

I. Persecution Coming - 2 Timothy 3:12-13

1. Expect persecution
 - those who want to live a godly life
- Rea -is this true today, or just in other times?
2. Paul says that things will get worse
 - A. Evildoers
 - B. Imposters
 - deliberate deception
- Rea -do you think that Paul would include hypocrites?
- Rea -Satan is a counterfeiter and a liar
- C. Deceiving and being deceived
3. Unbelievers have consistently attacked God's church over the centuries since Christ
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. We "expect" anything but persecution
 - one of the reasons people don't continue in their walk with Christ, is because they are criticized
 - discuss - do you handle criticism well?
 2. We "expect" everything to be sugar and roses
 3. If they have persecuted Jesus, surely they will persecute us
 4. What helps during persecution?
 - A close family-type church network
 - A steady time of daily study with God
 - Being busy doing the right thing, it's hard to be dissuaded to do the wrong thing

II. Get Equipped - 2 Timothy 3:14-17

1. He addresses Timothy directly - "as for you" (**verses 14-15**)
- Rea -as the leader he needed to be right on the way
2. "Continue" you - he was doing right, he just needed to continue
 - A. Continue things you've learned
 - B. Continue things you've been convinced of
- Rea -the word "convictions" is a good one... continue to practice your convictions
3. Paul reminds him of his long-standing faith - brought to him through mom and grand mom
 - from "infancy" - childhood
 - from that time you've known the Holy Scriptures
- Rea -his mom must have taken him to VBS
4. This takes off on scripture (**verses 16-17**)
 - A. Scripture is useful
- Rea -of great practical help in day-to-day trials and troubles
- B. Useful for:
 - 1) teaching - general instruction
- Rea -human beings have to learn virtually everything - nothing comes by instinct to us

- 2) rebuking - if one strays
- 3) correcting - helping us straighten up
- 4) training in righteousness
- 5) to be thoroughly equipped
- 5. All this for the training of the servant of God
- Rea -if you really want to be a servant, you must be in the Word of God
- 6. Thoroughly equipped
- completely ready
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
- 1. The average S Baptist knows little about his/ her Bible - so, they are not equipped, - do you think that could be part of our problem
- 2. However, there is another group who are also hurtful, - these are those who know the Bible so well, they make the rounds like wandering Pharisees “setting straight” everyone
- 3. It is easy to get confused when we are persecuted by Satan - so we need to repeatedly go back to the Bible and make our paths straight
- 4. Discuss the need for the leadership (Timothy and others like him) to be thoroughly immersed and encouraged in the Word

III. Preach His Word - 2 Timothy 4:1-4

- 1. He “charges” Timothy (**verses 1-2**)
- 2. A solemn charge - in the presence of God
 - the God who judge us all
 - the God who will come soon - appearing
- 3. The charge? - preach the word!
- Rea A. Timothy is told two things
 - 1) what to do - preach the Word
 - 2) what to preach - the Word
- Rea -so,... stay in the Book
- B. So be prepared - in season and out of season
- C. Preaching the word means...
 - to correct, rebuke and encourage
- D. The demeanor of the preacher - with great patience and careful instruction
- 4. Times will change - they will not always put up with sound doctrine (**verses 3-4**)
 - A. They will move into their own desires
 - B. They will gather round them a great group of teachers
 - C. They will give to folk what their itching ears want to hear
 - D. They will turn into myths - instead of truth
- Rea -if it doesn’t sound like the “gospel” watch out
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
- 1. The remedy then for these troubles is to preach the Word??
- 2. The temptation is huge for your pastor, especially if he is a young man to turn away from the gospel into myth-like stories and fable-like teachings
- 3. Times change, but the gospel does not

III. Finish Well - 2 Timothy 4:5-8

- 1. But you - directly to Timothy again (**verse 5**)

- Rea A. Keep your head - in all situations
 -the danger is to lose your head?
2. Do these things:
- Rea A. Endure hardship
 -the there is hardship to the ministry if you do it right
- Rea B. Do the work of an evangelist
 -not all are evangelists, but we all must to the work of evangelism
- Rea C. Discharge all your duties
 -this might include (today) committee meetings, deacon's meetings,
 hospital visitation, funerals, etc.
3. Now Paul begins to talk about himself (**verses 6-8**)
- Rea A. Being poured out like a drink offering
 -our expression is "pour out your life for them"
 -drink offerings were wine, oil or water poured out in sacrifice to God
- Rea B. His "departure" is at hand
 -he realizes that his death is eminent
4. He sums up his own ministry in light of the admonitions just given to Timothy:
- Rea A. I've fought the good fight
 -it's a fight stay loving, and working, and pure
- Rea B. I've finished the race
 -like an obstacle race course
- Rea C. I've kept the faith
 -I haven't quit - not defeated
5. There is a crown of righteousness laid up for me
- Rea A. The victor's crown
 B. A crown of righteousness
 C. The judge will award it
 D. At His appearing - the second coming
- Rea 6. Not just for Paul but for "all" who have longed for his appearing
 -so the reward is not just for Paul, but also for Timothy and all who serve Him in
 this way
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. He is facing death - do you think that made a difference in the way he exhorted Timothy?
2. Discuss the need for mentors for our young pastors
3. Some hardship just has to be "endured" - there is no "winning" only enduring
4. Do you think this is an especially hard time for preacher/ pastors? - how so?
5. Since these last verses have Paul's expected demise in view, this is a "passing of the torch" scripture