

~2 Timothy~

Lesson 15 – Abiding in the Word of Truth

Let's begin by reading our text today- **2 Tim 3:10-4:5**.

We are continuing our study of 2nd Timothy and we are at the pinnacle of the letter, the climax of the book.

Last week we studied verses 3:10-12 and we saw how Timothy carefully followed Paul. How Timothy parakoloutheo, παρακολουθῶ, imitated the Apostle Paul as a student does his master. And we discovered nine things that Paul tells Timothy that he has done well in the course of his life- He carefully followed Paul's "*doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, afflictions...*"

And we read a couple of accounts of Timothy being a useful vessel to God and Paul in the preaching of the gospel. In reading these examples, we saw the unwavering, immovable stance for the Truth. Which, if you take this stance for Truth and live Godly in Christ Jesus, Paul, and the entirety of the NT promises that we will suffer persecution.

As we learned last week, Timothy was no stranger to persecution. Many times, Paul sent Timothy into the thick of battle to encourage and help the church in suffering persecution. In fact, this is what Timothy is being faced with in Ephesus. There is immense persecution and suffering coming at him from all angles, but Paul is encouraging Timothy to stay strong and continue to take the immovable stance for Truth.

Today we will see how the stance for Truth, that is rooted in the Scriptures makes us wise unto salvation

- Why do we take the stance for Truth?
 - First- Because we desire to do the Father's will. And the Father's will is, "*that all might be saved and come to the knowledge of Truth*", 1 Tim 2:3.
 - Second- we stand for Truth and endure because we desire eternal life with eternal glory with Jesus as His Bride. This is everlasting life with unending happiness and joy. I want everything God has for me, so I surrender this life so that I might gain eternal life.
- The battle is for Truth. The enemy is a liar and is constantly trying to get us to doubt the Truth. And remember, Truth is more than just not lying. John describes it this way in his first epistle. 1 Jn 2:22- "*who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ*"
 - Jesus says in John 17:17 that the Word is Truth
 - Jesus is the Word, the logos, λόγος, John 1:1, and He is the Truth, John 14:6, and Truth is believing that Jesus is the Son of God and the Christ who came in the flesh to take away the sin of the world.
 - And I would conjecture that Truth is finding Jesus in the Scriptures.
 - When you read the Bible and all you see is Jesus. That is Truth and the Truth will set you free! John 8:31-32
- As we have been studying 2nd Timothy, we see the false teachers infiltrating the church trying to tear down the pillars of Truth by distorting God's Word with lies, blasphemes, contradictions, hypocrisy, profane and idle babble and making a war of words.
 - Paul has been exhorting Timothy to take the stance away from unrighteousness and take the stance for the Truth
 - So today we will be learning why and how we must take the stance for Truth

... Lets begin studying from verse 13.

2 Timothy 3:13 †But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

† *But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse... deceiving and being deceived.*

- “evil men and imposters” - πονηροὶ ἄνθρωποι καὶ γόητες,
 - “evil men”- πονηροὶ ἄνθρωποι These are the men from verses 3:2-8. Selfish men driven by power and greed and they resist the Truth and are destitute of the Truth. False teachers presenting a false message to sway people from the Truth
 - “imposters”- γόητες, is only used once in the Scriptures, but Philo, who was a Hellenistic Jewish philosopher who lived during the time of Paul used this word several times in his writings and they always referred to someone who was using seductive trickery with deceptive words.
 - This is exactly how these false teachers infiltrate into the church. They are:
 - 1 Tim 6:4, “*obsessed with disputes and arguments over words*”; 1 Tim 6:20; 2 Tim 2:16 says to avoid their, “*profane and idle babble*”; 1 Tim 4:1-2 says they are, “*deceiving spirits and doctrine of demons speaking lies in hypocrisy*”; 2 Tim 3:6 says they, “*creep into households*”
 - These are deceiving conniving spirits sent to destroy Truth
- But evil men and impostors...“will grow worse and worse” - προκόψουσιν ἐπὶ τὸ χεῖρον,
 - This English translation doesn’t really give us the true meaning of what Paul is saying. The literal translation of this statement is, “they will progress upon the worse”, but the real gem is how Paul is referring to something he said in verse 9.
 - Remember in verses 2-8 Paul was warning Timothy of the dangerous times that were coming on the church. That evil was standing within the church, 2 Tim 3:1, and then Paul goes on to list 25 statements of these dangers infiltrating the church
 - And he ends this list with a statement of faith in verse 9 by saying, “*but they will progress no further*”
 - He says, no matter how evil and deceptive the enemy gets, their folly will be manifest and be exposed to all those who stand for the Truth. Because the light will always expose the darkness.
 - Therefore, if you are walking in the light as he is in the light, then you will never be overtaken by the deception of the darkness.
 - The statement “*...they will progress no further*” is- οὐ προκόψουσιν ἐπὶ πλεῖον.
 - Literally “they will not progress upon further”
 - Now in verse 13 Paul is making this contrast with this statement in verse 9.
 - Verse 9 says, “The evil will not progress upon further (to those in the Truth), and verse 13, but rather “they will progress upon the worse”, upon those who are being deceived.
 - See the contrast there? The enemy will not progress upon those who know the Truth, but they will progress upon the worse, those who are being deceived.
 - You miss this comparison in the English
 - Paul goes on to explain how these tricksters will go about to progress upon the worse.
 - They do it by “deceiving and being deceived”
- “deceiving and being deceived” - πλανῶντες καὶ πλανώμενοι. These are the same word, planaō, πλανᾶω, one is in the active voice and the other in the passive.
 - πλανῶντες, is a present active participle, meaning they are continually deceiving others.
 - πλανώμενοι, is a present passive participle, meaning they themselves are being deceived by someone else, that is the devil and his demons.
 - These evil men and imposters, these tricksters, go about deceiving people because they themselves are deceived.
 - They are trapped in the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him, 2 Tim 2:26
 - These men are *destitute of the Truth*, 1 Tim 6:5, because they *resist the Truth*, 2 Tim 3:8, and *they turn their ears away from the Truth*, 2 Tim 4:3-4.

2 Timothy 3:14 †But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

† *But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of..*

- “But”
 - This is such an important transition. Even though dangerous and perilous times are in the church, and evil men and impostors are creeping in deceiving many because they themselves are being deceived, but you Timothy, must abide in the Truth.
- “you... must abide” - σὺ δὲ μένε,
 - Again, Paul is making a double emphatic with the personal pronoun, su, σὺ, You Timothy, you must abide...
- “you...must continue/abide” – mene, μένε, to abide or remain,
 - John 15:7, “*if you abide in Me and my Word abide in you...*”
 - This is a second person singular imperative command, “You Timothy, you must abide in the things you have learned”
 - The stance for Truth must be immovable and unwavering. When the enemy is attacking and there is persecution and suffering all around and you are being reviled and mocked for His name’s sake... abide in Him and in His Word.
 - This is hupomone, ὑπομονή, under-abiding. This is perseverance until the end.
- “abide... in the things which you have learned...”
 - Last week we saw how Timothy learned from the Apostle Paul as he carefully followed him for 12 years as a student learns from his master.
 - Timothy “learned” the Gospel from Paul and was entrusted with the words of Jesus Christ.
- “the things which you have learned...and been assured of...”
 - pistao, πιστόω, comes from the word pisteuo, πιστεωω, to believe, have faith, trust
 - pistao, πιστόω, is only used this once in the NT, but several times in the LXX.
 - It gives us the sense of being established, sure, steadfast. Like a kingdom established forever, 2 Sam 7:16, the sure testimonies of the Lord, Ps 92:5
 - This word is in the passive voice, meaning that we aren’t establishing ourselves, We make the decision to stand for the Truth, and it is God working in us through our faithfulness to Him that makes us unwavering and immovable, Psalm 1; Matt 7:24-25.
- Paul tells Timothy to abide in that which he has learned and that which he has been established in... “knowing from whom you have learned”
 - This no doubt is referring to that which he learned from the Apostle Paul, but Paul is also referring to Timothy’s grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice who established him in the Holy Scriptures from childhood.
 - Paul remembers the “*genuine faith*” of his grandmother and mother in 2 Tim 1:5 and says I am persuaded is in you also.

2 Timothy 3:15 †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.

† *and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures...*

- “childhood” - brephos, βρέφος, infant or baby. Paul is speaking of Timothy’s upbringing from the time he was a baby. Timothy was raised in a Godly home by his mother Eunice and Grandmother Lois, 2 Tim 1:5
- “Holy Scriptures” – hiera grammata, ἱερὰ γράμματα – holy or sacred writings. Only used here in the entire Bible but we can get a sense from other closely associated words in the Bible:
 - hieron, ἱερόν is the temple

- hierous, ἱερεύς is a priest
- so the hiera grammata, ἱερὰ γράμματα, are the Holy Scriptures from the Old Covenant
- Scriptures
 - Timothy was brought up learning the Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament.
 - Paul probably uses this statement, hiera grammata, ἱερὰ γράμματα, to make a contrast from the false heresies of the Gnostics.
 - These are the Holy and sacred writings not the false doctrine of demons.

† ...*which are able to make you wise (unto and for the purpose of) salvation...*

- “are able” - dunamai, δύναμαι, present participle – continually being strengthened and empowered
 - Verb form of dunamis, δύναμις, 2 Tim 1:7
- “make you wise” - sophizo, σοφίζω, verb form of sophia, σοφία, wisdom
 - Wisdom in Truth- not being deceived but enlightened in understanding and Truth
 - God desires that all be saved and come to the “knowledge of the Truth”, 1 Tim 2:3
 - Those who know the Truth will “come to their senses”, 2 Tim 2:25-26
 - God has given us the gift of a “discerning mind”, 2 Tim 1:7
 - As opposed to those who are “destitute of the Truth” and “know nothing”, 1 Tim 6:4-5
- Timothy’s upbringing and knowledge in the Holy Scriptures (the Old Testament) made him ready to receive the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - Its not the knowledge of Scripture that saves. It is only faith in Jesus that saves, but knowledge of the Holy Scriptures makes us wise unto salvation, preparing us to believe in Jesus as the Christ.
- The Scriptures lead to salvation but only as they point to Christ. The Old Testament Scriptures themselves do not provide salvation, but they point to Jesus who is our salvation, **John 5:38-40, 46.**
 - This was Paul’s method when entering a city. He would go to a Jewish synagogue and preach Jesus as the Messiah from the Scriptures, **Acts 17:1-3;**
 - This is how Timothy was born again. He preached Jesus in the synagogue in Lystra and many believed, Acts 14:1-20, no doubt Timothy and his mother and grandmother were with him.
- Everything in the Old Testament points to Jesus because we are only saved by one name under heaven, Acts 4:12, and that is the name of Jesus.
- If you go through the book of Acts, notice every time the gospel was preached, they quote Old Testament Scriptures proving Jesus is the Christ
 - Peter in his two sermons, **Acts 2:14-36; Acts 3:17-4:12;**
 - With Cornelius, **Acts 10:43.**
 - Philip with the Ethiopian eunuch preaching Jesus using Isaiah 53, Acts 8:26-39
 - Stephen’s preaching to the Jews, Acts 6:8-7:60
 - Paul was a pharisee of pharisees so he knew the Old Testament Scriptures very well. And with the revelation of Jesus he was able to prove Jesus as the Messiah in every synagogue he traveled, Acts 9:20-22; 13:5; 13:14; 14:1; 17:1-3; 17:10; 18:4; 18:9; 19:8.
- The Old Testament Scriptures make one wise unto salvation by converting the soul and pointing to Jesus, Ps 19:7; Ps 119:41-50.
- Jesus even confessed that the Old Testament spoke of Him, **John 7:37-38; 3:14; 5:46; 2:22; Luke 24:27; 44-45**
- In Paul’s epistles he continually preached Jesus from the Scriptures, **1 Cor 15:1-4**
 - The book of Hebrews is filled with OT quotes
 - The Bereans were more noble in that they searched the Scriptures daily to verify what Paul said, Acts 17:11.
- The Old Testament is filled with types that foreshadow Jesus,

- Christ was the Rock in the wilderness, 1 Cor 10:1-4.
- Abraham's offering of Isaac typified Jesus' sacrifice, Heb 11:17-19.
- The Passover was a direct type of Jesus' sacrifice, 1 Cor 5:7
- Our Kinsman Redeemer, Rev 5, is typified in the book of Ruth
- Jonah was a type of His death, burial and resurrection - 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the fish
- There are hundreds of Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus and our WAY to salvation through Him. Some have been fulfilled and some are still yet to be fulfilled at the second coming and beyond.
 - All these make us wise unto salvation, preparing us for salvation,
 - That according to the Scriptures, Jesus is the Messiah and we have eternal life through faith in Him

† ...which are able to make you wise for salvation...*through faith which (salvation) is in Christ Jesus.*

- Salvation is through faith, "*For by grace you are saved through faith that not of yourselves it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast*", Eph 2:8-9
 - It is of faith so that it might be according to grace, Romans 4:1-8, 13-16; 5:1-2
- I want to wrap up today's lesson by taking you to the book of Galatians to show you how, nearly 2,000 years before the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Scripture preached the gospel to Abraham foretelling of the promise of the Messiah, **Gal 3:7-25**.
 - This is a perfect example of finding Jesus in the Old Testament Scriptures leading us to salvation

Jesus is the fulfillment of the Scriptures. The Old Testament Scriptures make us wise unto salvation.

The Sacred Scriptures bring us to Jesus and show us the need of a Savior

Truth is finding Jesus in the Scriptures

This is how we lay hold of eternal life
By abiding in the Truth through faith
in Christ Jesus