

For Further Study

Read and meditate on the passage below:

“4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.”
(Romans 15:4).

These words come from Paul’s letter to the church in Rome. As he nears the end of the letter, Paul reminds us that everything that had been written before his time was penned for an intended purpose. That purpose is to teach us. This certainly applies to the Jewish scriptures, but it is not applied exclusively what was canonized. Everything we read can be our teacher. If we have a spirit of openness, we can learn. Sometimes this means we learn to reject what is written. At other times, we learn that we should consider something new and different. At still other times, we learn to affirm what we believed before.

God’s Word is useful for showing us what needs to change, how we can make those changes, how to mature in our renewed lives, and how to strength who we are becoming (2 Tim. 3:16). In the above verse, Paul speaks about the endurance that we learn from the scriptures. Our growth and maturity doesn’t happen instantaneously; it takes a lifetime. We need the endurance of God to help us continue on the journey.

Lastly, Paul speaks about having hope that comes through the encouragement we gain along the way. We all need hope as we grow in Christ, and maintaining a regular time in the Bible helps us to remain focused on a hopeful perspective about our lives--past, present, and future.

PRACTICE:

Set a plan to prioritize time in the scripture in your life.

