

Daily Bible Study

“The Man of God & The Word of God ~ Part 1”

2 Timothy 3:10-17

July 20– July 26, 2014

MONDAY – As we continue our study of **2 Timothy** we take as our text **2 Timothy 3:10-17** as we look at what we’re calling *“The Man of God & The Word of God ~ Part 1”*. In this section the Apostle Paul contrasts two ways of life. He has earlier described the spirit of godlessness and worldliness that will characterize the lives of people in *the last days*, and we saw that it will even enter the church itself. We saw there will be a steady decline in morality as well as an increase in false teaching and teachers who will distort the truth living a life that may even say all the right things but a life nonetheless that is void of the power of God through The Holy Spirit. Timothy, as a believer and a minister in God’s house for God’s people is to be different. This is the contrast we see Paul point out. Timothy and all of us as Christians are to reject the worldly spirit, even if it means we will have to suffer. We will see Lord willing in **Part 2** of this lesson that it is the Word of God which keeps and shapes the Man of God and all of us who are God’s children through repentance and faith in Jesus. Often the church today minimizes the difference between living for Jesus living for the world. A wrong impression is often given that becoming a Christian does not require a change in life-style as long as someone is at least verbally affirming the gospel message. Paul is about to say that by his teaching and example he has shown otherwise. Scripture is quite clear that the Christian has been called to a life of separation from the world. Not a physical removal but a separation that begins with a new thinking and ends with new actions (**Romans 12:2**). Why however is the church so quick to soften the call for a real difference to be seen between the Christian life and worldly life? No one wants to offend others so we often ignore the issues of sin, holiness, hell and judgment. Sadly and tragically, many feel unsaved individuals we interact with will be turned off to following Jesus if we stress that holiness and repentance and change are essential elements in the gospel message. Lost, worldly men and women will never be won to Jesus by us trying to be like them. We must live in the Spirit and show them how different they can be all through the power and working of Jesus and the gospel. Read our text: **2 Timothy 3:10-17**: ¹⁰ *“But 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 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. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 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. 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.”

Suggestion for Prayer: God, teach me from Sacred Scripture this week and show me that I am to be changed in my thinking and behavior through obedience to You and Your Word.

TUESDAY – **2 Timothy 3:10**: ¹⁰ *“But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,”* Paul is not being arrogant or conceited as he now begins to run through a list of actions and virtues from his own life (*my*). Don’t forget that he is in prison here awaiting his execution; he is far from braggadocio but is telling his son in the faith and protégé Timothy of the Lord’s faithfulness in keeping him, working in him and through him. He begins by saying; *you have carefully followed my doctrine* and is here pointing to his teaching of the Word of God. This is the place God would have us all start; at the teaching and understanding of God’s Word. This is so vital and necessary for the life of the church as a whole and to the Christian individually. Sacred Scripture alone provides the counsel and wisdom to guide us in both our corporate and individual lives. We receive energy, food for the soul as it were from its pages. A true church must be one that is ever learning from solid teaching of Sacred Scripture. The early church of the book of Acts *devoted themselves to the apostles’ doctrine (Acts 2:42)*. The word translated *devoted* means they “continued in, were steadfast in adhering to and were attentive to with unremitting care”. They wanted to grow in their understanding of their new faith in Jesus and were not content just being a Christian saved from hell. The members of any given church must be receiving solid exposition of God’s Word, or they will go nowhere in their growth. The Apostle puts this first because it undergirds everything else he will now go on to say. I want to stress this first point a bit further. Timothy is told that he has *followed* Paul’s teaching. The verb *parakoloutheō* means “to follow; to follow faithfully” and can be used literally, of following a person’s footsteps. Its figurative use can refer to an intellectual following like we would say to someone, “I follow you” or to a real commitment of mind and life as when we say of somebody “he’s a follower of so-and-so”. Paul had urged Timothy in **1 Timothy 4:6**, *“If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.”* Timothy apparently got it, and went the second mile as it were because he had made this good doctrine his own, believed it, absorbed it, and lived by it. What about yourself? Could this be said of you?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to be desirous and attentive to good doctrine and the teaching of Your Word. Help me to adhere to it, obey it and like Timothy, live by it.

WEDNESDAY – 2 Timothy 3:10 ^{“10} *But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,”* In a similar manner Timothy not only followed Paul’s teaching but his *manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance*... Paul knew he was following Jesus so he had no reservation invite others to follow him. Can this be said of us? Can we tell others growing in their faith to follow our manner of life; to love what we love, to spend time and money on what we do and so forth? May the words of **1 Corinthians 11:1** be said of us, *“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ”*. Paul went further by making himself a measuring line or standard between truth and falsehood so to speak as he said, *“Brothers, join in imitating me, and mark those who so live as you have an example in us”* (**Philippians 3:17**). This is a very serious matter we are dealing with here, much more serious than the plans and things we think are so vital in our day to day lives. Remember **Chapter 3:1** showed the false teachers and false believers who followed their own desires and were *lovers of self, money and pleasure*. Now Paul continues and contrasts the characteristics of his life with the self-lovers. I pause to remind you again of the simple phrase we often mention in church, *“You behave the way you believe”*. This is what we are seeing here in our text. Paul behaved the way he did, like Jesus, because he was obedient to and immersed in the good teaching of the Word of God. The apostle lived a consistent *manner of life* (*agōgē*, his whole demeanor and way of life), *purpose*, (his aim in life, the spiritual ambitions which motivated him and made life meaningful for him), *faith* (which perhaps here includes his fidelity), *longsuffering* (*makrothymia*, tolerance or long-suffering towards aggravating people), *love* (towards both God and man, as opposed to the false teachers’ love for self, money and pleasure) and *perseverance* (*hypomonē*, the patient endurance of trying circumstances different than *makrothymia*, the patient endurance of trying people). These qualities all flowed out from the Apostles conviction that the commands of God in the teaching of Scripture are meant to be obeyed, and the promises of God are true and reliable. Timothy had observed this and sought to follow this example and so should we. Our lifestyle and behavior should be determined by the values in the gospel rather than the values of the world and our humanistic, secular society.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for forgiveness of sin through Jesus and help me to be an example of a life changed by Your power as I live in this evil sinful world.

THURSDAY – 2 Timothy 3:11-12: ^{“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.”* The references we saw of *longsuffering* and *perseverance* naturally lead to the *persecutions* and *afflictions* which *happened to Paul at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions he endured*. Timothy was a citizen of Lystra and had possibly witnessed the occasion when the apostle had been stoned by a hostile mob, dragged out of the city and left for dead (**Acts 14:19**). From this one in particular and all others in general Paul tells Timothy

that *the Lord delivered me*. Some scholars believe that perhaps Paul’s courage under persecution had even played a part in Timothy’s conversion, much as Stephen’s bravery in martyrdom had done in Paul’s (**Acts 7:54-60**). It is important to remember that Paul is not isolating this *persecution* and *affliction* to merely himself but he is telling Timothy that he must prepare to face similar things and not only that, he reminds all of us that *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution*. Paul is saying that if you want to really live like Jesus you will indeed face some of the things Jesus faced such as ridicule, persecution and hostility from the world (**John 15:18-20, 16:33**). You have a choice to make Christian; live godly or compromise and avoid the hard way. This reminds me of a John MacArthur quote from “Hard to Believe”. It says, “You can’t be faithful and popular, so take your pick”. Let us not pick the latter to avoid the difficulty.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, please help me be faithful to You and Your Word although it may cost me affliction and persecution. Thank You that You will never leave me nor forsake me. Be with all the true Christians in places around the world such as Iraq who daily learn this lesson that the world hates Your truth; give them strength and remind them of Your presence with them.

FRIDAY – 2 Timothy 3:13-14: ^{“13} *But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.* ¹⁴ *But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,”* Paul is quite clear in **verse 13** as he describes *evil men and impostors*. *Impostors* (*goēs*) means a “juggler, enchanter, magician, sorcerer, and deceiver”. These are descriptions first of the false teachers who are not sincere but rather are charlatans. The verb for *grow* (*prokoptō*) properly means “to beat forward, go forward, progress”. Ironically Paul uses it to say they progress *worse and worse*; actually backwards, not forward. They go on *deceiving and being deceived* to their own personal deterioration, both intellectually and morally. Beware Beloved, as English scholar and minister Alfred Plummer put it, “they begin by being seducers and end in being dupes, and the dupes (very often) of their own deceptions; for deceit commonly leads to self-deceit”. Again now a contrast, *But you must continue*... It is easy to start something and another matter to continue with it. We need spiritual fortitude and stamina if we are to continue in the Christian life. Jesus made this point; *“All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved”* (**Matthew 10:22**). *“If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit”* (**John 15:5**). *“No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God”* (**Luke 9:62**). Many desire to follow Jesus and start out only to find many voices tempting them to turn back and like Pilgrim in Bunyan’s classic, find many escape’s along the route. William MacDonald from True Discipleship; The handles of my plough with tears are wet, The shears with rust are spoiled, and yet, and yet My God! My God! Keep me from turning back.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me in my walk with You to keep continuing in what You’ve taught me through and in Sacred Scripture. Thank You for examples such as Your Apostles.