

## Romans (146)

There exists a close connection between v4 and v3—in vv1-2 the apostle has exhorted us to selfless love—putting the needs of others before our own—in v3 he provides a grand motive—the selfless love of Christ, v3—"for even Christ did not please Himself"—he then quotes from Psalm 69—"as it is written, The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me..."

This naturally leads to a short digression—concerning the purpose and usefulness of Scripture, and especially—OT Scripture—in other words—having used Psalm 69 for the purpose of instructing and encouraging the Romans—Paul now provides a broader and blessed principle—all Scripture is profitable for all Christians—regardless if they are Jew or Gentile—or perhaps I can put it like this—the OT is Christian literature...

Now—the necessity for this digression is rather evident—having stressed the fact that Christians are no longer under the OC, and no longer bound to the ceremonial and temporal laws of that covenant—there may have arisen within the minds of some—that the OT Scriptures were obsolete and no longer beneficial—thus Paul here shows the very opposite is true—while we are not under the OC—the OC Scriptures have great value for Christians...

### I. The Identity of Scripture

### II. The Purpose of Scripture

#### I. The Identity of Scripture

1. Simply put—by "whatever things were written before"—is meant the Scriptures of the OT—Genesis to Malachi...
2. [1] They were written—that is—they were inscripturated—they were given by God and written down by man...
3. Twice within this verse Paul uses the verb "to write"—meaning—"to write, record, inscribe, or compose..."
4. In other words—Paul is speaking about what we call "scripture"—those writings of inspired human authors...
5. Now—this doesn't deny that further revelation was given by God—that may or may not have been written...
6. But—I am asserting that—only what the Lord wanted to preserve was collected into the old and New Testaments...
7. Rom15:4—"for whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures [the writings] might have hope..."
8. 2Tim.3:16—"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God"—the word rendered "scripture" means—writings...
9. All the writings are given by inspiration of God—that is—they are given by God who inspired human authors...
10. For—remember—God didn't write Scripture Himself—He used human authors to write what He determined...
11. Now—this is a rather important point—God's special revelation—was given by way of writing or through words...
12. He first revealed these truths through verbal proclamation—and then collected these words in writing or scripture...
13. For think of it—the Lord could have simply revealed Himself through the prophets without writing anything down...
14. But—and this is the point of this text—He wrote these things down for the express purpose of teaching us...
15. That is—OT revelation was record and preserved for the express purpose of teaching and instructing NC saints...

16. [2] They were written before—that is—he's specifically referring to OT Scripture—which consists of 39 books...
17. Now—while I trust this is obvious or evident—I want to underscore it as I hope to return to this point later...
18. This is obvious, in that, both times the verb "to write" is in the aorist tense—which refers to something in the past...
19. That is—it "was written in the past" (NIV)—"was written in earlier times" (NAS)—"was written beforetime" (KJV)...
20. Thus by "Scripture" is meant—the Hebrew writings of the OT—those writings collected into the OT canon...

## II. The Purpose of Scripture

### A. Instruction

1. Paul specifically says—"whatever things were written before were written for our learning"—our instruction...
2. The OT Scriptures were written—"to teach us"—this was the primary reason they were written—to instruct...
3. Now—I suggest that Paul uses this term "learning" to refer to—[1] what we believe, and [2] what we practice...
4. [1] What we are to believe—the Scriptures, both the OT and NT—teach us about God, Christ, and salvation...
5. [2] What we are to practice—that is—the Scriptures not only teach us WHAT to believe but HOW to live...
6. 2Tim.3:16-17—"All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work..."
7. All Scripture, and especially Paul is thinking of OT Scripture—[a] is profitable for doctrine or instruction...
8. [b] All Scripture is profitable...for reproof—to rebuke, reprove, or admonish—to give conviction for error...
9. [c] All Scripture is profitable...for correction—to restore, return or correct—this is the other side of reproof...
10. [d] All Scripture is profitable...for training in righteousness—training is a generic word used for child-training...
11. Perhaps "nurturing" would be a good translation—the Scriptures are sufficient to train or nurture in righteousness...
12. Thus—Scripture renders the man of God, the minister of God—thoroughly equipped for every good work...

### B. Patience

1. The word rendered "patience" by the NKJV—literally means—patient endurance, perseverance, or steadfastness...
2. In other words—in learning from the Scriptures—we are enabled to endure or persevere through great tribulation..
3. That is—from the Scriptures we learn about the need to endure as well as find motives and examples of endurance...
4. But—this text is actually saying more than this—it's saying from the Scriptures we derive strength to endure...
5. The Word of God is bread and milk for our souls—by the Word our souls are strengthened and nourished...

6. Matt.4:4—"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God..."
7. Thus—there's an important inference from this word and that is—Christians will face great tribulation and opposition...
8. Christians will need grace to endure—they will need patience to endure—Christians must endure to the end...
9. The entirety of the Christian life is one of opposition—Christians must patiently endure or persevere to the end...
10. Thus—a primary means by which God uses to enable His people to endure—is the Scripture of the Old Testament...
11. James 5:10-11—"My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended* by the Lord - that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful..."
12. The book of James speaks much about trials and tribulation—they are ultimately intended strengthen and purify...
13. James here in these two verses provides two OT examples of enduring suffering and hardship—the prophets and Job...
14. In other words—in reading the OT we are to see in these men several lessons—[a] Christians endure hardship...
15. V10—"My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience..."
16. [b] God has redemptive purposes for hardship and suffering—"you have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord..."

### C. Comfort

1. This Greek word literally means—"to draw near to help"—it here means—encouragement, help or comfort...
2. That is—we not only find strength and grace to endure—but also—encouragement and comfort from Scripture...
3. Now—it would simply take too long to illustrate how the OT Scriptures bring encouragement, help, and comfort...
4. But let me simply suggest—that this is largely through the many and diverse promises found within these writings...
5. Now—what I want to do is simply read several OT promises—quoted by the NT and intended to give comfort...
6. [1] Promises of salvation, Rom.10:11—"For the Scripture says, Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame" (Isa.28:16)...
7. [2] Promises of protection, Heb.13:6—"So we may boldly say: The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me" (Ps.118:6)...
8. [3] Promises of His presence, Heb.13:5—"be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Josh.1:5)...

### D. Hope

1. Biblical hope entails two things—confidence and expectation—it's the confident expectations of future things...
2. This is the practical goal or intent of the rest—the Scriptures are for our learning, to have patience and comfort—that we might have hope...
3. That is—the hope of future salvation—salvation from remaining sin and from the this present evil age or world...
4. Hope of seeing Christ—of looking upon the King in all of His beauty—of being with Christ for all eternity...

5. Paul says that through the Scriptures Christians should be strengthened, comforted, and find renewed hope...
6. Hope is absolutely essential to productive and fruitful Christian living—it provides a present power within the soul...
7. [1] It motivates us, 1Jn.3:3—"everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure..."
8. [2] It protects us, 1Thess.5:8—"but let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation..."
9. [3] It rejoices us, Rom.12:12—"rejoicing in hope"—that is—presently rejoicing in the hope of future salvation...
10. Thus—Paul says that the entirety of the OT is intended to teach us—and ultimately—to strengthen our hope...

### III. Observations

#### A. All Scripture is PRACTICAL

1. That is—the OT—and by inference the NT as well—was not written merely to be studied—but practiced....
2. Paul informs us that the OT was written for our instruction that we might have strength, comfort, and hope...
3. In other words—Scripture was written to change us—to produce positive and sanctifying affects upon and within us...
4. Robert Haldane—"We ought to read the Scriptures with a view not to gratify our curiosity, but to increase and nourish our hope of future glory..."
5. Let me put it like this—if we are regularly reading our Bibles—we should be growing in grace and holiness...
6. Thus—to determine how much we are actually growing—let us ask ourselves—how much Scripture am I practicing...
7. To what degree are the Scriptures changing me—doctrine always has a practical and personal intention or goal...
8. Jn.17:17—"sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth"—Christians are saved and sanctified by the word...
9. Now—what I want to do, rather quickly, is provide three things necessary—if Scripture is to be practiced...
10. Now—here of course I'm taking certain things for granted—I'm assuming that you have been regenerated...
11. I'm assuming that you have the Spirit, empowering and enabling you to understand, believe, and obey Scripture...
12. Furthermore—I want to specifically apply these exhortations to OT Scripture—as this is the focus of our text...
13. [1] It must be understood—that is—we have to rightly understand the original and/or typical meaning of Scripture...
14. [2] It must be applied—that is—we have to apply the truth to ourselves—we must believe the truth for ourselves...
15. [3] It must be obeyed—that is—we must do what the text says—we must not be content with merely reading it...

#### B. All Scripture is BENEFICIAL

1. Paul understood—that Christians should use the OT Scriptures as a means to strengthen and encourage them...
2. Thus—I here want to focus upon the little world ALL—All Scripture is beneficial—the entire OT Scripture...

3. There are some in our day who would agree that books such as the Psalms can be very helpful to Christians...
4. But they rarely if ever read outside of the Psalms and perhaps Proverbs—the rest have little practical benefit...
5. But—dear brethren—nothing is further from the truth—when Paul speaks of the writings—he means all of them...
6. Now—to underscore this—I want to divide the entire OT into three types or kinds of genre—didactic, narrative, and prophetic...
7. And—I want to briefly show—that each one of these genres—were written for the benefit of NC Christians...
8. [1] Didactic Scripture—by this I refer to those parts of the OT that are more teaching or instructive in nature...
9. That is—large segments of Exodus, Deuteronomy, Leviticus, many Psalms such as Ps.119, and the book of Proverbs...
10. Now—obviously we understand—that not every command within these books—directly applies to the NC...
11. There were ceremonial and civil laws that were limited to the OC—but ever these have a present equity (value) to them...
12. Nevertheless—running straight through these the entire OT Scripture—is the moral and ever abiding law of God...
13. Matt.7:12—"therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets..."
14. That is—the basic morality found within the OT, the Law and the Prophets, is the same morality of the NT...
15. Matt.22:36-40—"Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is *the* first and great commandment [Deut.6:5]. 39 And *the* second *is* like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself [Lev.19:18].' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets..."
16. [2] Narrative Scripture—that is—the historical books such as Genesis, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Ester, and Samuels, Kings, Chronicles...
17. 1Cor.10:1-12, v11—"now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come..."
18. Within verses 1-4—we learn several things about—Israel's exodus from Egypt and journey through the wilderness...
19. Moses was a type of Christ as served as a redeemer—Moses delivered and liberated them from Egyptian bondage...
20. Their passing through the red sea was a type of baptism—for we read they were baptized—into Moses in the sea...
21. Christ was typified in manna and water from the rock—which nourished them and supplied all their needs...
22. From vv5-12—Paul provides several practical lessons or warnings—we are to glean from their unfaithful behavior...
23. Do not lust after evil things, v6—"now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted..."
24. Do not become idolaters, v7—"and do not become idolaters as were some of them As it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play..."
25. Do not commit sexual immorality, v8—"Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell..."
26. Do not tempt God, v9—"nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents..."
27. Do not complain or grumble, v10—"nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer..."

28. Verses 11-12—"Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall..."
29. [3] Prophetic Scripture—that is the Major and Minor Prophets—Isaiah to Daniel—and Hosea to Malachi...
30. 1Pet.1:10-12—"Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven - things which angels desire to look into..."

### C. All Scripture is CHRISTIAN

1. I do not want this point to be missed—the entire Bible, Old and New Testaments, are written for OUR instruction...
2. The OT is not for the Jews and the NT for the church—neither does the OT contain a different religion than the New...
3. The Old and the New Testaments, the entire Bible, is Christian literature—and intended for the church's benefit...
4. [1] One salvation—the entire Bible—the Old and New Testaments—points to the person and work of Christ...
5. Jn.5:38-39—"But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me..."
6. Jn.5:46-47—"For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words..."
7. Lk.24:25-27—"Then He said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself..."
8. [2] One experience—that is—if there is one salvation—then everyone who shares this salvation shares common experiences
9. What hope does OT Scripture give—my friend—it gives us the same hope OT saints had—being with Christ...
10. [3] One purpose—the Old and New Testaments contain one common and united theme—the glory of God in the salvation of sinners, through the person and work of Christ...