

Continue in What You Have Learned; 2 Timothy 3:10-17

- I. However
 - A. Times of difficulty in the last days
 - B. 2 Timothy 3:2–5; 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.
 - C. I think it is safe to say that we all have “times of difficulty”
 - D. Paul’s encouragement to Timothy is to “continue”
 - E. My encouragement this morning is to “continue in what you have learned” no matter what you are going through; endure it!
 - F. 2 Timothy 3:12; Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
- II. Followed
 - A. 2 Timothy 3:10–11; 10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.
 - B. “Follow” - investigate carefully
 - C. Timothy had investigated Paul carefully
 1. Teaching
 - a) Paul wrote 13 of the 27 NT books
 - b) Timothy was a traveling companion (2 Corinthians 1:1)
 - c) Timothy was ministering to Paul in Roman prison (Philippians 1:1)
 2. Conduct
 3. Aim - Plan; Paul had a plan from the very beginning which included his journeys (even to Rome)
 4. Faith
 5. Patience
 6. Love
 7. Steadfastness
 8. Persecutions and sufferings
 - D. Have we investigated carefully this way called Christianity?
 1. You don’t make that kind of decision without careful consideration
 2. Eternity away from God or eternity with God
 - E. Do we have a plan for our Christianity (or are we just “winging it”)
 1. Are we fighting for our own way or have we submitted to God’s way?
 2. Is what we do with our Christianity first and foremost in our minds or does it play “second fiddle” to our own wants and desires?
 - F. Persecution is inevitable
 - G. There are those who would choose to deceive us, but they are deceived themselves
- III. Continue
 - A. 2 Timothy 3:14–15; 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
 - B. “Continue” - abide, remain, endure, stay put

1. No matter what occurs in our lives we must stay put!
 2. We have investigated the matter carefully and we know whom we believe in
 3. 2 Timothy 1:12–14; 12 which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. 13 Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14 By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.
- C. Persecution and trials have a way of shaking our faith
1. Psalm 3:1–4; 1 O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; 2 many are saying of my soul, there is no salvation for him in God. Selah 3 But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. 4 I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah
 2. But what happens in our lives does not dictate what kind of a God we serve
 3. God is the same no matter what we go through
 - a) God created us knowing what we would do to His son
 - b) God created this world for us to live in
 - c) God sent his Son to be our sacrifice for sins
 - d) It is crazy for me to read the Scriptures and come to any conclusion other than God loves us!
 - e) Knowing that, why would we let a little persecution get in our way of being in the presence of God for eternity
 - f) Romans 8:18; For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
- D. To continue, to stay put, to endure, to be steadfast is the only good answer
- IV. Profitable
- A. 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
 - B. “Profitable” - beneficial, useful, advantageous
 - C. In the midst of persecution, hold fast to scripture because it is what gets you through!
 - D. Teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness
 1. Psalm 1
 2. Psalm 119:33-40
 - E. This is a great text that tells us a lot about the Scriptures we live and breathe
 - F. The context of this text is persecution
 - G. Even while enduring persecution and tribulation the Scriptures complete us (make us perfect)
 - H. Equipped - to have every necessary component for a task
 1. The Scriptures equip us with the ability to complete our task of good works even while suffering persecution or trials
 2. 2 Corinthians 4:16–18; 16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.
- V. Endure
- A. We have investigated completely this thing called Christianity
 - B. We must stay put, abide, remain in Him regardless of faith shaking circumstances
 - C. Because the Scriptures make us complete, perfect