



“Believing the Bible in an Age of Skepticism”

2 Peter 1:16-21

The Bible is.....

“.....a reliable collection of historical documents written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses which report supernatural events in fulfillment of specific prophecies claiming that they are words of divine origin, rather than human in origin.”

**- from Dr. Voddie Baucham,
Dean of Seminary,
African Christian University**



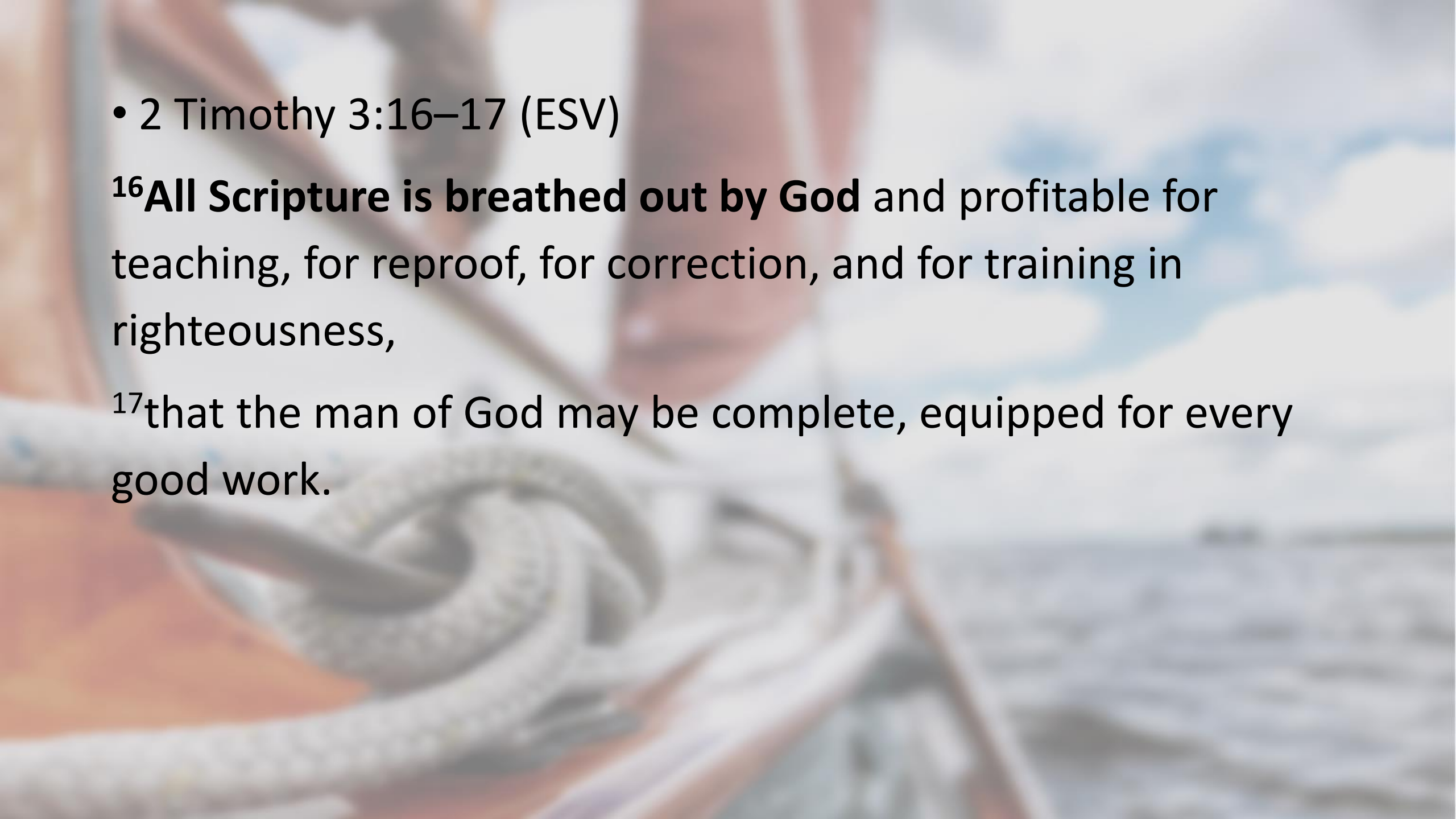
Canon

- from Greek *kanon*, means **“a standard, or rule of measure”**

The Old Testament was established prior to the coming of Jesus

Luke 24:44 (ESV)

- ⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

A person wearing a life jacket is rowing a boat on the ocean. The background shows a blue sky with white clouds and the dark blue water of the sea. The person's hands are visible on the oars.

- 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- *“Neither individuals nor councils created the canon; instead they came to recognize and acknowledge the self authenticating quality of these writings, which imposed themselves as canonical upon the church.”*

Dr. Bruce Metzger (1914-2007)
Professor of New Testament
Language and Literature
Princeton Theological Seminary



Recognition of the New Testament Books

- Papias in A.D. 120s knows “four gospels”
- Irenaeus of Lyon and Clement of Alexandria in AD 180 write that four gospels are accepted by all
- Origen in A.D. 240 mentions 23 of the 27 New Testament Books
- Athanasias in A.D. 327 list all 27 New Testament books in his *Festal Letter*
- The early Church Fathers used terms like “receive, recognize, confess these books and acknowledge” when referring to the books of the New Testament

Common Traits of the New Testament Books

1. Written by an apostle

- An apostle saw Jesus physically
- An apostle was directly commissioned by Jesus
- An apostle worked miracles

2. Doctrinal Consistency

- Monotheism
- The Person of Jesus
- Continuity with Israel
- Salvation by Faith in Jesus

Common Traits of the New Testament Books

3. Universal Acceptance

4. Self-Authenticating

Are the Gospels Just Myths and Legends?

1. The Level of Detail
2. The Role of Women
3. The Portrayal of the Disciples
4. The Testimony of Eyewitnesses

Aren't the Manuscripts Corrupt?

- There are over 6,000 New Testament Manuscripts (over 20,000 biblical manuscripts when the Old Testament is included)
- Caesar's *Gallic Wars* – 10 copies
- Aristotle's *Poetics* – less than 10 copies
- Works of Socrates – 0 copies

Aren't the Manuscripts Corrupt?

- *Gallic Wars* – the oldest extant manuscript was written 900 years after the event
- *Poetics* - 1,400 years after the death of Aristotle
- Works of Homer – 2,100 years after his death
- **The earliest New Testament manuscript was written 25 years after the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.**



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