

II Timothy, Sermon #21

II Timothy 3

These were the last chapters of the Apostle Paul—he is writing to Timothy, a pastor in Ephesus.

II Timothy 3 is the key chapter for surviving in this world—for understanding the times that we live in and how to overcome even the falsification of religion

God informed Timothy about the character of the last days—the great danger of man's religion—the perilous season of worldly Christians and churches—our land is filled with this.

And then God instructed him how to respond.

Our actions must be based on knowledge—knowledge is power.

First, we are to turn away from the mixture unto the pure Truth, vs. 16.

We can't have it both ways—we are either for Him or we are not.

Half-heartedness is not acceptable.

I've entitled today's message "Living in This World, Part 5"

II Timothy 3:10

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

II Timothy 3:10-12

Let us pray

You may be seated.

Living in This World

Vs. 14 – continue in what we have learned from the Bible—assuming we have knowledge and that we are gaining knowledge.

The only way to defeat the lies of the devil is with God's Truth.

We are going to see a contrast of religious persons—what we should not be—vs. 2-9— and what we should be—vs. 10-12

Follow those who are true—follow the right spiritual leaders

Vs. 10 says, "*But thou hast fully known my*" – personal
Paul's life was an open book

Timothy had grown up under Paul's ministry.

He had seen it firsthand.

This little phrase gives us an insight to the intimacy of a spiritual relationship between an older man in the faith and a younger man.

To begin the story, we must backtrack to when their relationship began – Acts 16:1

#1 – Timothy's household—believing mother and unbelieving father—one is saved, the other is not

And, how many children come out of a home like that and follow Christ—usually in the early years, the influence for God is stronger and then sin, and rebellion, and the taste of the world grow and are fed by the lost parent.

The easiest route when the child gets older is not the way of God, but the way of self—the easiest route.

Vs. 2

#2 – Timothy’s testimony—even a child is known by his doings

I Corinthians 13:11, *“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”*

Timothy had done that.

Spiritual progress, growth

Vs. 3a

Timothy was recruited to join Paul in his missionary journeys

Vs. 4a – traveling ministry

Vs. 5 – established churches—got them on the right track and sent them on the right way.

The ministry was preaching-based, Gospel-based—Acts 16:10

Soul winning – Acts 16:14

Timothy saw Lydia saved—he enjoyed the hospitality of saints

He saw people destroyed by sin and held captive by sin—he saw them set free by Christ and the Truth.

Timothy watched Paul and Silas taken by the magistrates—clothes stripped off; beaten in the streets; and thrown into jail—into the inner jail and put in stocks.

He saw Paul singing praises to God and praying under difficulty.

Folks, this is an education that you cannot get in the classroom.

Timothy saw a tremendous group of believers in Berea—Acts 17:14-15.

Timothy was left behind with Silas when it got too hot for Paul to stay, so that Silas and Timothy could work on in Macedonia.

So, Timothy was surrounded by leaders, by men who were all out for God.

Acts 18:5

Timothy saw the false religions and false worship of the world.

He saw the Las Vegas of its time—the city of Corinth.

Timothy was a faithful worker—Acts 19:22

He could be counted on—he was dependable.

Timothy was on the second and third missionary trip with Paul.

During his first encounter with Paul and for the next several decades, Timothy had the unparalleled privilege of living beside and working with this man of great courage, resolution, and character.

Acts 20:4

Timothy is listed in 12 New Testament books: Acts, Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Philemon, and Hebrews.

Hebrews 13:23

II Timothy 3:10 – a personal relationship

This young man was close to Paul, and when Paul was in prison in Rome, he said of Timothy, “. . . . I have no man likeminded” (Phil. 2:20).

There is no one of the same mind as Timothy.

Vs. 10**#1– My doctrine/teaching**—instruction

Timothy was there the night that Paul preached so long—until midnight—that a young man fell asleep and fell from the third loft and died in church.

Timothy knew of the true doctrine – the Gospel of Jesus Christ—the Truth.
He knew straight preaching.

The end doesn't justify the means—we cannot use the world's ways to do God's work.

#2 – My conduct—my manner of life, my lifestyle—this is critical

Paul's "manner of life" backed up his messages—Timothy had traveled and lived with Paul.

Paul's message was no different than his life.

There was no separation between Paul's character and Paul's preaching.

The living is where faith is demonstrated.

#3 – My purpose—never questioned his motives

Purpose relates to his personal motive for service, the driving passion of his heart.

Paul's purpose was to glorify God/to exalt God—he did this by preaching, serving, living his life for the Lord.

The banner of God was carried by Paul—not his own agenda, not a self-seeking, pleasure-loving man.

The Bible-driven life, the Bible-driven church

To preach Christ crucified, risen, and coming again

#4 – My faith . . . faithfulness

The idea is that of faithfully living the truth that is professed.

The longevity of Paul's walk with God—in the face of trials, tribulations, court systems

#5 – My longsuffering . . . carries the additional idea of steadfastness.

God is speaking of the resolute and persistent spirit of Paul who never gave up and never gave in.

Such patience is more than an attitude; it is a determined way of life and is a certain mark of the Christian who lives in uncompromising devotion to his Lord and to the work of the kingdom.

#6 – My charity (love)—this is so crucial to the Christian life that “the one who does not love does not know God, for God is love” (v. 8)

Turn to I John 4:7-11

II Timothy 3:10

#7 – My patience – cheerful endurance – “rejoice in the Lord, and again I say rejoice”

Every church, Christian college, Bible school, seminary, and every home should be led by and, in turn, reproduce believers who not only are orthodox in doctrine and moral in lifestyle but also are courageous and committed in faith.

II Corinthians 6:2-7:1 – no mixing, no compromise, no lowering of standard

This is not “pie in the sky” stuff—Paul said, I live this; I am this; and on top of that, I have suffered for this – II Timothy 3:11

Timothy knew full well Paul's suffering which he had endured in his journeys.

That Paul was not ashamed of Christ, the Bible—this life was not a duty; it was a privilege; it's an honor, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name

Vs. 11 says that

He suffered.

Paul did not ask others to suffer for him; he suffered for others.

We think we have it tough when it's too hot or cold in the church house or when we don't have a cushioned seat.

I believe that we are beginning to move into a time in this country when it will cost us something to be a Christian.

In some ways, I'm kind of excited about it.

In this country it is becoming more and more unpopular to be a Bible Christian. Soon it may become dangerous.

Persecutions and afflictions/sufferings

II Corinthians 11:23-28

II Timothy 3:11b—Antioch, Iconium, Lystra

Timothy was not with Paul during his first trip into these cities where persecution happened

However, those three cities were in Timothy's home province of Galatia, the first place during Paul's missionary journeys where Luke mentions hostility against him – Acts 13:44-52 – thrown out of the city.

Next city—they were despitefully used and stoned—they were run off.

Next city

Lystra was Timothy's hometown, where he doubtless saw Paul heal the man who had been born crippled and where he witnessed the apostle's being stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:1-6, 8-10, 19).

II Timothy 4:6-8

You can visit in Rome today the place where the Apostle Paul was beheaded—just like John the Baptist before him—preaching and living all the Truth.

II Timothy 3:12

Romans 8:18, *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."*

II Corinthians 12:10, *"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."*

John 16:33, *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."*

I John 3:13, *"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."*

Persecution awaits everyone who wants to live Godly

From the fourth grader who says "no" to the movies

From the worker who doesn't laugh at dirty jokes, drink beer with all the other guys

That was Jesus' promise. "If the world hates you," He said.

"Ye know that it hated Me before it hated you." John 15:8

"If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you." John 15:20

Listen now—II Timothy 3:12—live Godly.

Self-centered Christians who serve the Lord halfheartedly seldom have to pay a price
for their faith.

They are of little threat to Satan's work because they are of little benefit to Christ's.

The faithful believer should expect persecution and suffering for the Lord.

Living in this world with a sincere faith or a mixture

Let us stand for closing invitation.

The contrast is a strong one

Vs. 2-9 versus vs. 10-12

When Timothy heard the names of his hometowns and how Paul carried himself and
how he preached the whole counsel of the Word of God and how he held back
nothing, this had to encourage Timothy to continue forward.

It should encourage us.

I Peter 3:14, *"But and if ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye and be not afraid
of their terror, neither be troubled."*

The Lord will take us through—even if it is death.

Are we living like the world or like Christ?

Are we semi-committed or fully committed?

Have I laid it all on the altar or just some things?

Does God have all of me or just what I want to give Him?

Does our profession match our living?

Listen, are you here today without Christ?

Trust in Him and be saved.