternally authoritative source of truth (Jn 17:17, 1 Pet 1:23-25).
3. Being convinced of the inspiration and timelessness of Scripture, we here at New Life seek to live by its precepts (Psa 119:105, 130) - handling this precious word of truth accurately (2Tim 2:15), avoiding damaging divisions (1 Cor 1:10).
4. Having this common approach to Scripture provides us with a solid foundation for life together. We are unified in how we view the role of grace in our lives (Eph 2:1-10) and the need for humility (Phil 2:1-8). It's not about me, but you!

B. ALL SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE (v. 16b).

1. But, as always, it comes down to the brass tacks of daily living - of putting into practice what is believed and proclaimed. And to that end, Scripture is most *profitable* (beneficial, useful; Mk 8:36) through its infallible provision of *teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness*.
2. Scripture teaches us, not only of God's gracious plan for our salvation, but also of His expectations for us as His children (1 Thess 4:3, 1 Peter 1:16-19; Col 1:28, Eph 4:13-16). Through Scripture, we are reprov'd (or, convicted of sin; Jn 8:46) and corrected (straightened out) as part of our training in righteousness (maturing).
3. This profitability of Scripture can manifest itself to us directly as we read it (Matt 4:4), or through the agency of others (1 Thess 2:13). In either case, the result is more than mere *adequacy* (NASB), but rather, a believer who is "...complete and proficient, outfitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work." (v. 17, AMP).
4. By the grace of God, in such a way will we learn from and teach one another as we seek together to live in love and unity by the Book!