

SUFFICIENT PREPARATION

2 Timothy 3:16-17 ... “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Good athletes know they must condition their bodies to play well and safely. Senator Pacquiao does not decide one morning to enter a fight with another boxer, and then compete in the ring that afternoon. In addition to daily workouts and exercises, the senator spends weeks and months in intensive training before each prize fight.

Schools in our province need to understand this principle and ensure they are conducting a genuine physical education (PE) curriculum before they allow students to compete in sporting events. PE is not playing chess, table tennis, or recess. It is active physical exercise, such as calisthenics and running. And all students must be compelled to participate in PE unless they have doctors' orders stating they are not able. Only after they prove capable in PE should they be allowed to compete in sports.

Our verse today takes the principle of preparation and applies it to our spiritual lives. It reads: "...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped." This is in reference to the study of your Bible. Paul, the author of this passage, is telling his friend Timothy that the Bible is God's instruction and guide to help us to be sufficiently prepared; to be mature in our faith so we can minister to others. You cannot minister to others if you yourself have not been spiritually conditioned. You have nothing to share with an unbeliever if you are not saved yourself, and if you have not been taught by God through His Word.

A teacher would not allow the lowest rank student in her grade three class to takeover for her while she goes on a week-long trip to Hong Kong. The student is neither prepared nor equipped. The other students in the class would learn nothing from their substitute. God expects you to serve him. But he also expects you to prepare to serve by studying and obeying his instruction in the Bible.

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