

*10Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, 11persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! 12Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 13But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:10-17*

Paul begins this section with a recommendation of Timothy, *you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions, and sufferings*. Timothy was following the path of a true teacher. He had witnessed Paul's conducted and the persecutions had experienced on his First Missionary Journey, establishing churches in South Galatia. From many dangerous situations Paul wrote, *the Lord rescued me!* Paul wants Timothy to know this type of treatment is normal, *all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted*.

But there will be false teachers. Earlier in this chapter Paul referred to *Jannes and Jambres*, magicians in Egypt who reproduced Moses miracles. There were men like this in the early Ephesian church, *men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith*. Paul writes these men will not prosper, *they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all*. In this passage Paul writes, *evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (evil men, toilsome, full of labors, annoyances and impostors enchanter, howler)* It is hard to imagine but Paul is really saying that these men are not real spiritual leaders. They are evil, they are Con-men they pride themselves on being able to deceive even the very elect. Jesus stated, *For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Mat 24:24* Paul wanted Timothy to be aware of these deceivers. John wrote,

*18Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. 19They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. 1 John 2:18,19*

Paul warns Timothy but he doesn't expect Timothy to be taken in by these *evil men and impostors, hidden reefs in your love feasts (Jude 1:12)*. Paul encourages Timothy to stand firm, to remain committed to the sound doctrine of scripture he had been exposed to since he was a child. *14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Tim 3:14,15* Timothy was brought up to know God, *from childhood you have known the sacred writings*. And this exposure to the scripture gave Timothy *wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*. Although Timothy's exposure, like Paul, had only been to the OT but knowing the Law and the Prophets became *a tutor, a schoolmaster to lead him to Christ*.

Paul's teaching of Jesus being Israel's Messiah took root in Timothy's because of the firm foundation of faith that had been laid for his faith. His knowledge of God from the Scriptures made him open to the Gospel. For him *the Law was a tutor to lead him to Christ, so that he might be justified by faith. Gal 3:24 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU."* Gal 3:8 Timothy came from a family of devout Jews. Paul wrote, *I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well. 2 Tim 1:5*

That being said, Paul was Timothy's true spiritual father, he was the one that introduced him to Christ. Paul began his first letter, *To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 1 Tim 1:2*

The Word of God is mighty. Paul wrote, All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching. Paul saw the value of Scriptures in the life of the believer. Even though the NT had yet to be written the OT was considered as scripture, the Word of God. *"Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock? Jer 23:29* The NT was never meant to replace the OT but as we look at the two Testaments together we find a fuller picture of God's redemptive plan. Paul wrote Timothy, *16All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17*

The writer of Hebrews declares the power of the word of God. *12For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Heb 4:12-13* Peter emphasizes the prophetic nature of Scripture and that those who contributed to the Book were inspired by the Holy Spirit, *But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. 2 Peter 1:20,21*

*16All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17*

Paul states *All Scripture is inspired by God*. This is similar to Peter's, *no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. 2 Pet 1:21* As believers we need to consider the priceless tool we have. We have access to the living Word of God. Paul instructed Timothy to, *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim 2:15 KJV* Look at the list of benefits we have from this Book that is *inspired by God (God breathed)*. It's *profitable for teaching (that which is taught, doctrine)* The Bible is the handbook for Christian life, the user guide for behavior provided by the Creator Himself. The Psalmist proclaimed, *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Psalm 119:11* Scriptures teach us what is right, how we are to live as children of God. They are *profitable for reproof (conviction reprimand, or rebuke)*. It is a good thing when Scriptures rebuke us, make us feel guilty. This is good since it instructs us in what is true and gives us the opportunity to repent, to adjust course. Scripture is *profitable for correction*, it shows us how restore our behavior to a right state, in line with our new creation identity. This correction of behavior is usually not pleasant but it results in our ultimate good. The writer of Hebrews states, *No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a*

*peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. Heb 12:11 NLT*

Scripture is profitable *for training in righteousness; 17so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17* How valuable is it to be trained by the Word in *righteousness*, righteous behavior. Since we are born as children of the flesh by nature it is logical that what we naturally desire, our natural affections need to be trained to do what is right, righteous. *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee Ps 119:11* God's plan is that we would be *equipped for every good work.*

Paul has been instructing Timothy in the work of the ministry. In our passage this morning our focus has been on the importance of the Scriptures in this process. Pastors and teachers have one major purpose, the *equipping of the saints for the work of ministry.* From Paul's words we see how vital it is that the foundation of the equipping is being rooted in Scripture.

*11And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. Eph 4:11-13*

May we heed Paul's instruction for ourselves, let us *study to show thyself approved unto God.* Let us strive to walk uprightly.

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. 2 Tim 2:15*