

II Timothy, Sermon #22

II Timothy 3:1

Perilous times are defined as religious people living unbiblically—resisting the Truth, forsaking God’s way, worthless faith

Then Paul reminded Timothy of real ministry and Godly character
He tells Timothy that taking a Biblical stand—being Godly—will cause suffering and persecution

This is where we left off last time.

I’ve entitled today’s message “Living in This World, Part 6”

II Timothy 3:13

Let us stand for the reading of God’s Holy Word.

II Timothy 3:13-15

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

Living in This World

Evil men and deceivers are going to get worse and worse – vs. 13

In these last days, there will be more deception; and the only way a believer will be able to tell the true from the false is by knowing the Word of God.

False teaching and philosophies will increase and go from bad to worse—deceived and being deceived—error upon error—error feeds on itself.

So, vs. 14 gives the second imperative of this chapter—the first was in vs. 5: turn away from these kinds of people, and second, vs. 14

God tells Timothy to continue in God's Word.

Timothy had strong convictions built into a spiritual foundation.

He got these convictions/beliefs from the Apostle Paul and his relatives, vs. 14e, "whom" is plural

He had learned the Holy Scriptures because his grandmother and mother were Jewish women and had seen to it that Timothy grew up on the Word of God.

The Bible says for him to continue in that.

God commanded Timothy to continue on the pathway of the Word of God.

We never outgrow the Word of God—whether a child or an adult—we need the guidance of the Bible.

Vs. 14—**Hast learned** is intentional learning.

This is more than just osmosis, grasping the way our family lives and behaves.

This is training; this is discipline, going beyond what is prescribed, making oneself to be educated; this is effort.

Timothy had **become convinced** of the truths of Scripture—he realized they were fixed and nonnegotiable truths that are not subject to compromise or dilution.

Folks, we live in an age of moral relativism where there is no right or wrong, no objective truth, no certainty, but the Bible is not shifty.

It is a firm foundation and will not and cannot change.

If the Bible says it's wrong, it's wrong; and if it says it's right, it's right.

Timothy was to continue in what was taught – remain steadfast and that's what God wants us to do.

Quite frankly, it is what we must do.

Timothy's confidence and assurance would prevent any slippage in his commitment to Truth.

When man begins to question God's Word—just as Satan asked, "Hath God said?" The church overall is questioning absolutes, which eventually leads to a loose lifestyle.

How long had Timothy been taught the Word of God? (Vs. 15) Well, since a child (II Timothy 1:5)

Lois and Eunice

Both of these women were instrumental in laying the groundwork in Timothy's life.

So, Momma and Grandma did a great job.

Every grandparent, just like Lois, ought to be conscious of the spiritual impact they have on a child—the investment they can make in a spiritual way.

Grandparents—make sure their grandkids get to church, give them Bibles, good music CDs

Give them yourself.

Timothy was raised on the Holy Scriptures at home.

It was a part of his diet, his intake, his life.

Children today grow up with a host of things.

(I grew up as a country boy—no shoes and no shirt, with an alcoholic father)

Children grow up on TV, video games, their self

And, we must make sure they grow up on the Word of God

Do we impart the Bible to them?

Do we tell them the truth—why?

Do we provide the training of the Bible?

We inoculate and immunize our children for all kinds of things, yet we often fail to give the best preventative, the Word of God.

Timothy had been taught the Word of God from the time he was a child.

Timothy's grandmother and mother had faithfully taught him the Old Testament Scriptures.

Timothy was to continue in what he had been taught.

This is a good place to admonish Christian parents to teach their children the Bible.

- As soon as our children are born, surround them with the Holy Scriptures and prayer.
- We will not have this opportunity after they grow up.

Timothy's success as a man of God should encourage the spouse that has a spouse that is not engaged in these important matters.

Or the grandparents when their own children are failing in parenting

Now let's look at why it is so important to learn the Word of God.

God made some important statements concerning the Word of God, the Scriptures,
Bible

First, they are the Holy Scriptures, vs. 15 – sacred Word

The Bible is different from any other book.

- Carry it to church, take care of it, respect the Book, have the right attitude toward the Word of God.
- We are not to be careless with it.

I love my Bible—this Book has helped me so much.

I would not take any amount of money for this Bible.

Isaac Newton: “If all the great books of the world were brought together in convention, the moment the Bible entered, the other books would fall on their faces as the gods of the Philistines fell when the ark of God was brought into their presence in the temple of Dagon.”

I Thessalonians 2:13, *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God . . .”*

It is the wonderful Word of God and it is holy—sacred.

The Holy Scriptures

The word “holy” is not an incidental designation.

- The concept of holiness means that we are “set apart” from whatever else is going on in the world.
- When we are holy, we are not as the rest; we are distinctive and different.

When God attached the word *holy* to the Scriptures, it means that this Book is set apart from all other books.

- It is distinctive and different from other books.
- It is, in fact, so distinctive and different that it is altogether unique.

It is the Holy Scriptures.

Second, the Scriptures lead us to salvation, vs. 15

The Bible is the only Book that tells us how to be saved.

- Good books and Gospel tracts show the way to Heaven, but only because they contain portions of the Bible.

“The holy scriptures, are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

The Bible alone is able to “make thee wise unto salvation,” and absolutely foolish and futile is any hope of salvation apart from the Bible.

Some people say, “Well, my opinion is . . .”

- Never mind their opinion.
- I am here to give you what the Bible says, not your opinion or my opinion.

Someone else says, “But I know a fellow who believes . . .”

- Never mind what that fellow believes.
- He may have enough degrees to make him look like a thermometer, but he is not smarter than God!

Only in the Bible can one find how to be saved and how to go to Heaven.

- The Bible says, *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life”* John 3:36.
- *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved”* Acts 16:31.

They argue, “But there are a lot of different religions. As long as a man is sincere in what he believes, he’ll go to Heaven.”

- They are wrong!
- The Bible does not say that; but it does say, *“He that believeth not is condemned.”*

Vs. 15

We are saved by trusting Jesus Christ Who is revealed in the Bible.

Scripture Provides Instruction for Salvation

What is the relationship of the Bible to salvation?

To begin with, the Bible reveals our need for salvation

The Bible is a mirror that shows us how filthy we are in God's sight—sinners.

The Bible explains that every lost sinner is condemned *now* (John 3:18-21) and needs a Savior *now*.

The Bible also makes it clear that a lost sinner cannot save himself, but that Christ died for our sins and if we trust Him, He will save us (John 3:16-18a).

The Scriptures bring salvation only when one places his faith in Christ Jesus.

"Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

I Peter 1:23, *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."*

The Bible also helps give us the assurance of our salvation (see I John 5:9-13).

Ephesians 1:13-14, *"In Whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory."*

Now, how important is the Word of God? Absolutely vital!

Romans 1:16, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

God has no other plan to save this world, other than the Word of God to enlighten men's darkened mind and souls and bring them to the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Folks, it is not enough to have a Bible or to carry a Bible.

We are to receive with meekness the engrafted Word which is able to save our souls,
James 1:21.

The heart and soul of effective evangelism, therefore, is the faithful preaching, teaching, and witnessing of the truth as it is revealed in Scripture.

That is the "seed" the Lord will bless and bring to fruition.

1. The Scriptures are holy.
2. The Scriptures reveal God's wonderful plan of salvation

Jesus said, "*Search the scriptures; they are they which testify of Me.*" – John 5:39

The Bible will help us to live in this world and the next.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Do we know the salvation of the Bible?

So we recognize our sinfulness, how unworthy we are and our need for the Savior
Jesus Christ?

Do we understand what He did for us? That He died in our place, shed His blood for our sins—died, was buried and rose again, and if we will trust this, trust Him, we can be saved?

Believer, what are we believing?

What is it we are continuing in?

What is it that we are faithfully teaching our kids and our grandchildren?

Times are getting worse—the Bible is the key.