

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

(Romans 15:4)

Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not please ourselves.

² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

³ For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL UPON ME."

⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

(Romans 15:1-4)

Purpose of the Scriptures

➤ Paul is referring explicitly to the "Old Testament"

- all of the Old Testament, while not written *to* us, was written *for* us
- it is "written" and is not merely oral tradition
- it is fundamentally about Jesus and fulfilled by Him

²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. (Luke 24:27)

...all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations (Luke 24:44-47)

Purpose of the Scriptures

1. Our Instruction

- the Old Testament teaches us by example, wisdom and typology (not direct moral imperatives)
- the OT is central in helping us understand the climax of salvation-history in Jesus and the implications to us
- this instruction is unfolded in the New Testament

Purpose of the Scriptures

2. Our Endurance and Encouragement

- the Scriptures are the source of our ongoing comfort and encouragement
- this encouragement of the Scriptures produces endurance for present sufferings

Purpose of the Scriptures

3. Our Hope

- all of Scripture was written to awaken and sustain our hope—an unshakable hope in Christ alone