

Standing on the Word

2 Timothy 3:14-4:4

*We need to be people who stand on God's Word,
faithfully proclaiming it and faithfully living it out.*

1. Scripture is God-breathed: *Every time we open the Word, God is breathing His Words on us (3:14-17)*

- The Word is able to make us “wise for salvation” (v. 15)
- The Word shapes our beliefs and our lifestyle (v. 16)
- The Word is what equips us “for every good work” (v. 17)

“Scripture is the chief means which God employs to bring ‘the man of God’ to maturity.” (John Stott)

2. In light of the coming judgment at the return of Christ and for the sake of His Kingdom (4:1), preach God's Word! (4:2-4)

- To “preach the Word” = *to publish or proclaim the Word openly*
- Always be ready to proclaim the Word, using the Word to *reprove, rebuke, exhort, with complete patience and teaching* (v. 2)
- Watch out that you're not looking for teachers who simply say what your itching ears want to hear to suit your own passions (v. 3-4)

Study Guide

⟷ Reflect + Discuss + Apply

1. Are you continuing to learn the Bible? How are you pursuing the study of God's Word?
2. How can the Old Testament make someone wise for salvation?
3. In what ways are "rebuking" and "correcting" profitable?
4. Besides the Bible, what other books have you found helpful in your spiritual life? What are their strengths and limitations?
5. What aspects of the task God has given to us requires the most patience? Why? What gives you hope?
6. What do people want to hear? What do people need to hear?

⟷ Getting more out of your Bible reading

1. **Use a Study Bible.** Some of my favourites include, ESV Study Bible, CSB Study Bible, and the Life Application Bible (either NIV or NLT).
2. **Read books of the Bible in one sitting.** Reading a book of the Bible in one sitting can help you better point out key literary features and better understand the theological message of the book.
3. **Listen to audio Bibles, especially if you're not a big reader.** Remember that the church for centuries only had the opportunity to listen; they didn't have their own written copies.
4. **Read from digital screens only as a last resort.** Research now shows a decrease in what scientists call *deep reading* when we read from a screen (even Kindles) versus reading from paper. Our brain actually uses different circuits depending on whether we are reading from paper or a screen. Screen reading encourages more non-linear reading (skimming and browsing) whereas paper reading encourages more linear reading, which is *deeper reading*. Also, if you have children, you want them seeing you spending time in the Word, not wondering if you're scrolling Facebook or what level of Angry Birds you're on.