

Abounding Grace Christian Church

A Study of Paul's Second Letter to Timothy – Part 10

I. Exposition of Chapter Three (continued).

A. Verse 10 - “But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,”

1. “But you have carefully followed...” – The words “carefully followed” are one word in the Greek and mean; **“to follow after; so to follow one as to be always at his side; to follow close, accompany”**¹ Timothy didn’t learn just by hearing Paul’s teaching, but also by being with him and seeing his life. Christianity is not only *taught*, it is also *caught* by seeing it lived out in other people.
 - a. “...doctrine...” – Refers to teaching.
 - b. “...manner of life...” – Refers to the way a person conducts their life.
 - c. “...purpose...” – **“plan, a setting forth: plan, purpose, will”**² Of course Paul’s “plan” or “purpose” in life would have been what Jesus’ plan and purpose for his life (cf. Acts 26:16-18).
 - d. “...faith...” – **“conviction of the truth of anything, belief”**³
 - e. “...longsuffering...” – **“a state of emotional calm in the face of provocation or misfortune and without complaint or irritation”**⁴ (Also found in 4:2).
 - f. “...love...” – **“affection, good-will, love, benevolence”**⁵ (cf. John 13:34-35; Romans 5:5; I John 3:14).
 - g. “...perseverance...” – **“steadfastness, constancy, endurance...in the N. T. the characteristic of a man who is unswerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings”**⁶ (cf. Acts 20:22-24).

B. Verse 11 – “...persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me.”

1. “...persecutions...” – **“In a number of languages the equivalent of ‘to persecute’ is simply ‘to cause to suffer,’ but persecution is also expressed in terms of ‘to be mean to’ or ‘to threaten’ or ‘to chase from place to place.’”**⁷
2. “...afflictions...” – **“to suffer pain—‘pain, suffering, to suffer, to be in pain.’”**⁸
3. “...which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra...” – These are three major cities within the province of Galatia. These cities were visited by Paul during his first and second missionary journeys (Acts 13 and 14). Lystra was Timothy’s hometown (Acts 16:1).
4. “...what persecutions I endured.” – The word “endure” means; **“bear up under, stand up under”**.⁹
5. “And out of them all the Lord delivered me.” – The word “delivered” means; **“to rescue from danger, with the implication that the danger in question is severe and acute”**¹⁰ This may be a reference on Paul’s part of Psalm 34:19. Paul is encouraging Timothy that the Lord is the Deliverer of the believer. This doesn’t suggest that there won’t be hardships and the possibility of martyrdom for the Gospel’s sake, but Scripture implies that we can trust God to bring us deliverance until we have finished our “race.” (cf. II Timothy 4:7; Acts 20:24; Hebrews 12:1.)

C. Verse 12 – “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” – A believer who is attempting to live a life consistent with the Word, is going to face opposition to one degree or another. Christians are persecuted for the same reason Jesus was persecuted: **“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”** - John 3:19.

D. Verse 13 – “But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.” - The word “evil” means; **“bad, of a bad nature or condition; in a physical sense:... diseased or blind,”**¹¹ The word “impostors” means; **“a wailer, howler: a juggler, enchanter, (because incantations used to be uttered in a**

¹ Joseph Henry Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm’s Wilke’s Clavis Novi Testamenti* (New York: Harper & Brothers., 1889), 484.

² James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

³ Thayer, 512.

⁴ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 306.

⁵ Thayer, 4.

⁶ Ibid., 644.

⁷ Louw and Nida, 498.

⁸ Ibid., 284.

⁹ Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

¹⁰ Louw and Nida, 240.

¹¹ Thayer, 530.

kind of howl).¹² Gary Leggett writes:

“The ‘seducers’ (‘wizards, wailers’) are ‘imposters’ who ‘wax worse and wors’ ... (‘go from bad to worse’). The literal meaning of ‘wailers’ refers to incantation by howling and implies these seducers/imposters were using black magic.

While deceiving others, they deceived themselves.”¹³

E. Verses 14-15 – **“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured 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.”**

1. **“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of...”** – Paul is exhorting Timothy to keep going and to not waver from the truths that he has learned and have been **“assured”** of. The word **“assured”** means; **“to come to believe something to be true—‘to come to believe’; ‘but as for you, continue in what you were taught and firmly came to believe’”¹⁴**
2. **“...knowing from whom you have learned them...”** – Of course, this would include Paul, but it would also include his mother and grandmother (1:5).
3. **“...and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures...”** – The word **“childhood”** is a very broad term meaning; **“an unborn child, embryo,... a new-born child, an infant, a babe”¹⁵** Obviously, this is saying that from the time Timothy was very young, and, of course, old enough to understand, he was learning the Scriptures. The **“Holy Scriptures”** is referring to the Old Testament writings which would have been available then. Timothy’s mother was Jewish, though his father was a Greek (Acts 16:1). It’s understood, however, that Timothy was raised Jewish for the most part.
4. **“...which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”** – The word **“wise”** means; **“to cause a person to have wisdom and understanding”¹⁶** It’s the Scriptures that give people understanding as to how to receive salvation. It could also be added that it’s the Scriptures that help one who is already saved to receive more wisdom and understanding as to how to live out one’s salvation. Dr. Wayne Grudem writes:

“The context shows that ‘sacred writings’ here means the written words of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16). This is an indication that the words of God which we have in Scripture are all the words of God we need in order to be saved: these words are able to make us wise ‘for salvation.’ This is confirmed by other passages that talk about the words of Scripture as the means God uses to bring us to salvation (James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23).”¹⁷

F. Verse 16 – **“All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,”** – When Paul wrote this letter, he was referring to the Scriptures of the Old Testament. It was recognized afterward that the Holy Spirit was adding other writings to the canon of Scripture. Guy Duffield and Nathaniel Van Cleave write:

“The books of the New Testament were written during the last half of the first century A.D. The newly formed Christian church had the Old Testament Scriptures as the basis for their faith but, in addition to this, great importance was placed on the words of Jesus and the teachings of the Apostles. Thus, it was not long until the Gospels were being placed alongside of the Old Testament. The authority of the Apostles is fully attested. John declares, ‘That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you’ (1 Jn. 1:3); Peter says they ‘were eyewitnesses of his majesty’ (2 Pt. 1:16); and of the early believers we read: ‘And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship’ (Acts 2:42”¹⁸

1. **“...is given by inspiration of God...”** – The word **“inspiration”** means; **“God-breathed”¹⁹** In explaining this, Duffield and Van Cleave write:

“In a word, what is declared by this fundamental passage is simply that the Scriptures are a Divine product, without any indication of how God has operated in producing them. No term could have been chosen, however, which would have more emphatically asserted the Divine production of Scripture than that which has been employed. The “breath of God” is in Scripture just the symbol of His almighty power, the bearer of His creative word”²⁰

¹² Thayer, 120.

¹³ *The Complete Biblical Library: Acts – Revelation, Volume 2*, (Empowered Life, Tulsa, OK, 2016.), 925.

¹⁴ Louw and Nida, 369.

¹⁵ Thayer, 105.

¹⁶ Louw and Nida 384.

¹⁷ Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 127.

¹⁸ Guy P. Duffield and Nathaniel M. Van Cleave, *Foundations of Pentecostal Theology* (Los Angeles, CA: L.I.F.E. Bible College, 1983), 12–13.

¹⁹ Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

²⁰ Guy P. Duffield and Nathaniel M. Van Cleave, *Foundations of Pentecostal Theology* (Los Angeles, CA: L.I.F.E. Bible College, 1983), 20.