

***Summary Statement:

Paul reminds Timothy & us to stay faithful to Christ by following godly examples, enduring hardship, & remaining grounded in God's Word.

Outline:

1. Follow a Godly Example- 10-11
2. Follow through in difficult times- 11-13
3. Follow the Truth- 3:14-15
4. Follow God's Word- 3:16-17

2 Timothy 3:10-17

But you (*Timothy-you are different there is a contrast between him & those in verses 1-9*) you have **carefully** followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, **11** persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecution I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. **12** Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. **13** But evil men and impostors will grow worse & worse, deceiving and being deceived. *****14** But you must continue in the things which you have learned & been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them **15** and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Paul, speaking to Timothy. He is nearing the end of his life and this is his parting words to his friend, his brother. You followed me and you did it carefully, methodically, closely, faithfully, intentionally. Timothy watched Paul then imitated him. Paul set a biblical example for others to follow and Timothy was one such person as he was constantly watching and learning. I Corinthians

11:1 “Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.” Now, can we say Imitate me as I imitate Christ to others? Why? Because there are many young Timothys out there watching and wanting to pattern their lives after someone who is different, one that loves the Lord and one that knows Jesus Christ. One that loves the truth and wants to uphold the truth and finish strong for Jesus.

Timothy followed Paul closely. Who are we following closely? Every disciple should say they have a Paul from whom they are learning and a Timothy to whom they are leading.

Timothy carefully followed Paul. In what area? Doctrine.

Acts 20:26-27 “Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”

I Cor 2:1-2, “And I, brethren, when I came to you, I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”

Acts 18:11 Paul stayed a bit over 1 1/2 years teaching the word of God (the Gospel) to the people at Corinth. Paul’s theology was Christology, soteriology and eschatology. Timothy is to continue to follow him in these things.

2 Tim 3:10- His manner of life (*conduct*), purpose, faith, longsuffering (*patience*), love, and perseverance...

John MacArthur notes that "In the Greek text, the definite article (TE = English "THE") precedes each of the descriptive nouns in verses 10 and 11, grammatically connecting each to the possessive pronoun **my** and thereby giving it repeated emphasis. The idea is, "you followed **MY** doctrine, (*teaching*), [**my**] conduct, [**my**] purpose, and so on."

In light of verses 1-9, hold fast and follow his manner of life, his purpose, his faith, his long suffering, his love, his perseverance.

Vs 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Persecutions and afflictions- plural

Example-

Acts 14:19, “Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead”.

Persecutions - literally means to chase or pursue with repeated acts of hostility.

Acts 14:20 “However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city”.

Paul says it was the Lord who delivered me. He endured- he didn't give up.

I Cor 10:13, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” In Because you are His child, you got this.

Psalms 34:19, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.”

Shadrach Meshach & Abednego “Our God will deliver us” and He did! He was with them, He will be with us as well.

Vs 12 and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution

All- without exceptions. Desire. (*Persistent, Passion, **A pursuit***). To live godly lives. It has been said that “the pursuit of godliness is costly now but eternity will show it to be worth the cost of commitment”.

New Testament commentator William Hendricksen, “scars are the price which every believer pays for his loyalty to Christ.”

Everyone who pursues a godly Life will suffer persecution

Most famous is that of John Wesley 1700's Diary entries-
Sunday, A.M., May 5 Preached in St. Anne's. Was asked not to come back anymore.

Sunday, P.M., May 5 Preached in St. John's. Deacons said "Get out and stay out."

May 12 Preached in St. Jude's. Can't go back there, either.

May 19 Preached in St. Somebody Else's. Deacons called special meeting and said I couldn't return.

May 19 Preached on street. Kicked off street.

May 26 Preached in meadow. Chased out of meadow as bull was turned loose during service.

June 2 Preached out at the edge of town. Kicked off the highway.

Sunday, P.M., June 2 Afternoon, preached in a pasture. Ten thousand people came out to hear me.

Will all Christians suffer persecutions? No. Some who serve the Lord very little, are of little threat & Satan doesn't go after them

13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. Don't be surprised. All the junk that goes on in this world will not end. It didn't end for Paul and it

will not end until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ so learn to deal with it and that begins by realizing that if you desire to live godly you are a threat to the system of darkness.

14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Remain, abide, be consistent, cling to those things you have learned. It has been said that the best antidote for deception is the truth of God's Word. The best way we can stay on track is by staying in this Book. IF we know this Book we will not stray. The study of the Word eventually leads us to reflect upon our own life and then we begin to study our own life and when that happens, change happens.

David Guzik, "many people are wise in many different things - wise for cars, wise for money, wise for health, wise for cooking, wise in computers - but are we also **wise for salvation**? This is the most important wisdom one can ever have! Where does this wisdom come from? The Holy Scriptures, In and of itself, the Bible does not save us - but it is only through the Bible that we can receive God's truth about Jesus, and put faith in Him."

Are you wise to salvation? You are not a mistake and the God of this Bible wants to come along side of you and love you, save you and change you and then do something great in you. Have you turned to Him? The Bible teaches that today is the day of salvation. Not tomorrow. Call on Him.

Mark 10:45, "For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. He came to offer

hope, forgiveness, He came to cleanse, He came to save. Why? Because we matter to Him.

Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” When it comes to salvation, all we have to do is receive the free gift that is offered by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords by saying yes.

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

Inspired, meaning divinely breathed. = trust. The early church viewed it this way. Next to salvation, this is the greatest gift that the Lord has given us. Written by men that were moved by the Spirit of God that’s why it is profitable or helpful for doctrine, what is right, for reproof, what is wrong, for correction, how to get right and instruction in righteousness, how to stay right.

Martin Luther: “the Bible is alive, it speaks to me, it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.”

“The Word of God is either absolute or obsolete” -Vance Havner.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine- good news that is rooted in Jesus Christ. For reproof, what needs to change, it tells us what sin is and keeps us from sin. Correction- to bring back, to restore to once was.

And finally instruction in righteousness. The Bible gives us instructions- guidance, molds us in righteousness. It keeps us on the straight path. So, Paul reminds Timothy & us as well the importance of the holy scriptures.

Final thoughts.

17 that the man of God may be complete thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We now see the effect on followers of Christ if we follow scripture. So that we will be complete, useful, sufficient, to what extent? Thoroughly. For what? Every good work.

Matthew Henry - "If we consult the Scripture, which was given by inspiration of God, and follow its directions, we shall be made men of God, perfect, and thoroughly furnished to every good work."

God equips God's people to do the work of God. All we need to do is lean on Him by leaning into his Word. Man does not live on bread alone but by every word that precedes from the mouth of God. Trust His Word, Its for our good. This makes your life count.

****Points to ponder:**

1. Timothy carefully followed Paul's doctrine, conduct, purpose, faith, love & perseverance. Who are you following closely? We need a Paul to follow & a Timothy to lead. Our lives should be worthy of imitation.
2. Paul experienced real persecution & affliction, yet the Lord delivered him. Godliness does not guarantee an easy life therefore do not give up!
3. Follow the truth, remain, abide, stand on & cling to His word.

Paul kept his eyes on Jesus. Timothy did as well. Where are your eyes today? Are they on Jesus? It begins by trusting him and asking him to be your saviour. By calling out to Him and expressing that you are a sinner and need a saviour. Have you done that?

