

You need not be deceived – You know how to live!

2 Tim. 3:6-17; Psalm 34

- I. False teachers characterized, vv. 6-9, cp. Eph. 4:11-16; Titus 2:11-13
 1. They worm their way into homes
 2. Gain control of weak willed women
It is the immaturity and thus the weakness of these “childish women” that make them susceptible to the false teachers.¹
 - a. Loaded down with sin
 - b. Swayed by all kinds of desires
We all once lived under their control (Titus 3:3), but the grace of God teaches us to deny them (2:12). Paul told Timothy to flee them (2 Tim. 2:22).²
 - c. Always learning
 - d. Never able to acknowledge the truth
 - i. Illustrated, vs. 8
 - a. Oppose the truth
Paul has used ἀλήθεια five times already in this letter (2:15, 18, 25; 3:7, 8) and will use it for the last time in 4:4.³
 - b. Corrupt minds, 1 Tim. 6:5; Titus 1:15
 - c. Worthless in regards to the faith, Titus 1:16; Romans 1:28, contrast Timothy 2 Tim. 2:15
 - ii. Not get very far, 1 Tim. 5:24; 2 Tim. 2:16; 3:13
 - iii. Their folly will be clear to everyone, 1 Tim. 1:7
- II. Timothy was taught what to believe and how to live, vv. 10-17
 1. Nine characteristics of Paul’s life as an example for Timothy and for us, vv. 10-11a, cp. 1 Tim. 4:6; Titus 2:2; 1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Phil. 4:9; 2 Thess. 3:7, 9
With this paragraph, which focuses on its single imperative in verse 14 (**continue in what you have learned**), Paul renews the appeal with which the letter began. (Note how many themes from 1:3–2:13 are touched on: Timothy’s long relationship to Paul [vv. 10–11, 14; cf. 1:4, 6, 13]; Paul himself as the model of loyalty [vv. 10–11; cf. 1:8, 11–12, 13; 2:9–10]; the call to suffering [vv. 11–12; cf. 1:8, 16; 2:3–6, 11–12]; the appeal itself [v. 14; cf. 1:6, 13–14]; the faith of his forebears [v. 15; cf. 1:5]; the focus on salvation [v. 15; cf. 2:10–13].)⁴
 2. Living godly is costly, vv. 11b-13,
 - a. Illustrated – Antioch (of Pisidia), Acts 13:14, 45, 50-51

¹ George W. Knight, *The Pastoral Epistles: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1992), 433.

² John A. Kitchen, p. 399.

³ George W. Knight, *The Pastoral Epistles: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, p. 435.

⁴ Gordon D. Fee, *1 and 2 Timothy, Titus*, Understanding the Bible Commentary Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2011), 275.

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- Iconium, Acts 14:1-6,
- Lystra Acts 14:19, 21; 16:1-6
- b. Persecutions, cp. 2 Cor. 12:10; Rom. 8:35; 2 Thess. 1:4; 2 Cor. 4:7-9; Matt. 10:23-23; Luke 21:12; John 15:20
- c. Rescued, Psalm 34:19; 2 Tim. 4:17-18
- 3. Admonition to continue in what you have learned, vv. 14-17
 - a. You learned them from Paul – Paul taught Timothy the Scriptures, helping him to understand the contexts of various Biblical narratives and then showed him how to live.
 - b. You learned them from childhood, 2 Tim. 1:5 – What Paul did simply reinforced what Timothy’s mother and grandmother did.
 - i. Wise for salvation – deliverance through persecution
The word **salvation** in v 15 is better translated *deliverance*. In context it concerns being successfully delivered through persecution. Timothy would be victorious in this life and its persecutions if he continued to live by faith in Christ. Note that the Holy Scriptures are able to make Timothy **wise for salvation**. Paul doesn’t say he already is *wise for salvation*, but that he might become *wise for salvation*. This is an ongoing issue. Timothy needed the Word of God daily to handle persecution from the wicked. (Compare 4:18 where the verb form is used to refer to God delivering Paul from his persecutions. The only other use of the noun form is in 2:10, and there it refers to the deliverance of Israel from her enemies and ultimately to her glorification.)⁹
 - ii. Through faith in Christ Jesus
 - c. You learned them from the Scriptures
 - i. Scriptures are valuable, 2 Peter 1:20-21; 3:16-17
 - 1. Teaching, Eph. 4:11-16
 - 2. Rebuking, 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 4:2
 - 3. Correcting, 2 Tim. 2:25; 4:2
 - 4. Training in righteousness, Eph. 6:4; Heb. 12:5
 - ii. Thorough equipping
 - 1. Every good work, 2 Tim. 2:21; Eph 2:10; 2 Peter 1:3-11; Titus 3:1

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