

THE DESIRE TO LIVE GODLY

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-13

2 Timothy 3:10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, 11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.
(KJV)

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Introduction

A sermon outline by Dr. David Jeremiah

Introduction:

The Apostle Paul had two “sons” in the faith; Timothy and Titus. He wrote epistles to each of them and today we will look at the second epistle he wrote to Timothy.

Paul put great trust in Timothy as he sent him on several errands. Paul sent Timothy to the church at Corinth. He sent him into Macedonia along with Erastus (Acts 19:21-22) and into Achaia.

Paul includes Timothy in writing several of his epistles: 2 Corinthians, Titus, Philippians and Colossians. Although Timothy is young, Paul puts a lot of trust in him.

This is the last letter that Paul writes. He will soon be executed in Rome around 67 AD. Therefore, He writes about all the important things that Timothy would need to continue in his spiritual journey.

The first nine verses point out that false teachers will come that resist the truth. The last portion of this chapter is directed at Timothy on how he is to resist false teaching and to remain a true believer, desiring to live a Godly life.

In this passage, Paul lists nine important Greek nouns for Timothy to remember and practice.

1. We Communicate Through Our Preaching (v. 10). *But thou hast fully known my doctrine.* The term “known” means that Timothy was a diligent follower of the teachings of Paul. Timothy saw firsthand the life and teachings of Paul. You can almost feel Paul saying “Do as I do and as I teach.”

2. We Communicate Through Our Practice (v. 10). *...manner of life.* It is our conduct which people see and remember the most about us. If we are to be honest this morning, the only Christ we have seen is the Christ found in the pages of the Bible and the Christ we see reflected in the lives of true believers. Paul said: “Follow me as I follow Christ.” What does your manner of life say about you this morning?

3. We Communicate Through Our Purpose (v. 10). *... purpose.* The Greek word that Paul uses is “prosthesis” meaning to “set forth.” It is used as a “public notice” or a “statement of a case.” The Shew Bread in the Tabernacle and the Temple was called the “Bread of Purpose” as it was “set forth” in the Temple and a public notice that God is present. This illustrated Paul’s single-minded commitment to Christ.

4. We Communicate Through Our Perseverance (v. 10). ... *faith*. The Greek word for “faith” means “to place trust in others as in making an oath or pledge of good faith; a belief system.” It is a means of persuasion as in an argument. Anyone can be a wonderful Christian example when we are on the mountaintop...when everything is going our way. However, those around us watch us closely and their idea of our “faith” is when the earth spins out of our control. We are to find joy in everything.

The half-brother of Jesus, James said it best; “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.” Christians are not immune to attacks against our faith. We must not abandon our faith in God when despair attempts to swallow us whole. We persevere because of the promises of God.

5. We Communicate Through Our Patience (v. 10). ... *longsuffering*. The New Bible Dictionary defines “longsuffering” as: Biblical patience is a God-exercised, or God-given, restraint in face of opposition or oppression. It is not passivity. The initiative lies with God’s love, or the Christian’s, in meeting wrong in this way.¹

This word means to forbear the faults with others and situations. In a world where “I” is the most important being on the earth, it is hard to deal with the frustration in the failures of others. Frustration leads to irritability, then to anger and finally erupting for all others to see. That is why Paul taught the importance of the Fruit of the Spirit of God. He listed “longsuffering” right after “love, joy and peace.”

The Gospel we communicate must be drenched in longsuffering.

6. We Communicate Through Our Philanthropy (v. 10). ... *charity*. The King James editors, used several words in the place of “agape”. For example, “love” 86 times, “charity” 27 times, “dear” and “charitably” once² Agape is the highest and most noble form of love. It is always used when discussing the love of God towards man. This is the Greek word Paul uses to teach Timothy that the world sees us through our love.

There are two words used, “love” and “charity” in the KJV that are applied to how man treats other men. I have always thought that “charity” is “love in action.”

7. We Communicate Through Our Patience with Circumstances (v. 10). ... *patience*. You might ask, “Isn’t this the same as longsuffering?” There is a big difference, the previous idea was longsuffering in relationship with others. This one carries the idea of perseverance beyond discouragement. Patience in the time of great trials and hardships. Our witness to the lost when discouragement and setbacks would be the normal response of great joy in knowing the Creator will give us patience. Christ, even through horrible situations, rose above those circumstances exhibited by His great patience.

8. We Communicate Through Our Persecutions (v. 11). *Persecutions*... Paul is not pulling any punches. He clearly indicates that he had received persecutions for faithfully spreading the Gospel. That is the meaning of this important point: persecutions come with spreading the Gospel. He suffered them willingly and Timothy should be prepared to communicate Christ to others during periods of persecutions.

I am reminded of a story that came out of Rajai Shahr prison. This is the prison where Saeed Abedini was transferred. “Rajai Shahr is the place where political prisoners who are seen as a nuisance, are stowed away. Going to Rajai Shahr is a severe punishment. Once in there one stops to be a human being.”

Saeed Abedini is an Iranian American Christian pastor who was imprisoned in Iran, sentenced to eight years in prison, on charges of undermining national security through private religious gatherings in

¹ Hoag, J. W. L. (1996). Patience. In D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer, & D. J. Wiseman (Eds.), *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed., p. 873). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

² Strong, J. (1995). *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship.

Christian homes in Iran in the early 2000s. It was from this prison that we heard of Saeed's testimony and the Gospel being heard and accepted by people in the prison and a jailer.

We Communicate Through Our Persecutions.

9. We Communicate Through Our Pain (v. 11). *afflictions*. The Greek word includes *anything that befalls one a suffering, calamity, misfortune*³. It is during times of suffering and affliction that the light of Jesus can shine forth the brightest.

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4:7 *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

It is during times of hardship, pain and suffering where we have the greatest opportunities to tell others that glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

The world is bombarded by messages of faith. Turn on your TV on a Sunday morning and there are church services that are televised. On cable or satellite providers, you can watch religious news, studies and preaching, 24 hours a day. There are more Christian books being printed and in eBook than in any other time in history and yet the world races full throttle in the direction of hell.

The world doesn't want to hear a TV preacher or evangelist. They don't want to read Christian books. They want to see the real deal. They want to see a person that practices what they say with their mouths. They want to see Christ.

Dr. David Jeremiah writes:

Our greatest communication isn't with our lips but with our lives. That's especially true when the teacher or communicator is experiencing trouble. I communicate more about Jesus in the midst of difficulty than any other time because I have the opportunity to demonstrate its reality to others. Sooner or later, what we really believe will be seen in what we are. There's coming a day when a crisis will reveal your character. The foundation of your life will be tested by the trials that come your way. You may fool people for awhile. But when the rains come and the floods rise, it becomes evident whether our lives are built on the solid rock or upon the shifting sands. When our lives are Christ-based, we communicate Him through our preaching, our practice, our purpose, our perseverance, our patience, our philanthropy, our patience with circumstances, our persecutions, and our pain. What is your foundation? Is your life built upon Christ and His Word? You have the most wonderful opportunity this morning to accept Christ as your Savior and to build your life on Him and to start communicating Him to others.

³ Liddell, H. G. (1996). *A lexicon: Abridged from Liddell and Scott's Greek-English lexicon* (p. 583). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.