

All That Will Live Godly (9 Qualities of the Apostle Paul)

Porchlight Baptist Church, Pastor Byron Chesney, March 29, 2020

2 Timothy 3:10-12 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, 11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

The Apostle Paul with pen in hand writing out his very last letter to his young son in the faith, Timothy. Paul is in prison in Rome. It is obvious from the next chapter of this Epistle that he believes his life is soon ending. **2 Timothy 4:6-8** For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

As far as we know, Paul's life did end shortly after writing this letter. He desires to see Timothy one last time before his life ends and he urges him to try and visit if possible. He says in **2 Timothy 4:9** Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:

By this point nearly everyone has either forsaken him, or was away on other assignments. He tells Timothy this: **2 Timothy 4:10-12** For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry. 12 And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.

Paul, not wanting to waste a single moment, writes these two Epistles to Timothy to try and make sure that he is established in the faith and the work of a minister. There are many things that he warns Timothy about including how things were going to get worse and worse as time passed on.

Paul reminds Timothy of all the hardships that he has went through. Look back at our opening text in **2 Timothy 3:10 -11** But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, 11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.

Timothy had been with Paul through most of those hardships but more importantly, Timothy had sat under Paul's teaching and doctrine of Christ and Paul urges him to remember those things. He gives Timothy a list of 9-things:

1. His doctrine

Paul's doctrine was the doctrine of Jesus Christ. The Lord Himself had delivered the doctrine to him. We read about it in Paul's letter to the Galatians in **Galatians 1:15-20**

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace,

16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

20 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.

2. Manner of life

Paul's manner of life was not that of the cushy evangelists of today. Paul worked for a living keeping up his occupation as a tent maker whenever he was able. Wherever Paul went he found a place to preach and to share the Gospel message. Despite being sent as an Apostle to the Gentiles, Paul's desire was that his fellow Jews would be saved and never failed to find them everywhere he went and tell them about Christ.

Paul's manner of life meant that he often stayed in trouble by coming in conflict with the Jewish leaders and also the Roman government. He found himself imprisoned, falsely accused, beaten, stoned, left for dead, threatened, and ran out of town nearly everywhere he went.

3. Purpose

After meeting the Lord on the Road to Damascus, Paul's only purpose in life was to teach and preach Jesus. In fact, Paul himself, in his letter to the Corinthians said this: **1 Corinthians 2:2** For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

This same Church he also found himself rebuking them over the way they were making divisions among themselves and he said this:

1 Corinthians 1:12-17

12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

14 I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;

15 Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.

16 And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.

17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

Paul was interested in recognition or being Preacher of the Month – his only purpose was Jesus Christ. He said this in **Galatians 6:14** But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

4. Faith

If anyone knew about faith, it was the Apostle Paul. That is why he mentioned it **171 times** in his writings. To mention something that many times just shows how important it was to him. Paul, who was brought up in the strictest Jewish home learning law from just a young boy. Going to law school and steeped in the law. Faith was unheard of in the life of Saul of Tarsus – at least until he met the Lord and was gloriously saved, then Paul's testimony would be: **2 Corinthians 5:7** (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) That is why he would write this in **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Paul saw such faith in Timothy but wanted him to always remember his faith.

5. Longsuffering

Paul, knowing that the most important thing was that a person come to know Christ and be saved, had to be longsuffering toward those who rejected him and those who caused him harm. Instead of plotting for revenge on his enemies, he endured and kept right on preaching the truth.

While Paul was in prison, he started noticing others that became bold during his imprisonment, and some were not his friends, but listen to what he says about it:

Philippians 1:12-17

12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;
13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other *places*;
14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:
16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:
17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

Oh, but to have the longsuffering of Paul. I wish I could say that I was that tolerable toward others that do me wrong but I'm afraid my flesh gets the better of me.

6. Charity

The word "Charity" here comes from the Greek word, **Agape**, which means "**love and affection**."

A man who once had a heart of stone where Christians were concerned, so much so that we read this about him: **Acts 9:1-2** And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, 2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. - But, my, how Paul's heart changed after he got saved!
Paul felt so strongly about love that he wrote this to the Church at Corinth:

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, **and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.**
2 And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, **and have not charity, I am nothing.**
3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, **and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.**
4 Charity suffereth long, *and is kind*; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;
6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;
7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
8 Charity never faileth: but whether *there be prophecies*, they shall fail; whether *there be tongues*, they shall cease; whether *there be knowledge*, it shall vanish away.

7. Patience

Then Paul reminds Timothy of his patience. To be able to reach the world with the Gospel, it takes a lot of patience.
Just as we mentioned about Paul's longsuffering, his patience was necessary when it came to watching his fellow Jews reject the Gospel. Of course, he would want to see them saved immediately but it was actually very rare that any of them would place saving faith in Christ. Listen to what Paul said in his letter to the **Romans 9:1-5** I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, 2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. 3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: 4 Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; 5 Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ *came*, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

The truth is, it is easy to start thinking that it's just all for nothing. Let me tell you a little story. **He Thought He Was A Failure After 17 Years of Service** In 1912, Dr. William Leslie went to live and minister in a remote corner of the Congo as a medical missionary. For 17 years, he labored. He and his wife carved a rough patch out of the jungle to serve as their base. They endured a hurricane, which struck the night before one of their children was born; they faced charging buffaloes and attacks of ants. They lived among cannibals.

Their trips to surrounding villages seemed to be met with little success. Finally, after a rift with some tribal leaders, they ultimately chose to leave the mission field—discouraged and believing their work was a failure.
Dr. Leslie died nine years later after his return.

However, in 2010, a team of missionaries returned to the same jungles that Dr. Leslie had originally served in. To their surprise, they found 8 villages with thriving churches. In one village, they found a 1,000 seat stone cathedral; in the 1980s the congregation found themselves so crowded that they began a church planting movement.

When the tribal people were questioned about the origins of their ministry, they referenced Leslie, although they did not remember if it was his first name or last name. The missionary team conducted research and discovered the ties to Dr. William Leslie and his wife. – (article from <https://billhigh.com/faith/he-thought-he-was-a-failure-after-17-years-of-service/>)

8. Persecutions and 9. Afflictions

It is almost ironic that one of the things that Paul had to suffer during his ministry was to suffer persecutions and afflictions. A man who was once a prosecutor and persecutor of Christians has the tables turned on him. It was no secret that Paul would have to suffer during his ministry. The Lord warned him early on. After Paul was saved, the Lord visited a man in Damascus named Ananias and this is what he told him: **Acts 9:15-16** But the Lord said unto him, **Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.** And did Paul ever suffer! Listen to the list of things that Paul gave to the Church at **2 Corinthians 11:23-28**

23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.
24 Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one.
25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;
26 *In journeyings* often, *in perils of waters*, *in perils of robbers*, *in perils by mine own countrymen*, *in perils by the heathen*, *in perils in the city*, *in perils in the wilderness*, *in perils in the sea*, *in perils among false brethren*;
27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.
28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

Paul did not let the persecution and afflictions run him out of the ministry, he embraced it. That is why he says in our last verse: **12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**

Suffering for the cause of Christ was nothing new, all the way back in the Old Testament we read this: **Psalms 34:19** Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.