

The Authority of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

August 02, 2026

MAIN IDEA--The Authority of Scripture means the following: The Bible, as God's special revelation, has ultimate authority over what we believe and how we live. All our ideas about God should be measured, tested, and where necessary corrected and enlarged based on the Bible.

Gen. 3:1

1. All the words of Scripture are God's words (2 Tim. 3:16). Scripture means "writing." From one standpoint, the Scriptures are the faithful testimony of the godly to the God whom they loved and served; yet from another standpoint Scripture was composed through a unique exercise of divine superintendence, called "inspiration." They're God's own testimony and teaching in human language. The church calls these writings the word of God, because their authorship and contents are both of divine origin.

Ps. 33:6

Rom. 9:17; Gal. 3:8

1 Thess. 2:13

2. Disbelieving or disobeying Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God (Jn. 1:1-3). God and His word are one. Since all the words of Scripture are God's words, to disobey or disbelieve any word of Scripture is to disobey or disbelieve God Himself.

>Both are fully human and fully divine (**Jn. 1:1, 14**).

>Both are eternal: **Jn. 1:1; Ps. 119:89**

>Both are conceived by the Holy Spirit: **Lk. 1:35; 2 Pet. 1:21**

>Both are human and yet without error: **Heb. 4:15; Jn. 10:35,**

>Both have a unique authority: **Mk. 1:22; Is. 1:2,**

The Authority of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

August 02, 2026

Jn. 8:31; Matt. 4:4

3. The Scriptures are the standard for truth (John 17:14-19). By using this noun, Jesus is clearly stating God's Word isn't simply "true", but it is truth itself. There is no higher truth than the Word of God for His Word is the ultimate definition/measure of truth.

Jn. 17:17; Prov. 30:5

4. Written Scripture is our final authority (2 Tim. 3:16-17). It's important to realize that the final form in which Scripture remains authoritative is its *written* form. Scripture contents – histories, prophecies, poems, songs, wisdom, sermons, statistics, letters, and whatever else it contains—should be received as from God. All that biblical writers taught should be revered as God's authoritative instruction.

Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11

Ps. 19:7-11

Robert Chapman (1803-1902)-*This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts binding, its histories are true and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's character. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good it's design, and the glory of God it's end. It should fill the memory, test the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory and a river of pleasure. It is given*

The Authority of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

August 02, 2026

you in life, it will be opened at the judgment and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor and condemns all who will trifle with its sacred contents.

Conclusion-Who occupies the highest authority in your life? Is it Christ and His Word or something else? If you've slacked off in your daily intake of God's word, repent, look to Christ for forgiveness and get back into His Word. Don't conform any longer to this world, but be transformed by daily renewing your mind to Scripture (**Rom. 12:2**). **HW Start small. Read a passage, pray over it, obey it every day this week.**

Questions for Discussion at Home

- 1. Name various authorities in your life. What does it mean to submit to scripture as the highest authority?**
- 2. What are the challenges that come along with choosing to submit to the scriptures as the highest authority?**
- 3. What are competing voices in culture and in your life that try to undermine the authority of scripture? Be specific.**
- 4. What are practical ways we can grow in allowing God's Word to be the ultimate authority in our lives?**
- 5. What is something you need to believe, change, or do to apply this subject to your life? Close w Prayer.**