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TEACHING TRACTOR

Everyone needs a teacher; even teachers! Did you know God's Word provides that very thing for you? See it in 2 Timothy 3:17, "**All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**"

A 1/16th scale model tractor serves as a good object lesson for preaching on this passage - I used an old Advance-Rumely one-cylinder kerosene burner, to not offend any green or red or blue or orange aficionados. BTW have you seen the Youtube tug-of-war between an ancient 18-hp steam-powered tractor and a modern multi-tired four-wheel drive with hundreds of horsepower? Lots of variables in play, but you have to respect old iron...

Did you notice the "tractor" in the scripture above? T= teaching, R=reproof, C=correction, TR= training in righteousness. God's Word puts a powerful teaching TRCTR to work in your life. First, teaching you what is true, according to God's eternal character. Reproving when you go against God. Correcting when you get off course, from following the world, the flesh or the devil instead of God's truth. And training you how to live out God's truth, by the Holy Spirit's power within each believer. A life-long process!

The previous verse reveals how it should begin in childhood, when you're first able to think and learn. 2 Timothy 3:16, "**But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**" This results in a grown-up person, mature in thinking and living, equipped to do God's work in the world.

God's Word reveals that His design for the structure of His creation begins with self-government, as each person is responsible for a proper relationship with your Creator, and with one another, as created in His image. And God first established the family to teach His principles of truth, which are lived out in community, first in the church, and then in society through limited civil government. All this is based on God's eternal principles, which are derived from His holy and unchanging character - and which formed the foundation of America.

In contrast, tyrannical government thrives on people who let the government think for them - people willing to lap up promises of politicians and philosophers, which are neither reasonable nor proper for free people to accept. That's why deterioration in the quality of education concerns so many people. World History Institute reports the American Federation of Teachers says, "95% of kids who go to college in the U.S. would not even be admitted to college elsewhere in the world." The president of Heritage Foundation says the core curriculum of liberal arts, the heart of education for 300 years, has been ripped out of higher education today. Worse yet, he says, "*from kindergarten through graduate school, entire generations of young people don't know the essential facts about our history or culture.*" They're no longer taught historical, cultural, political and scientific foundations of America. We know it's not the teacher's fault; it's the curriculum they have to teach.

One of only two conservative professors at Yale University says, "The terrible thing about the disappearance of a focused program of some kind that tries to teach you the heritage of Western civilization *is that it hasn't been replaced by anything...* The university tells students America is a terrible civilization, and the less they know about it the better. Except of course, they need to know that it's wicked, chauvinistic, racist, and all that."

How has this happened? Could it be because American Christians, busy pursuing the American dream, have abdicated their "**Deuteronomy 6**" responsibility to teach children the Word of God, and to live it out in the public square? We must ask ourselves, what are we doing about it now?

"Disciple" means learner and follower. The Lord Jesus Christ wrote down in the Bible exactly what He wants His disciples to KNOW, and to DO, by His power, to change you and the lives around you. So how's His teaching tractor at work in your life?