

Paul's Second Letter to Timothy – Lesson 6

2 Timothy 3:10-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17

What is truth? Where may I find timeless wisdom? How do I find a teacher on whom I can rely?

We are inundated with information from a variety of sources. We hear advice from friends, parents and neighbors. We watch news broadcasts and YouTube influencers. We research diet strategies, skin care routines, and parenting tips. Over time, we become discouraged because everything changes. Today's expert consensus is tomorrow's failed hypothesis. Where can we find truth that is consistent and trustworthy?

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-17 (the whole chapter) ***In this age, life is hard.***

Paul recognizes that Timothy (and later generations of Christ-followers) will encounter opposition from outside the church and false teachers emerging from within the church. God's people will suffer persecution. They will have to confront distortions of the gospel. There will be no coasting to the finish line for God's people; serving Christ places us at odds with the culture of the age.

- a. These warnings that Paul presents in Chapter 3 are quite unsettling. What is surprising to you about this description of the church age? Does it correspond to your observations of our culture?

- b. From your knowledge of world history, would you say that Paul's warnings have been justified? What conclusion do you draw about the persistence of man's rebellion against God?

- c. How is it helpful to us to know that the more closely we follow Christ, the more likely it is that we will face opposition?

2. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-12. ***Until Christ returns, life will continue to be hard.***

- a. Paul's life is an example to Timothy of courage and perseverance in the face of unrelenting opposition. What are the nine aspects of Paul's life that Timothy is to embrace as he pursues his own calling and purpose?

- b. Paul is in prison and expects to be executed soon; nevertheless, as he reflects on the times of suffering he has endured, he states, "*the LORD has rescued me from all of them.*" How may Paul see his imminent execution as yet another rescue? For insight into Paul's thinking, see Philippians 1:20-26.

3. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17 ***God's Word provides wisdom for our lives.***

- a. What provision has God given to enable sinful people to escape the deceptive and foolish philosophy of the world?

- b. Paul strongly urges Timothy to rely on the truth he has learned from God's Word. How do we know that God's Word is trustworthy? (See also 1 Thessalonians 2:13 and 2 Peter 1:20-21.)
- c. In what four areas are the Scriptures useful?
- d. What good results will be accomplished when we make use of the wisdom God has given in His Word (3:17)?
- e. ***For personal application:*** We are heavily influenced by the "wisdom" proclaimed by the culture. God's wisdom is rarely found there. How can you reorder your activities so that you may be more fully nourished by the eternal wisdom from God's Word? Consider: what worldly voices will you "turn off?" What godly voices will you turn on instead?

My Prayer:

*Father, help me to grow in my understanding of Your Word.
Teach me to love your Word, and by it, to grow in my love for You.*