Sunday, August 18, 2019 Mark Moser

Why Scripture?

2 Timothy 3:14-4:4
(Black Bibles pg. 996; Children's Bibles pg. 1485)

Scripture is about both heaven and earth:
[1] "Makes you wise for salvation in Christ Jesus": *Scripture points you toward **heaven**.*

- Paul has the Old Testament in mind here.

- Some examples of how this works:
  - *Job*
  - *Psalms*
  - *Leviticus and Deuteronomy*
  - *Isaiah*

[2] "Breathed out by God": *Scripture comes from **heaven**.*

- Not merely "inspiration," but something stronger. Remember Jesus saying similar things, that Scripture "cannot be broken" (John 10:35; cf. Mark 12:26, Matt 5:17-20).

[3] "For training" and "equipping": *Scripture is for real life on **earth**.*

- Do you really need Scripture – or do you believe you can just follow your inner light, your 'authentic' self?

[4] "People will not endure sound teaching": *Scripture is unattractive on **earth**.*

- Surely if it were "breathed out by God," everyone would want to read it! Well…
- The desire for teaching "to suit their own passions"

Concluding thoughts

<u>Questions for further study and reflection:</u>
1. Read the passage (2 Tim 3:14 - 4:4). What is the unifying theme of the entire passage?
2. If you're saved already, why does it matter that the Old Testament makes you wise for salvation in Christ?
3. Can you think of a concrete example when Scripture equipped you for a good work?
4. Do you really believe you need Scripture to equip you, or can you just follow your instincts, education, native gifts…?
5. Rarely does anyone say they reject God's Word because they want teachings "to suit their own passions." So do you think this is true? If so, why?