



Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy

Passing on the Baton

Autumn 2017



2 Timothy 3: 10-17

(sermons: Oct 29)

2 Tim 3:10-13 Expect Opposition

v.10 *you, however – look back at the Introduction to this series: Who Was Timothy?*

v.10 *patience – tolerance towards aggravating people*

v.11 *Antioch – Antioch in Pisidia (now southern Turkey) : a mixed reception Acts 13:48-50*

v.11 *Iconium – stronger opposition from both Jews and Gentiles there Acts 14:4-5*

v.11 *Lystra – where Timothy was brought up: initial welcome Acts 14:8-18; violent opposition stirred up by Jews from Antioch and Iconium Acts 14:9-10; but Paul returned Acts 16:1-3.*

v.13 *impostors – literally ‘wizards’ (like the Egyptians in 2 Tim 3:8): those who impress superficially*

1. How had Paul taught Timothy by his life and example, as well as by his words?

Can we share examples of people who have been guides, mentors and examples to us?

Are we aware of the effect our lives may have on others, either as an example to follow, or as a warning to avoid? Are we prepared to share things that we have learned through difficult times?

2. *Verse 12: Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*

Is it right to say, as some Christians do, that if we haven't experienced persecution, then we have not been wholehearted in our faith and witness?

Or is *verse 12* true for Christians in general, at certain times and to a varying extent, but a reassurance if we do experience opposition?

Compare Jesus' words to his disciples just before his death in *John 15:18-21*

2 Tim 3:14-17 Feed on Scripture

v.14 *as for you – Paul now explains how Timothy can stand firm in the face of opposition*

v.14 *you know from whom you learned it – from Timothy's Jewish mother and grandmother (2 Tim 1:5) who had become Christians, as well as from Paul*

v.14 *and have become convinced of – Timothy had not only learned the truth from others but had made it his own*

v.15 *the holy Scriptures – for Timothy, this would be what we call the Old Testament.*

v.16 *All Scripture is God-breathed – the same idea as the word ‘inspired’; the word for ‘Spirit’ can also mean ‘breath’.*

3. How had Timothy made the most of his Jewish upbringing and his early experience of Christian faith?

Have we had this early experience ourselves? Did we turn away from this background for a time?

If so, what, or who, brought us back?

How is it different to come to faith from a non-Christian background?

However we came to faith, what has helped us to grow as Christians since then?

4. For Timothy *'the holy Scriptures'* were the Old Testament? Do we see the Old Testament like Paul and Timothy did, or was this partly due to their Jewish heritage as their way in to Christian faith? Can we apply *verses 16-17* to the New Testament as well? (See Jesus' attitude to the Old Testament in *Matthew 5:17-20*; Jesus' promise to his apostles in *John 14:23-26*; Paul's explanation of his calling and authority in *Galatians 1:11-12*; Peter's attitude to Paul's writings in *2 Peter 3:15-16*.) What do we mean when we say that the Bible is *'inspired by God'*? What *don't* we mean? What difference does it make to the way that we understand and respond to the Bible?
5. Do we ever want some 'new' or 'extra' teaching, beyond what is in the Bible (as opposed to wanting to understand more of the Bible, or to seek fresh light and inspiration from it)? How can we remain excited by the Bible and eager to study it more deeply?
6. What is the purpose of studying the Bible: both on our way to faith, and in living out our faith; both for its positive effect and for its restraining influence? (*see verses 15-17*) What is the place of the Bible in our mission as a church: *becoming and making mature disciples of Jesus in Trull (and Angersleigh) and beyond?*

Matthew 5:17-19

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

John 14:23-26

²³ Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Galatians 1:11-12

¹¹ I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. ¹² I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:15-16

¹⁵ Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ¹⁶ He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.