

2Timothy 3:10–15
Progressing Despite Persecution

Thursday, July 20, 2023 • 2Timothy 3:10–15

Questions from the Scripture text: Who has Timothy carefully followed (v10)? What ten things of Paul's has Timothy followed (v10–11)? Which of these does the apostle especially emphasize, and at which locations (v11)? To whom else will this happen (v12)? In Whom is a godly life lived? What other sort of man is there (v13)? What are they called when they are found in the church? How do they develop over time (cf. v1–9)? How must Timothy develop (v14)? What does Timothy know about the origin of these things (cf. v12)? What else has he known, since when (v15)? What are these written words able to do Timothy? What does this wisdom obtain? Through what? In Whom?

What can we expect from those who are in error in the church? 2Timothy 3:10–15 looks forward to the second serial reading of in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these six verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **in Christ Jesus is every virtue in this life, with which will always come persecution from the impostors.**

Paul has warned Timothy about the false teachers who spread a so-called "Christianity" that lacks the life-giving, life-changing Christ. It's a form of religion, but it has no power (v5), and they themselves are disqualified concerning the faith (v8). These wicked/reprobate impostors cannot get genuinely better, and will in fact get worse (v13). Timothy must do the opposite: having followed Paul in following Christ, he must continue in what he has learned (v14a). Each will progress/continue according to his nature.

He must grow in the same doctrine/teaching as the apostle. He must grow in the same way of life as the apostle. He must grow in motivation by the same purpose as the apostle. He must grow in holding to the same faith as the apostle. He must grow in the same patience as the apostle. He must grow in the same love as the apostle. He must grow in the same steadfastness as the apostle. These are the things that grow as those who desire to live a godly life come more and more into that godly life that is in Christ Jesus. They have been qualified by Christ concerning the faith, and they will come into full salvation through Christ Jesus.

But with Timothy growing in one direction and impostors growing in the other direction, he must expect to follow Paul in one more thing: persecutions, afflictions (v11). The persecutions that he saw, right from the beginning of his time with Paul, were great indeed ("what persecutions I endured!" v11). Now Timothy has followed in them, and he must expect it to continue. You, too, dear reader must expect persecution if you desire to live godly in Christ Jesus. Surely, He is worth it, and He Himself was persecuted. When those within the church who hold to a powerless form of religion persecute us, it is a sweet fellowship indeed that we have with Paul and Timothy, with all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus, and yes with Christ Jesus Himself!

This is the full meaning of the end of v14. Yes, Timothy has learned from his mother and grandmother (v15, cf. 1:5) as well as from Paul (v10), but it is ultimately from Christ Himself that Timothy has learned all these things (v10). What a delicious, encouraging thing to think upon: when Christian parents or Christian ministers teach us from the Scriptures, it is really Christ Himself from Whom we are learning. His Spirit is the One Who writes on our hearts the same truth that is in the Scriptures.

Salvation is in Christ Jesus. Godliness is in Christ Jesus. And the Holy Scriptures have been given us by Christ to guide us into faith in Him and guide us in our faith in Him. If the Holy Scriptures make us wise for salvation, it is because Christ has appointed for them to do so. And here we see that He has appointed for them to do so from babyhood, from infancy. What a marvelous statement of the knowledge of Scripture and knowledge of Himself that Christ begins to give believing children, sometimes even in the first moments of their life!

So, follow Paul and Timothy. Follow your believing parents, if you have them, in God's providence. Follow whatever faithful minister He has given you. But, ultimately, follow Christ Himself by the Holy Scriptures. And expect that in your fellowship with Him (and all of them), you will get your own sharing in His persecutions. He is worth it!

When did you begin learning the Holy Scriptures? Whom has the Lord given to you to teach them to you? What sort of life do you desire to live? What can you expect to come with this sort of life? Whom has the Lord given to you to teach? What sort of life are you encouraging them to desire? What are you leading them to expect with it?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for giving us Christ Himself to teach our hearts from His word by His Spirit. And we thank You for those parents and elders who spoke the word to us, and the outcome of whose faith we may follow. Forgive us for when we have little desire to continue in what we have learned and to live godly in Christ Jesus. And forgive us for when we wish to be popular with all the visible church or expect that we can have godliness and salvation without the persecution that must come from impostors. Grant that Your Spirit would use Your Scriptures to make us wise for Your salvation, we ask in Your Name, Lord Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP24 "The Earth and the Riches" or TPH466 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Second Timothy 3 verses 10 3 15. These are God's words. But you have carefully, followed my doctrine manner of life. Purpose faith. Long suffering. Love. Perseverance. Persecutions afflictions. Which happened to me at antioch at occurium at Lystra, what persecutions? I endured. And out of them. All the lord delivered me.

Yes, and all the desire to live godly in christ. Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse. Deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned. And have been a short of, Knowing from whom you have learned them.

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.

So far the reading of god's inspired and inherent word. He's just been warning, Timothy. About the false teachers that are like the fake Um, Magicians, or the misleading magicians. At the time of pharaoh. And, The hebrew history. Outside the bible records, their names as jennis and jammers and We don't know if those are genuinely their names, but we do know.

The illustration or the metaphor that he was using. And he has warned. That Timothy that they are disapproved concerning the faith and that if the congregation, and especially those who are most vulnerable that you remember, that from the Previous previous passage in the congregation. Especially those who are the most vulnerable.

Must be protected from following them. Because they all follow them to their destruction. Uh, the lord has given Other models in the church. Faithful ministers and elders. In this case, for Timothy of faithful apostle, Like paul. And then christian parents. And even grandparents. I believe her will often have.

And Timothy's case is. Mother and grandmother and mother. Uh, lo is units. And paul points out, that Timothy has so far followed Paul's teaching. Not just paul's teaching, but paul's way of living. His intentions as motivations. It's purpose. His faith. Resting up on the board is patience. Submitting to whatever comes in God's problems, love perseverance.

So, uh, Timothy has followed paul and all of these things. The. These are things that he should continue in. Verse 14, continue in the things which you have worked. But there is something else that if you continues to follow paul, if he continues, if he desires to live godly in christ jesus that you will get and that's persecution.

Timothy is aware. Of paul's persecutions that he endured. Almost immediately. Upon meeting paul, i'm going with him. Timothy got To witness the persecutions of antioch and agonium. And less truck. And they were not small. In fact. He he exclaims in verse 11, what persecutions? I endured And yet he had intense and multiple persecutions.

So that the all In verse 11 would be all the greater. Out of them, all the lord delivered me. And so we are guaranteed. To have persecutions and we're guaranteed. That they can only do unto us that which god has Planned for good but everyone who desires to live godly in christ jesus.

Will suffer persecution. And paul of course, is saying this in the context of those false teachers within the church, especially those who say that there's such a thing as christianity without good works, or such a thing as a christian to adjustifies. But who doesn't sanctify There's such a thing as being forgiven.

Without becoming holy. And walking. And holiness. So, the The warning. Or promise i guess all the desire to live godly in Christ jesus will suffer. Persecution is not talking in this particular place about persecution from outside of the church. Although that will surely happen as well. But here it's referencing.

What will come to Timothy? From within the church. Because those who are reprobate, those who are disapproved concerning the faith, like verse 8 says, how are they going to get any better than they are? They can't. They don't have the righteousness of christ counted for them. They don't have the life of christ in them.

They don't have the holy spirit, growing them in grace, or making them better. And so he says the evil men, an impostors will grow worse and worse deceiving and being deceived. There's no such thing. Someone who stands pat and stays the same. Either. Uh, you are Becoming more like christ either, you are growing.

In grace, continuing, the things, which you have learned and referred of following, The doctrine manner of life and so forth from verse 10, Or. You are evil and an imposter, and you will grow. Worse and worse. So, Uh, paul tells Timothy that Uh, he will have persecution. But, That the lord will deliver him.

And then he reminds him why he can be sure. Of being delivered, why he can be sure of growing. You must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of. Now, how can he be sure of these things knowing from whom you have learned them, Now, at first, you might think that he means himself.

Because he says, you have carefully, followed my etc. But we have two clues that he doesn't mean himself. The first one comes immediately, following verse 14, where he says, and that from And our translation says childhood, but the word is babyhood. It's a word that's even used for unborn children.

From your babyhood, you have known the holy scriptures. Oh, so does paul mean? Uh his grandmother and his mother that we've just mentioned, no, because he's talking also about himself verse 10 is still there. Who is he talking about from whom as Timothy learned? The things in which he, which he has known from his babyhood.

From whom has Timothy learned the things that he observed, In paul. He learned them ultimately from jesus christ. He learned them ultimately from the holy spirit. There is the spirit of god and the spirit of christ. As we just saw and called those two things in the space of one verse, In Romans 8 and verse 9, midweek meeting this week.

And so it is from the lord. That he has learned them. And we're going to hear that especially when we here next week, Lord willing about the origin of scripture, being the holy spirit himself, But since it is, the lord who has Uh, taught him the scriptures from his babyhood.

Making him to be born into a christian family or at least have one christian parent. Who would teach him? The scriptures. And since, It is the lord in his providence, he came to sit under And, and participate in. Paul's ministry. Um, Then he knows that the lord will complete the work.

That he has started. Every one of us, then. Uh, can have this same knowing from whom you have learned them. Because we might not have had a grandmother and mother. Like, lo us. And we might not have gotten to sit under. No, he did not get to sit under Ministry like that of the apostle, paul.

There are many people who feel like they're at a disadvantage because in growth, in a christian home, I didn't have a famous preacher. Pastor. But, If you are a christian, If you have faith in jesus christ. If you have come to trust in him, And your heart and mind are being shaped by the bible.

Then it really isn't the human agents for moon. You have learned these things. It is from christ himself. And Christ. Has given us perfect word in the holy scriptures. Verse 15. And he's given us his almighty spirit, and his spirit using his word. Is the one who gives us wisdom.

That is unto. Salvation through faith. In the lord, jesus christ. We can be sure. Of the completion of the work. Because he who began the work. Is the one who is still doing. So, let us not be discouraged that we are going to suffer persecutions. Let us be amazed that the lord himself teaches us.

By his spirit and word. And let us continue. And what we have learned to continue. Following the good doctrine continue. Pursuing godly manner of life continue. Living with Biblical purpose. And so forth. Continue. According to the scriptures and will hear more. About that next. Next week.

Our father, we thank you that we know from whom. We have learned. And we do. Thank you for those who have taught us. Truly had been merciful in your providence and We owe them a debt. Oh, humanly speaking. But we thank you that it was you who? Not only assigned them to us in your providence, but also, Who taught our hearts.

As you use them. Pray that you would keep us from shrinking back. That you would. Remind us that. All who have desired to live godly in christ. Jesus have been persecuted. Thank you, that. You even warned us that it would come from within the church. So that we wouldn't be surprised.

We pray. Lord that You would give us the privilege of being Those through whom. You would teach others? You would bring them your word, you would. Give them examples. Good doctrine and godly living.

We pray that you would help us in all of these things in jesus name, Amen.