

2Timothy 3:10-17

Vs 10 The contrast to these self-seeking men is the life Paul lived. He pointed to his own life as a verification of his sincerity and unselfishness. His purpose was observably clear, his faith, patience and love obvious, his endurance legendary. Can we point to our life as evidence of godly motives?

Vs 11 For his persecutions and sufferings see the list in 2Co 11:16f. Some of the suffering he mentions is recorded in Acts, along with the visits to these towns. Many would quit after such treatment but he endured. Out of every one the Lord rescued him from death and total despair. We may sink very low but the Lord is faithful to intervene before we are tempted above what we are able. 1Co 10:13

Vs 12 He is contrasting a godly life with those who are in it for self. The godly will be persecuted and endure, showing that selfish reasons are not motivating them but a love for God. When the wicked face difficulty they will curse God for they are merely after gratification of the flesh. As verse 9 says their folly will soon become clear. Suffered any persecution lately?

The church at this time was tempted to compromise to avoid persecution. Paul is saying if you live godly you will suffer for it. There is no way around it.

Vs 13 Evil men just become more wicked and perverse. 'Imposters' is a good choice of words as they are pretending to know God and love Him when that is far from who they are. Much of their actions are a show to deceive. They deceive others but they themselves are being deceived.

Vs 14,15 Timothy keep on in the things you learned because you know the lives of the ones you learned it from. Mt 7:20 Their lives bear the evidence that what they speak is real. I can't say that. Some people who I learned the gospel from did not have lives that showed the living Lord's empowerment like verses 10,11. But I know Jesus, and I know his faithfulness to teach me and lead me on to truth. I know his example, and Paul could say vs 10,11 to me. I know because I have the word and have studied his teaching, way of life, purpose... so in a sense you and I learn it from him too. Timothy was a blessed young man who had learned Scripture early in life. The Word makes us wise FOR salvation THROUGH faith in Christ Jesus.

Vs 16,17 This is a classic proof text on the authority of Scripture. 'God breathed' means the word is infallible for the Spirit breathed it into the authors as they wrote. He did not dictate it, nor did He just impress their minds, but He breathed it. Here is a list of what the Word is useful for - teaching, correcting, training in righteousness. And we would be wise to use it regularly for these things. It is a treasure in our hands. It is our tool to discern these false teachers' error, and to correct them. The Word completely equips us for every good work. 2 Peter 1:16-21