

all our

~~penalty~~ sins are laid upon Jesus Christ. He died to bear the penalty for them. But we have a long ways to go to get over the power of sin. We need to look to Christ constantly, for that power. So we all need to be rebuked. Some of us feel rather offended when someone else rebukes us. We may feel grateful for it later, but we don't like it at first. So study the Word. Let it rebuke you. You have no reason to feel indignant at it when it rebukes you..

It is useful for teaching, for rebuking, and for correcting. We stand on the truth and we think we're solid there. Next week if we're not careful we've slid away from it. So we need to keep coming back, coming back, coming back.

In mylife I've been connected with a number of institutions and observed a number of others which stood four-square for the Word of God at one time, and gradually drifted away. When I look at some of them now I wouldnot know it was the same institution because that which was under the surface at one time is now blatant and outspoken. We need to watch ourselves that we don't drift from God's truth.

All Scripture is useful for correcting. I think all three of these are summarized in the last. In training in righteousness. If you come to seminary here simply to memorize something, write it on a test paper, get a mark, to get a degree, you might as well not come. You are here, we hope, for training in righteousness, in learning to interpret God's Word, in learning to make it real in your life and in your heart.

The verse goes on: "so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." When I was in college one time I was with a group of Christian students, and a man asked us to recite this verse. We recited it from the KJV and we said "thoroughly equipped", and he said "no, that's wrong." The KJV has throughly equipped(furnished). So we had memorized it wrong! Throughly is much more logical than thoroughly. But thoroughly is today's English, and throughly is the English of 300 years ago. We want to learn to speak so that people today will learn to understand us.

We're not preaching to Shakespeare and Milton and those other great worthies. We are preaching to people today. That's why I praise the Lord for having had the opportunity to help in the making of this NIV. No matter how good your English version is, you'll find that even a little knowledge of Greek and Hebrew will enable you to get the exact meaning in many places. It's very simple to get a little knowledge in those languages, but it's a very difficult job to put it into English. I think NIV has done a good job. I think we need leaders in our churches who can go right to the original.

So I praise God for each member ofour entering class, that God has given you the vision of the hard work of learning to understand His Word in the original.