



enduring faithfulness

2 TIMOTHY SERIES WEEK 6

enduring faithfulness exemplified

MAY 16 2021

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

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sermon outline NOTES

I. Follow the faithful example of Paul (2 Timothy 3:10-13)

- A. We can follow Paul's teaching and way of life [2 Timothy 3:10]
 - 1. What we teach and how live are interconnected [1 Timothy 4:16; Titus 1:1]
 - 2. Paul is calling Timothy (and us) to follow his example [1 Corinthians 11:1; 2 Timothy 1:13; 2:2]
 - 3. We should make Paul's aim in life our own [Acts 20:24; 2 Corinthians 5:9]
- B. We can follow Paul's persecutions and sufferings for the gospel [2 Timothy 3:11-12]
 - 1. Paul suffered for, and because of, the gospel [2 Timothy 1:10-12a; 2:8-9; Acts 13:44-45; 14:7]
 - 2. What were Paul's sufferings and what kind of persecution did he experience? [Acts 13:44-45, 49-52; 14:1-7; 14:19-20]
 - 3. Paul endured, but God rescued—and will rescue! [2 Timothy 3:11; 2 Timothy 4:8, 18]
- C. We must be sober minded about persecution [2 Timothy 3:12]
 - 1. Living godly lives in Christ Jesus invites persecution [1 John 3:13; John 15:18]
 - 2. Knowing this ahead of time is actually a source of encouragement for us [Acts 14:21-22; Philippians 1:29-30; 1 Peter 4:12-14]

II. Enduringly commit to the gospel according to scripture (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

- A. The antidote to deception is the gospel [2 Timothy 3:13-14]
 - 1. Getting the gospel wrong leads to ungodliness [2 Timothy 2:15-16; 1 Timothy 6:3-5]
 - 2. Godly examples matter [Hebrews 13:7; 2 Timothy 3:9]
- B. To get the gospel right we must be acquainted with the scriptures [2 Timothy 3:15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4]
- C. The scriptures are the authoritative, inspired, inerrant, and sufficient revelation of God from God [2 Timothy 3:16-17]
 - 1. Scripture is breathed-out by God, which means it is the word of God in the words of man [2 Peter 1:20-21; Acts 1:16; 2 Peter 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13]
 - 2. Scripture is sufficient, which means we have what we must know to be saved and what we need to glorify God [2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3]

2 Timothy 3:10–17

You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 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. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

sermon reflections

1. Paul emphasizes that godliness and the gospel are interconnected. How can they get out balance? What does it look like for doctrine and obedience to be interconnected?
2. Why was Paul persecuted? What were some of the ways he suffered? How can Christians today experience similar persecution as Paul?
3. If you were to be totally honest, what goes through your mind as you hear about the inevitable persecution and suffering those who desire to be godly will experience? How can knowing it ahead of time be encouraging?
4. How can we know if we're getting the gospel right? What benefits are there for believers in getting the gospel right?
5. What does it mean for the scriptures to be "*breathed-out*" by God? What implications/applications for your life can this truth provide?
6. What does it mean for the scriptures to be sufficient? How can the scriptures completely equip believers to fulfill their calling?

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2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17



2 Timothy 3:10–17 ENDURING FAITHFULNESS EXEMPLIFIED

reading THE letter

Making observations in a passage is the best way to become familiar with it and grasp the basic meaning. One helpful technique is to use a notebook (or separate piece of paper) and make the following observations—

- List any **People/Places**—
- List any important **verbs** (actions), **repeated words/phrases**, or other **theological/special terms**—

2 Timothy 3:10–17 ENDURING FAITHFULNESS EXEMPLIFIED

observations

- 1 Read through all of chapter 3. Make two lists, one with all the negative descriptions of the evil people, and one with the positive descriptions of Timothy.
- 2 What are the benefits that “all Scripture” [3:16-17] provides for people who are seeking righteousness?
- 3 What do you think Paul is referring to when he is talking about “*all Scripture*”?

summary sentence

In your own words, summarize this passage in 1–2 sentences—

paul's encouragement TO timothy

One word that can be used to describe 3:1-9 is *negative*! Paul lists off the many negative descriptions of what the “*evil men of the last days*” encourage: lovers of self and money, proud, arrogant, opposed to truth, etc. Paul contrasts this in 3:10 with how Timothy has lived his life. Here, he frames the Christian life in the positive. Timothy has followed Paul's teaching, even to the point of persecution—something that should be expected by anyone who desires to live a godly life in Jesus **[3:12]**.

Timothy has already demonstrated that he can live a faithful life **[3:10-13]**, so Paul exhorts him to continue doing this into the future. In 3:15, Paul declares that this steadfastness is rooted in the sacred writings. In the Greek and Roman world, wisdom was often found by reading the (pagan) sacred writings. However, Paul is making sure that the sacred writings he references is not anything pagan. He clarifies these writings as being Scripture, specifically the Old Testament. The Old Testament matters because it's God-breathed, and things that are breathed out by God train us in how to become righteous and to be equipped for every good work.

paul's encouragement TO US

When we read biblical letters, it's very important to pay attention to who is speaking to whom. In this case, it's really easy to think that Paul is speaking to ME. But he's not; the "you" is Timothy. Timothy is the one who being affirmed for the consistency in which he's lived his life, with Paul's encouragement to continue in this pursuit. What's interesting is that the climax of Paul's encouragement points us to the sacred writings—Scriptures. Paul, though, wasn't speaking about the New Testament because the majority of the New Testament had not yet been written. Instead, he's speaking about the Old Testament.

As Christians, we often get trapped in not knowing what to do with the Old Testament. We know there's a difference between the Old and New Testaments and how the covenants play a role between the people under the Mosaic Covenant and those under the covenant with Jesus. [If you want to learn more about this, go to [goldenhills.org/sermons](https://www.goldenhills.org/sermons), and search for the 7-week series on the *Covenants* from the winter of 2019.] The question that is best asked is, "what is the continuity or discontinuity between the Old and New Testaments?"

While that is an entire study among itself, and while well-meaning Christians can have disagreements regarding how these things apply, the point of total agreement is that the Old Testament matters. The Old Testament is God's breathed out word, which provides everything someone needs for good works. This is because the entire Old Testament is pointing to Jesus, which is why Paul tells the church in Corinth that "*all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.*"

presenting ourselves approved TO THE world

responding questions

- 1 As Christians, we ought to have a lifelong pursuit of holiness, which is only found in Jesus. While none of us is perfect in this pursuit, how are you doing? Are you in a discipleship relationship (like Timothy had with Paul) or are you a lone wolf? If you do have a Paul in your life, what would he write about you? What are positive, non-shaming ways you can examine your own walk and pursue the good things of righteousness?

2 Timothy 3:10–17 ENDURING FAITHFULNESS EXEMPLIFIED

responding questions

- 2 What role does the Old Testament play in your life? Do you read it in a way where you see Jesus at the center? Or search for its ethical principles? Or does it just seem like a disconnected set of stories?