

---

---

# Sermon Notes

October 10, 2021

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

---

## Faith's Firm Foundation 2 Timothy 3:10-17

### Upholding the Word of God

- ❖ Those who faithfully uphold God's Word are likely to encounter persecution, and opposition
  - every bit as likely to come from within the church as from without
  - example of Charles Simeon (1759-1835) who preached the Bible despite the protests of his parishioners
- ❖ Would we be faithful witnesses for the gospel if we faced unrelenting persecution coming at us from inside the church?

### Continue

- ❖ Paul's command to "continue" is central to this passage
- ❖ Paul's concern is that Timothy
  - continue to hold a tight grip on gospel truth
  - continue to serve faithfully as a minister of the gospel
  - continue *in what you have learned and have firmly believed*

- ❖ This is a pattern and practice that will serve us equally well for staying on track with God's plan, God's way, and God's will
- ❖ First: Look backward
  - remember what you have learned and the lives of those who have invested themselves in you as they taught you
  - remember the ways their lives mirrored their teaching
  - an intimacy that springs out of shared suffering
  - remember God's rescue: God does not abandon us, leave us or forsake us
- ❖ Second: Remember that *all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted*
  - Jesus says, *No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you* (Jn 15:20)
  - persecution is no surprise to Paul, and it should be no surprise to us (Acts 9:15-16)
  - since those who do not possess Christ are "God's enemies" (Rom 5:10), those who know Christ become the opponents of the devil
  - expect opposition when you stand up for Christ

### Continue to Hold Onto Scripture

- ❖ You CANNOT pick and choose what you want to believe from the Bible
  - it is all true... you are not the arbiter of truth
  - the Bible is reliable and authoritative

- ❖ Parents have no more important role in their children's lives than acquainting them with the truth of the Bible
- ❖ Though Timothy would have only been familiar with what we call *The Old Testament*, he had what he needed to be made *wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus*
  - Jesus' high view of Scripture (Matt 5:17-18)
  - Jesus shows the way His life, sacrificial death and resurrection fulfill Scripture on the afternoon of His resurrection as He explain how Moses and the prophets all point to His life and ministry
  - as Timothy is made *wise for salvation* he is able to see how all the promises conveyed in Scripture are fulfilled and answered "yes" in Christ
- ❖ **All Scripture** has been "breathed out" by God
  - altogether the Biblical writers make some 4000 claims that they are writing God's Word!
  - those who were inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote with utter confidence that they spoke infallibly for God
  - ***men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*** (2 Pet. 1:21)
    - Jesus promises His disciples that the Holy Spirit will bring His words back to their memories (Jn 14:26)
    - the actual, specific words of God, each word just as the Lord wanted it to be recorded
- ❖ We accept the fact that truth lies outside of us
  - objective, absolute, divine truth
  - the Bible reveals the mind of God through the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit
  - the Bible is as true for one person as it is for another

- ❖ The Bible teaches us, reproves us, corrects us and trains us in righteousness
  - ***teaching and reproof*** have to do with doctrine
    - it takes a whole Bible to make a whole Christian
    - Scripture will reshape our thinking by replacing faulty thinking with sound doctrine
  - ***correcting and training in righteousness*** have to do with our conduct and behavior
    - Scripture will "straighten us out"
    - God's Word straightens us out because it has life-giving, life-changing power
- ❖ God gives us the truth of His Word so we will ***be complete, equipped for every good work***

### Personal Application

1. In what ways have you been persecuted for upholding the truth of God's Word? How has God ministered to you with the comfort and persevering grace needed to endure such opposition?
2. Do what Paul encourages Timothy to do here by looking back, identifying and thanking God for those He has used to plant His Word within you.
3. Are you completely committed to the inspiration, reliability and authority of God's Word? If so, how does this commitment show through to others around you?
4. God's Word teaches, reproves, corrects and trains us in righteousness. How has God used His Word to do each of those four things for you during this past week?