

~2 Timothy~

Lesson 14 – Desiring to Live Godly in Christ Jesus

A few weeks ago we learned about the call to Sanctification. That to be a useful vessel to the Master we must make the stance for Truth. To stand alongside God, approved as genuine, a worker not ashamed, upholding the Words of Truth. We do this by taking the stance away from unrighteousness, away from immature lusts, away from foolish and ignorant disputes, and we pursue Jesus.

Last week we learned of the implications of false teaching within the church and the fruit of ungodliness that they breed. In 2 Tim 3:2-8, we ran through 25 statements of ungodliness that are a result of selfish, self-righteous thinking growing out from false teaching. And we learned what our response to this ungodly opposition must be.

It is a response of not fighting with these people, but rather showing them Jesus. Being Christ-like in gentleness, teaching, enduring evil patiently, and in humility, with power under control, correcting and instructing those who are in opposition to the Truth. And we do this so that they “*might know the Truth and come to their senses and rise up out of the snare of the devil*”, 2 Tim 2:25-26.

But if they will not come with a repentant heart; if they will not answer the call to holiness; and if they remain “committed” to sin, then they cannot stay within the Christian fellowship. Because as Paul said, “*they will increase to more ungodliness and their message will spread like gangrene*”, 2 Tim 2:16-17. It was this rejection of Truth that allowed the church of Ephesus to be swayed away and now the modern church is under this same persuasion of false teaching, and if unchecked, it will lead to a great falling away, a great apostasia, ἀποστασία of the church.

In these last days, as evil grows worse and worse, and fierce danger stands within the church, we must take an immovable stance for the Truth; to never tolerate or compromise the Truth. But this stance for Truth will result in suffering evil afflictions for the Word’s sake.

This has been Paul’s exhortation throughout this entire letter to Timothy. *Share with me in the sufferings for the gospel; suffer evil afflictions as a good soldier; suffer evil afflictions for the sake of the elect; be watchful and suffer evil afflictions and do the work of an evangelist*; and now in our text today Paul says it again, “*all those who desire to live a Godly life will suffer persecution*”.

And as we discussed last week, the only way we can take this stance for Truth and endure to the end is through perseverance, hupomone, ὑπομονή which is powered and fueled by our dokimion, δοκίμιον our proven genuineness. Last week we went through a few verses in 1 Peter 1, James 1, and Romans 5 concerning dokimion, δοκίμιον and hupomone, ὑπομονή our perseverance to the end which brings us into glory. This is the stance we need to take to keep the body of Christ pure, to take the stance for Truth and walk in sanctification. But it will result in suffering persecution.

Lets read our text today- **2 Tim 3:10-12**. ... Lets begin studying from verse 10.

2 Timothy 3:10-11 ¹⁰ †But you have carefully followed †my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 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.

† *But you have carefully followed (me)...* σὺ δὲ παρηκολούθηκάς μου...

- “*carefully followed*” - parekolouthekas, παρηκολούθηκάς, second person singular – double emphatic because of the use of su, σὺ, which is the second person singular pronoun.
 - Compound of παρα (alongside) + ακολουθέω (follow- as a disciple).
 - This is not just a disciple, but one who is following alongside, imitating completely.

- Paul was teaching and training up Timothy in the walk of faith and the preaching of the gospel, and he not only did this by word, but also through his deeds and actions.
 - I have always believed that good leaders lead by example
 - Paul was an amazing example of this
 - Timothy learned from Paul's examples and not only learned but he conducted his life to imitate his master.
 - That's actually the sense of this word parakoloutheo, παρακολουθέω. The idea of a student, who not just followed his master, but imitated and conducted his life to mimic and fully understand his master's ways.
- So let's look at this list of how Timothy carefully followed Paul:

† You carefully followed ... *my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions...*

- “*doctrine*” - didaskalia, διδασκαλία, teaching
 - Doctrine is teaching. It is the teaching based on the Word of God.
 - It is not teaching based on man's wisdom. Sound doctrine is only the teaching of the Word of Truth.
 - Paul was taught by Jesus Christ Himself and then taught Timothy this doctrine, Gal 1:11-12
 - Doctrine is the teaching of these words. The teaching of the Scriptures.
 - Timothy learned this sound doctrine from Paul in the 12 years he spent with him.
 - In 1st Timothy Paul warns Timothy not to allow any other doctrine other than that which is according to the glorious gospel, 1 Tim 1:3; 10-11, 18; 4:1, 6, 12-13, 16; 5:17; 6:1-3;
 - And now in 2nd Timothy Paul reminds Timothy of this sound doctrine that he has followed
- “*manner of life*” - agoge, ἀγωγή, comes from the root ago, αγω, to lead.
 - This is how you are leading your life, your behavior, course of life
- “*purpose*” - prothesis, πρόθεσις, compound of πρό (before) + τιθημι (to place) – to place beforehand
 - This word is used usually in reference to God's purpose of redemption, but twice it is used in context with the believer's heart, 2 Tim 3:10; Acts 11:21-23.
 - What have you set forth in your heart as first place before anything else?
 - “*seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...*”, Matt 6:33.
 - Setting forth Jesus as first place in your heart
- “*faith*” - pistis, πίστις, faith or faithfulness. Simply it is commitment and trust in God. It is the avenue to obtain God's grace.
 - Faith is how you set Jesus as first place in your heart
- “*longsuffering*” - makrothumia, μακροθυμία, compound of μακρός (delay, long) + θυμός (swelling of anger or wrath) – delayed vengeance.
 - We know that we give the vengeance to the Lord. It is delayed for Him to handle.
- “*love*” - agape, ἀγάπη, unconditional Godly love. Everything hangs on love and this fulfills the NT commandment, Matt 22:40; 1 Jn 3:23
 - Paul had such a deep love for all those who he begot through the gospel. As a father loves his children. This was such a deep passion and desire of Paul.
 - In Paul's list of afflictions in 2 Corinthians 11:28 he says, “*besides the other things (persecutions) what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches*”
 - That is the love for the brethren
- “*perseverance*” - hupomone, ὑπομονή, under abiding- faithful endurance to the end.
 - This is what builds our dokimion, δοκίμιον our proven genuineness and character that brings us into glory

- A faithful Christian must have perseverance to the end, to take a stand for Truth
- “persecutions” - diogmos, διωγμός, from the verb pursue- dioko, διώκω, - being chased or pursued after
 - We saw Paul use this word in 2 Tim 2:22 in the positive sense- to pursue Jesus
 - Here it is used negatively, as in someone chasing you down to harm you
- “afflictions” - pathema, πάθημα, sufferings. “For I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”, Rom 8:18
 - This is suffering for the gospel. This is kakopatheo, κακοπαθέω, to suffer evil afflictions for the sake of His name, 2 Tim 1:8, 1:12, 2:3, 2:9, 4:5
- This is a list of one who is standing for the Truth and these are things that Timothy experienced right alongside Paul
 - This is the path of one who does not compromise the Truth- look at the progression

➡ The man of God teaches the pure doctrine of Christ and takes a stand for the Truth.

➡ The course of life for the man of God is driven by his purpose. The fact that he has set forth in his heart Jesus as first place before anything else.

➡ The man of God takes the stance alongside God and stands for the Truth. This stance is rooted in faith and a commitment to God and His promises.

➡ The man of God is delaying swelling emotions of wrath and anger on his enemies, giving vengeance to God.

➡ This stance of Truth is motivated by the love of the Father and a love of the brethren.

➡ As the man of God stands for the Truth, he takes a stance of resoluteness and immovability, without compromise, a hupomone, ὑπομονή, an under-abiding, perseverance in Jesus Christ to endure to the end.

➡ This stance for Truth will always draw the enemy to pursue and this will result in persecution with evil affliction and suffering for His name and the sake of the Word.

- This was the life of Paul, and also the life of Timothy and it is now the life of every faithful Christian who is committed to the Truth.
- For 12 years Timothy carefully followed alongside Paul learning from this great man.
 - Paul is reminding Timothy of the experiences they had together and the courage and conviction it took to preach the gospel and stand for the Truth,
 - Let’s look at some examples, 1 Cor 4:15-17; 11:1; Phil 2:19-24, 3:17; 1 Thess 1:5-7, 2:1-15, 3:1-7;
 - This shows the steadfast, strong character that Timothy had to follow Paul for 12 years because this would not have been easy
 - And look at the experience that Timothy gained by doing this.
 - This is why Paul chose Timothy to be the Bishop of Ephesus and entrust the revelation of Jesus Christ to him, so that he could keep these words pure and preach the gospel.
 - Think about the impact that Paul had on Christianity as we know it, except for Jesus, there isn’t anyone else who influenced Christianity like Paul did.
 - And the fact that Timothy was following closely alongside Paul this entire time shows Timothy’s fervor and strength.
 - Many commentators talk about Timothy being weak and timid and without faith because of the encouragement that Paul had to give Timothy in this 2nd epistle, but I guarantee you, Timothy was a strong man of God that would put any of us to shame.
- Paul then draws Timothy’s attention back to his home town of Lystra in Galatia

† ...which (sufferings) happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured...

- Paul traveled through the Galatian area of Antioch (Pisidian), Iconium, and Lystra on his 1st missionary journey

- Lystra was Timothy's home town, 2 Tim 1:5; Acts 16:1, and it was in Lystra that Paul suffered great persecution

Lets read this account that Paul is referring to in the book of Acts- **Acts 13:14-16, 44-46, 49-14:7, 19-20.**

- This is what Paul means by "*what persecutions I endured*" Paul was stoned to death!
- Timothy was no stranger to hardships and suffering evil afflictions and almost everywhere Paul went, Paul suffered persecution, and Timothy was right there beside him.
- Paul showed Timothy how to respond to those who oppose the Truth and how to suffer evil patiently.
 - That's what a good leader does; he does what he says and leads by example.

† ... *And out of them all the Lord delivered me.*

- Paul was rescued out of every persecution, even being stoned to death in Lystra.
 - The Lord rescued Paul out of these persecutions because his work had not yet been completed. This was just the beginning of his ministry and Paul hadn't even written one epistle.
 - So the Lord delivered him so that he could change the world.
 - But even if God doesn't deliver you out of physical death, Jesus gave us the ultimate deliverance; that is the deliverance from eternal death.
 - Just like what Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said, "*our God is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace...but even if He doesn't, we will not bow*", Daniel 3:17-18.
 - There is no reason to fear death. Death is just our gateway to eternal life, Phil 1:21; Luke 21:16-17
 - "*Death is swallowed up in victory, O Death, where is your sting?*", 1 Cor 15:54-55

2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

- This is a promise that Christians will suffer persecution. But notice it doesn't say- all Christians will suffer, but that all those who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer. (there is a difference)
 - Some Christians might say they don't want to suffer persecution, that they are fine just sitting on the sidelines.
 - But if you choose to take yourself out of the game there are many things you will forfeit:
 - You will forfeit your eternal rewards in heaven, 1 Cor 3:8-15; 2 Cor 5:9-10
 - If you choose not to walk in the will and purpose that God made you for, you will live a defeated, unfulfilled life of misery, Eph 2:1-10, 2 Tim 2:20-23
 - If you choose to live in the world and not join yourself to Christ as a chaste virgin, you forfeit the honor of being His Bride forever, Eph 5:25-32; 2 Cor 11:2
 - If you choose not to endure, you will not reign with Him and you will not have eternal glory with Him, Romans 8:17-18, 2 Tim 2:11-12.
 - If you choose not to be an ambassador for Christ and a fellow-worker with Him, you run the risk of hearing the words, "*I never knew you, depart from Me*", Matt 7:23; 2 Cor 5:20.
 - Jesus said, *those who desire to save this life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it*, Matt 16:25
- Suffering is the result of walking a Godly life. It is the result of pursuing Jesus and walking in His will.

Matthew 5:11-12-¹¹ "*Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.* ¹² *Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven...*

Our goal and purpose is to be well pleasing and useful to the Master, and in this we will suffer persecution, 2 Cor 5:9-10. But know this and be encouraged, that our light affliction is working for us a far more eternal weight of glory, the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed in us. 2 Cor 4:17, Rom 8:18, so stay in the battle and stand for Truth and continue to press on for Jesus.