

The Testimony To The Steadfastness of Timothy

2TI 3:10 But you [closely] followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,

1. "But you followed my teaching" - "parakoloutheo" [pah rah kah loo **theh** oh] - "follow, accompany, follow closely, investigate."

a. Paul's teachings were not his own, but they came from Jesus Christ. (Gal. 1:12; 1 Cor. 14:37).

GAL 1:12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

1CO 14:37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

b. He warned against anyone, including himself, perverting the gospel message. (Gal. 1:6-9).

GAL 1:6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

GAL 1:7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

GAL 1:8 But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

GAL 1:9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.

c. He gave a similar warning in 1 Timothy 1:3.

1TI 1:3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may **instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,**

d. "strange doctrines" are those foreign to God's revealed word found in the Scriptures.

e. Timothy had been imitating Paul, and Paul is urging him to continue his devotion to Christ.

f. Timothy was really an outstanding servant of the Lord and one in whom Paul had great confidence. (Phil. 2:20-23).

PHI 2:20 For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.

PHI 2:21 For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.

PHI 2:22 But you know of his proven worth that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.

PHI 2:23 Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me;

2. "conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance"

- The "my" of this verse modifies each of the words listed here "my teaching," "my conduct," "my purpose," "my faith," etc.

- a. “conduct” - 1 Cor. 11:1. Paul’s behavior [manner of life] was exemplary.
- b. “purpose” is from “prothesis” [**prah** theh sis] meaning “purpose, resolve.”
 - 1) Paul was a “purpose” driven man.
 - 2) His purpose was to please Christ his Lord and Savior. (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21).
 - 3) His passion to please Christ motivated him to share Christ with others no matter how high the cost.
 - 4) He was not playing Christianity - it was his life, his all.
- c. “faith” - He is encouraged to have the unwavering faith of Paul. This involved both trust and action.
- d. “patience” is from “makrothumia” [mah krah thoo **mee** ah] meaning “endurance, forbearance, long waiting.”
 - 1) Unwavering faith leads to such endurance.
 - 2) Love leads to such commitment. See Matt. 22:37.
- e. “love” - Paul had genuine love for all, and it was essential that Timothy have this love.
 - 1) We are need love for one another. (Jn. 13:34,35; 1 Cor. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 1:22).
 - 2) We must even love our enemies. (Matt. 5:43-48; Rom. 12:18-20).
- f. “perseverance” is from “hupomone” [hoo pah mah **nay**] “patient endurance, steadfastness.”
 - 1) Timothy would need this to fulfill the commission given him.
 - 2) Ministry would not be easy for him and for others.
 - 3) It would require endurance, perseverance, forbearance.”

2TI 3:11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch [of Pisidia], at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord delivered me!

- 1. “persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra”
 - a. Paul had much opposition in those places.
 - b. See Acts 13:45-50; 14:5, 19.
- 2. “what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord delivered me!”
 - a. Paul had endure much as a Christian and as an apostle. (2 Cor. 11:23-37).
 - b. He had survived these trials and persecutions and had been delivered from every persecution though now he was in prison at Rome facing death.
 - c. These persecutions had not made Paul sour or disgruntle, but had made him better and even stronger in the Lord.

d. He was thankful for all his blessings, and that he had been privileged to suffer for Christ.

e. He gave “the Lord” credit and praise for his deliverance.

2TI 3:12 And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

1. “And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus”

a. He here speaks of those who follow Christ.

b. He is not speaking of those who have never accepted Christ though non-Christian people sometimes suffer by the hands of evil men for one reason or another.

c. “all” is most probably a hyperbole meaning the general rule.

1) There have been faithful Christians that have lived and died without physical persecution.

2) Many Christians, in all ages, have suffered severe persecutions.

3) Darkness hates the light and seeks to remove it.

2. “will be persecuted” - Christians cannot escape persecution in some form if they live for Christ. (Jn. 15:18-20). See Matt. 5:10-12; 10:28.

a. This may come in the form of verbal abuse or economic hardships.

b. This may come in the form of beatings, imprisonment and even death.

c. This may come from family. (Matt. 10:34-36).

MAT 10:34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

MAT 10:35 "For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

MAT 10:36 and a man's enemies will be the members of his household.

d. Paul himself had persecuted Christians in his earlier life. (Acts 8:1-3).

ACT 8:1 And Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

ACT 8:2 And some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him.

ACT 8:3 But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house; and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

2TI 3:13 But evil men and impostors [pretenders, deceptive men] will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

1. “But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse” - Such men are described in 2 Tim. 3:2-9.

a. Evil men, apart from the gospel, do not get better.

b. They “proceed from bad to worse.”

c. Their evil and perversions must get worse to bring satisfaction to their godless hearts.

2. “deceiving and being deceived”

a. Evil men are constantly deceiving and taking advantage of others.

b. Evil men are not smart enough to avoid the same things they do to others.

2TI 3:14 You, however, continue [stay firm] in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them;

1. “You, however, continue in the things you have learned” - Paul exhorts Timothy to “continue in the things” he had “learned.”

a. This learning was a matter of scripture knowledge and experiences as a Christian.

b. He is to faithfully continue in God’s word. (2 Tim. 3:15, 16).

2. “and become convinced of [know to be true], knowing from whom you have learned them”

a. He was to “become convinced of.”

1) It is vital that one be convinced, that is, be convicted of the Christian faith.

2) “Convinced” is from “pistoo” [pis **tah** oh] meaning to be faithful or trustworthy, but in the passive voice means “to feel confidence, to be convinced.”

3) One who is not convinced [fully persuaded] would not and will not be very effective in reaching others.

4) This is a real problem among believers. Many are not fully convinced and have doubts about God, Christ, the scriptures, the church, etc.

b. He had learned the truth from Paul and other inspired teachers, and that truth must be a matter of conviction in his life.

c. As revealed in the next verse he had also learned the truth from his grandmother Lois, and his mother Eunice.

2TI 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred [holy] writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1. “and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings” - See notes about Lois and Eunice. (2 Tim. 1:5).

a. Jewish children were taught the scriptures from infancy. (Deut. 11:19; 4:9; 6:7).

b. His mother and grandmother had done that, and were later converted to Christ.

c. “sacred scriptures” here refers to the writings of the Old Testament.

d. The New Testament had not been written when Timothy was an infant or small child and his mother and grandmother would not have been Christians at that time.

2. “which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation”

- a. True wisdom comes from what God has revealed to us in the Scriptures.
- b. This wisdom came from the Old Testament writings, but not from the Old Testament only.
- c. The Old Testament led men to accept Christ and the complete truth He revealed to man through His apostles.
- d. God's wisdom results in salvation, but man's wisdom ends in death. (Prov. 14:12).

PRO 14:12 There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

e. See James 1:18, 21; Rom. 1:16, 17; 1 Cor. 1:23-25.

3. "through faith which is in Christ Jesus"

- a. "faith" must be in Jesus. (Jn. 3:16, 36; 6:47; 8:24).
- b. All the faith in the world will not save apart from Jesus. (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12; Heb. 5:9).
- c. This faith is manifested in obedience. (Matt. 7:21; Lk. 6:46; Heb. 5:9).
- d. See also Rom. 1:5; 16:26; Gal. 5:6; Jas. 2:14-26.

2TI 3:16 All Scripture [both Old and New Testaments] is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

1. "All Scripture is inspired by God" - He is speaking of the writings from God - not all writings.

- It includes Old Testament scriptures and the writings of the New Testament.
 - It was not limited to the "sacred scriptures" of the Old Testament.
 - In the previous verse he spoke of "the sacred [holy] writings [scriptures]. (2 Tim. 3:15).
- a. The word "all" comes from the Greek "pasa" [**pah** sah] meaning "all, every."
 - b. The word "scripture" comes from the word "graphe" [grah **fay**] meaning "writing, scripture."
 - c. This is a word used frequently in the New Testament.
 - 1) It occurs in the gospels. (Mk. 12:10; 15:28; Lk. 4:21; Jn. 2:22; 7:38, 42; 10:35; 13:18; 17:12; 19:24, 28, 36, 37, 20:9).
 - 2) It occurs in Acts and the epistles. (Acts 1:16; 8:32, 35; Rom. 4:3; 9:17; 10:11; 11:2; Gal. 3:8, 22; 4:30; 1 Tim. 4:13; 5:18; 2 Tim. 3:16; Jas. 2:8, 23; 4:5; 1 Pet. 2:6; 2 Pet. 1:20).
 - d. The word "inspired" comes from "theopneustos" [theh **ahp** noo stahs] meaning "God-breathed."
 - 1) Scriptures come from God. They are His words, and must be regarded as sacred and binding.
 - 2) They were given by the Holy Spirit who guided the apostles into "all truth." (Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13).

JOH 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and

bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

JOH 15:26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me,

JOH 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

Note On Inspiration Terms

1. Verbal inspiration means the actual words were inspired. (2 Sam. 23:2; Jere. 1:9; Matt. 10:19; Lk. 21:14,15; 1 Cor. 2:13; 11:23; 1 Thess. 4:15).
2. Plenary means the Bible is fully and completely inspired.
3. The Bible is fully inspired - content, thoughts, words.
4. This does not mean the Holy Spirit did not allow the writers to use their own words, but the Holy Spirit made sure those words taught the truth of God and were exactly what God wanted to say to mankind.
 - a. Mechanical dictation is not correct nor affirmed by most conservative scholars.
 - b. The inspired writers were not mere recorders without injecting any of their own personality or training.
5. Without verbal inspiration arguments based on words are unreliable.
 - a. Jesus argued that God said "I am the God of Abraham...," not "I was."

MAT 22:32 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living. "

- b. Gospel preachers have rightly argued that baptism is "for" the forgiveness of sins based on the preposition "eis" found in Acts 2:38. This argument is futile and so is Matthew 26:28 if we cannot be sure this is the word the Holy Spirit intended.
- c. Paul used an argument in regard to the word "seed" in Galatians 3:16.

GAL 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.

- 1) The word "seed" usually has a plural meaning, but Paul contends it had a singular meaning in Genesis 22:18.
- 2) Again this argument is doubtful, at best, if this is not the word the Holy Spirit intended.

e. Translators are divided concerning the rendering the expression "all scripture."

- 1) Some render it "all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable..." KJV
- 2) Others render it "every scripture inspired by God is also profitable..." ASV
- 3) "All Scripture is breathed out by God" ESV. This seems to be the best translation to convey what Paul was affirming. All scripture is from God and must not be ignored.

4) NASB has same idea as ESV.

5) McCord “Every scripture is God-breathed and profitable....”

f. Peter also affirms the inspiration of the Scriptures. (2 Pet. 1:20, 21).

2PE 1:20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

2PE 1:21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

1) “epilusis” [eh **pee** loo sis] - “explanation, interpretation, release.”

2) McCord “of anyone’s own release.” Marshall “of [its] own solution.”

3) The meaning is Scripture is not of human invention or origin or composition, but it is from God.

4) They did not make up the things in Scriptures but Scriptures are from God.

2. “and profitable” - is from “ophelimos” [oh **feh** lee mahs] meanig “profitable, useful, beneficial.”

a. “for teaching” - “didaskalia” [dee dah skah **lee** ah] - Teaching about God and saving faith through Jesus.

b. “for reproof” - “elegchos” [**eh** lehg kahs] - There must be reproof at times. (2 Tim. 4:2).

1) Even the best of Christians get off track and need reproof.

2) False teachers must be exposed. (1 Tim. 5:20; Tit. 1:9, 13; Tit. 2:15; Eph. 5:18; 1 Jn. 4:1; Matt. 7:15).

c. “for correction” - “epanorthosis” [eh pah **nahr** thoh sis].

1) Man is sinful and needs the correction that comes from God’s word.

2) Correction means reproof and positive teaching [guidance] on how to follow God’s word.

d. “for training [instruction] in righteousness” - See 2 Tim. 2:22.

2TI 2:22 Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

1) “paideia” [pi **day** ah] - “upbringing, training, instruction, discipline.”

2) Man also needs instruction “in righteousness” [right things], that is, how to please God. See Psa. 119:172.

3) See Proverbs 22:6.

2TI 3:17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

1. “that the man of God” -

a. This was used of Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:11.

1TI 6:11 But flee from these things, you **man of God**; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

- b. The words “man of God” do not refer exclusively to Timothy, but refers to all who have become God’s spiritual children through obedience to Jesus.
 - c. The words “man of God” have the same meaning as “son of God.”
 - d. Timothy was a “man of God” meaning he was a “child” or “son of God.”
 - e. He was a very devoted “man of God.”
2. “may be adequate” - “artios” [**ahr** tee ahs] - “complete, perfect, well-prepared”
- a. Everything man needs for salvation is found in the scriptures, and nothing he needs spiritually is found outside the scriptures.
 - b. The Scriptures are “all truth.” (Jn. 16:13).

JOH 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

- 1) There is no place for latter day revelations.
- 2) “All truth” was given in the first century.
- 3) We already have “everything that pertain to life and godliness.” (2 Pet. 1:3).

2PE 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

- 4) Jude speaks of “the faith once for all delivered to the saints” in Jude 3. “Faith” is not subjective faith based on feelings, but is objective faith referring to the gospel, the word, the truth, God’s revelation to mankind.
- 5) Any additions are not from God, but are from men.

3. “equipped for every good work” - 1 Tim. 5:10; 2 Tim. 2:21; Tit. 3:1; Eph. 2:10.

1TI 5:10 having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work.

2TI 2:21 Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

TIT 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

EPH 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- a. “exartizo” [eks ahr **tid** zoh]- “equip, thoroughly furnished.”
- b. “every” - Not some, but “all, every.”
- c. “good work” - These words refer to what pleases God.

- 1) What pleases God is found in the holy Scriptures.
- 2) The opinions, traditions and commandments of men are nauseous to God
- 3) Isaiah expressed it this way long ago. (Isa. 55:8, 9).

ISA 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.

ISA 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

- 4) How foolish and sinful it is for man to add or take away from the inspired word of God.

Note

1. The Scriptures produce faith that manifests itself in the good works of God. (1 Tim. 6:16; 2 Tim. 2:21; 3:17; Tit. 1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:8, 14).
2. The teachings of the false teachers do not produce God's good works, but Paul affirms they were "worthless for any good deed." (Tit. 1:16).
3. There is a vast difference between Scripture [God's writings] and all other writings.
4. God's writings are complete and the writings of men are futile in regard to salvation.

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