THE CHRISTIANS MULTI-PURPOSE TOOL
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

I. It is useful for direction.
   A. Doctrine is the teaching that is found in the New Testament that directs us towards heaven.
   B. The word is interesting because it not only focuses on what is taught but the authority of the source of what is taught.
      1. Scripture is the source of doctrine.
      2. Thus, according to this word, scripture has the authority to give doctrine.
   C. When you and I open God’s word, we are opening an authoritative tool that is not to be ignored or misused.
   D. There are different types of doctrine found in the Bible.
      1. There is the doctrine of the Godhead, the doctrine of the virgin birth and such as these.
      2. There are doctrines about the exclusivity of Christ and His church.
      3. Each doctrine is formulated and discussed in the authoritative tool known as the Bible.
   E. The doctrine of God’s plan of salvation for man today is strictly found in the New Testament.
   F. We need doctrinal direction because we are not capable on our own of determining God’s will for us (Jeremiah 10:23).
   G. Without the lamp and light of God’s word, we have no compass useful for direction in life, thus we need doctrine to direct us.

II. It is useful for conviction.
   A. We all do things from time to time that we attempt to rationalize.
      1. We find ways to justify why we did something to make it seem right in our minds.
      2. The Bible does not allow us to do this if we use it properly.
   B. When we read through the New Testament, or study a particular text, if there is fault in us, the Bible points it out to us.
   C. As James reveals, it is a mirror that tells us what we really are like spiritually (James 1:25).
   D. The root word for this particular Greek word is used in John 8:9.
      1. Those men wanted to trap Jesus.
      2. However, when confronted with their own sinful ways, they were convicted in their hearts that they were wrong.
   E. This word is also interesting in that it carries with it the idea, not only of a charge of sin, but the shedding of light on the truth of the charge.
      1. People are charged with things from time to time, of which they are not guilty.
      2. This tool from God, however, is never wrong in the charges it makes against us.
      3. As James called it, it is the perfect law of liberty.

III. It is useful for correction.
A. This word is only used in the New Testament in this verse.
   1. It carries the idea of straightening something that has become bent or crooked.
   2. The idea of restoration is inherent in this word.
   3. It means to amend that which is wrong in a person’s life.

B. After one is convicted by this useful tool, he/she must then straighten out that which has become crooked.

C. We had a relationship with God at one time but sin ruined it.
   1. Once we realize that our relationship is ruined we can leave it alone or we can restore that relationship.
   2. We restore the relationship by being obedient to God’s commands.

D. When a penitent Christian comes forward, we generally say that person was restored.
   E. We could say that person was corrected.
      1. They were in a ruined relationship with God because of their sins.
      2. By their repentance they restored that relationship with God.
      3. They were corrected by God’s word and it led them to obedience.

F. We are to seek to restore our brethren who have fallen away (Galatians 6:1).

G. The only way that will take place is if the person has received direction and then conviction, all from God’s word.

IV. It is useful for edification.
A. When one is instructed in righteousness he is edified by God’s word.
   1. Edification simply means building up.
   2. It carries the idea of strengthening an individual.

B. Notice Paul’s words to Timothy (1 Timothy 1:4).
   1. He was to pay attention that which was edifying in faith.
   2. Faith comes from the word of God, thus Timothy was teach those things from God’s word that built up people.

C. Righteousness is found in God and His word.
   1. Righteousness is simply right living.
   2. One gains a knowledge of how to live right through the tool God has given us called the Bible.

D. It is the goal, or should be, of each of us to be strengthened (1 Corinthians 14:26).
   1. We are edified through Bible study.
   2. We are edified through worship to God.

E. That which strengthens us in Christ can be called edification.
F. The Bible is the tool that allows us to be edified.

V. It is useful for perfection.
A. We are never going to be sinlessly perfect.
B. However, as this word tells us, we can become whole or complete.
C. Paul had this in mind in Ephesians 4:13.
   1. God wants us to be complete Christians.
   2. If Bible study is lacking, there can’t be the wholeness or completeness God wants for us.
D. To be a complete umpire or referee one must know the rules.
   1. Could you imagine an umpire or referee saying that he couldn’t make a judgment on that because he didn’t know the rule?
   2. There is no way he would command respect or be able to do his work.
E. The same holds true for a Christian.
F. We need to be seeking perfection through studying God’s word.
G. We can’t do all the work God intends for us to do without knowing His word.
H. We are to be able to handle God’s word correctly (2 Timothy 2:15).

Part of this outline came from a bulletin whose author was unnamed.