

THE TWELVE STEPS TO A FANTASTIC FINISH

II Timothy 3:10-17

Step Number Nine - Faithful: May He find Me Faithful

Here is a little piece of cowboy poetry that Jimmy Dean wrote called *I'm Drinking from My Saucer 'Cause My Cup is Overflowed*.

"I've never made a fortune,
And it's probably too late now,
But I don't worry about that much—
I'm happy anyhow.

As I go along life's journey
I'm reaping better than I sowed,
And I'm drinkin' from my saucer,
'Cause my cup is overflowed.

Don't have a lot of riches,
And sometimes the going's tough.
But I've got some kids who love me,
And that makes me rich enough.

Aw, I remember times when things went wrong,
And my faith got a little bit thin,
But then all at once the dark clouds broke,
And that old sun peeked through again.

So, Lord, help me not to gripe
About the tough rows that I've hoed—

I'm drinkin' from my saucer,
'Cause my cup is overflowed.

And if God gives me strength and courage
When the way seems steep and rough,
I'll not ask for other blessings—
I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy
To help another bear his load.
Then I'll keep drinkin' from my saucer,
'Cause my cup is overflowed."

Thank you Jimmy for reminding us
of the blessings that are ours.

We are studying the book of 2 Timothy, it is Paul's farewell address. He is ready to die, he knows from the preliminary hearings from the Roman court that the verdict is probably pretty much established that he will be executed in the spring.

This study is called 12 Steps to a Fantastic Finish.
We have looked at 8 of them so far and we come to
step number 9 today called Faithful: May He Find Me
Faithful.

Our key verse is verse 14 when we get there.

In our study of these precious four chapters, we have found
PAUL'S LEGACY left behind in **THE TWELVE STEPS TO A
FANTASTIC FINISH:**

Step #1: INTEGRITY: Getting It All Together

(2 Tim. 1:1-7)

Step #2: CONVICTION: Here I Stand, God Help Me
(2 Tim. 1:8-12)

Step #3: COURAGE: I Am Willing To Pay The Price
(2 Tim. 1:13-18)

Step #4: LEGACY: What Am I Passing On? (2 Tim. 2:1-7)

Step #5: PERSEVERANCE: In Single-Minded Steadfastness, I Will Stay The Course (2 Tim. 2:8-13)

Step #6: FOCUSED: This One Thing I Do (2 Tim. 2:14-19)

Step #7: SATANIC SEDUCTION: I Am Keeping My Eyes on Jesus (2 Tim. 2:20-26)

Step #8: COUNTER CULTURE: Lord, Where You Lead Me I Will Follow (2 Tim. 3:1-9)

That brings us now to:

Step #9: FAITHFUL: May He Find Me Faithful

Mark Hatfield who was a U.S. Senator from the state of Oregon had a chance to be in India and go on location with Mother Teresa to the “House of Dying.”

As you know Mother Teresa took frail, human forms in off of the street, terminal patients, and ministered to them to give them death with dignity.

Senator Hatfield was so crushed by the load that was upon her shoulders; he asked this question,

“How can you bear the load without being crushed by it?”

Mother Teresa had a classic answer.

She said, “My dear Senator, I am not called to be successful, I am called to be faithful.”

And God has called each of us to be faithful to the task that is before us. And by being faithful we will then hear,

“*Well done good and faithful servant.*”

Paul sitting in this cell, he is not going to see Timothy again – probably, but notice the positive things he says about Timothy. What a tribute. Wouldn't you just love to have somebody care enough about you to say these 9 things that Paul is getting ready to say about Timothy?

What a fantastic statement of affirmation and encouragement.

Last week we saw 19 life-size characteristics of people who are not walking with God; people who are living in this generation characterized in those 19 ways.

Today you are seeing 9 words that describe Paul's tribute to Timothy.

Verse 10

V. 10 “*But you followed faithfully my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, steadfastness, love, perseverance,*”

“*But you*” is in contrast to these false teachers that he has been talking about.

And you are going to see it twice, “*but you*” here in verse 10 and “*but you*” in verse 14.

In contrast, you “*followed faithfully.*”

You were faithful.

In your life Timothy with me,
you have “*followed faithfully*” 9 things
and I just want to look at them quickly.

First of all Timothy you have “*followed faithfully*”
“*my teaching.*”

Timothy has “**FOLLOWED FAITHFULLY**” Paul’s
TEACHING.

To this point he has not been deceived by those
who are presenting error.

Timothy has seen in the **APOSTLE PAUL** that:

his **LIP** and **LIFE** coincide and

he truly is a **MENTOR** and a **MODEL** of the teaching which he
communicates.

Timothy has followed Paul’s **TEACHING** in this regard and
has been faithful.

He has not deviated from the truth.

He has been faithful in guiding the Word of Truth
along a straight path.

2. He followed faithfully Paul’s “*conduct.*”

That Greek word is “*peri patel*” and it means
to walk around.

So it is everything you do in your walking around.

It is your manner of life, it is the guiding principles and it is the outward expression of the life within. It is a life that is open for everybody to see. And what they see is what you be. There is no phoniness; there is no hypocrisy in the back of it. You *followed faithfully* Paul's *conduct*.

In Phil. 3:17-18 Paul says this: "*Dear brothers, pattern your lives after mine and notice who else lives up to my example. For I have told you often before, and I say it again now with tears in my eyes, there are many who walk along the Christian road who are really enemies of the cross of Christ.*"

3. Timothy has "*followed faithfully*" Paul's "*purpose*." Now what is Paul's purpose for life?

The book of Philippians gives us, great insight about what Paul's purpose is in life. In Phil. 1:20 he says, "*Whether I live or die I want Christ to be glorified in my body.*" I mean that is an ultimate purpose.

Then in Phil. 3:10 he says, "*That I might know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings.*" I am committed to him.

And then you also see it in Phil. 3:13. "*This one thing I do, I forget those things which are behind, I am pressing toward those things which are in front.*"

He is constantly a man on a mission to accomplish the will of the Father for his life.

4. And then number four he has "*followed faithfully*" Paul's "*faith*."

Now what do you mean when you say faith?

Well we know that without faith it is impossible

to please him.

But it is a life of faith.

It is a life of trust.

It is a life of being a person who can really trust God and people recognize that you do that.

Paul trusted God. Timothy trusted God.

Paul speaks of this faith in:

2 Timothy 1:5

“Remembering the genuine, sincere or unhypocritical faith which is in you which lived first in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and I am convinced in you as well.”

Timothy, don't get upset in your faith like those who have followed the false teachers and as a result have been disqualified concerning their faith.

Hebrews 11:6

“You can never please God without faith, without depending on him. Anyone who wants to come to God must believe that there is a God and that [he will reveal himself] to those who sincerely look for Him.”

5. Timothy has “*followed faithfully*” what?

Paul's “*steadfastness*.”

“*Steadfastness*” means that the ship has been through rough waters.

“Steadfastness” means that the sails might be tattered but *“steadfastness”* means the anchor holds and the anchor is within the vale and the anchor is the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 15:58 *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not [in] vain in the Lord.”*

You have learned that your anchor Jesus Christ holds and you stay by the stuff when others would throw it in.

6. Timothy has *“followed faithfully”* Paul’s *“love.”*

That is the word *agape*.

That is a word that describes a love that is produced by the Spirit of God.

In 2 Cor. 5:14 Paul says we are motivated by the love of Christ.

That is exactly what Jesus said in the upper room in John 13:34-35.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

So it is a quality.

It is an ingredient that comes natural to a young believer.

Galatians 5:22

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,”

Paul is just saying you know Timothy you manifest that.

7. Timothy has “*followed faithfully*” Paul’s “*perseverance*.” The word “*perseverance*” occurs 49 times in the New Testament and it means to *remain under*. *Hupomeno*.

The King James Bible translates it “*patience*.” There is a big difference between “*patience*” and “*perseverance*.”

“*Patience*” is a person sitting down and waiting for something to happen from God.

And “*perseverance*” is suffering struggle, sticking with it, getting in there, and getting after it.

“*Perseverance*” is proactive and “*patience*” is reactive.

That is the quality that he is commending in Timothy. He is a person who has followed Paul’s “*perseverance*.”

Well, what do we have?

Seven words there in that 10th verse: teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, steadfastness, love, and perseverance. Wouldn't you love to get that tribute?

But then he adds two more that you do not like in verse 11.

V. 11 “*Persecutions, sufferings, such as came to me in Antioch, in Iconium, in Lystra, what manner of persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord delivered me.*”

Thus far we have considered in verse 10, the fact that Timothy has “*followed faithfully*” the apostle’s:

1. “TEACHING,”
2. “CONDUCT,”
3. “PURPOSE,”
4. “FAITH,”
5. “STEADFASTNESS,”
6. “LOVE,” and
7. “PERSEVERANCE.”

While here in verse 11, we have:

8. “PERSECUTIONS” and
9. “SUFFERINGS.”

We then have the LOCATION of some of these:

1. “ANTIOCH,”
2. “ICONIUM,” and
3. “LYSTRA.”

8. Timothy has “**FOLLOWED FAITHFULLY**” Paul’s PERSECUTIONS.

The ninth word that Paul uses is:

“SUFFERINGS.”

In the next phrase, Paul lists **THREE CITIES** where he had endured “SUFFERINGS”:

1. “ANTIOCH,”

2. “ICONIU,” and
3. “LYSTRA.”

Acts 13 records the account of Paul being in Antioch. After preaching there, the Jews became jealous.

We read in:

Acts 13:50 “Then the Jewish leaders stirred up both the godly women and the civic leaders of the city and incited a mob against Paul and Barnabas, and ran them out of town.”

From “ANTIOCH” they went on to “ICONIUM.”

The record of this visit is seen in Acts, the results of which we read in:

Acts 14:5-6

“When Paul and Barnabas learned of a plot to incite a mob of Gentiles, Jews, and Jewish leaders to attack and stone them, they fled for their lives going to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra, Derbe, and the surrounding area . . .”

The account of what took place in “LYSTRA” is seen in:

Acts 14:19

“Yet only a few days later, some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and turned the crowds into a murderous mob that stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, apparently dead.”

It is believed by many that TIMOTHY’S HOMETOWN was “LYSTRA.”

What a **VICTORIOUS PHRASE** we find at the conclusion of verse 11:

“OUT OF THEM ALL THE LORD DELIVERED ME.”

Psalm 50:15

*“and call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”*

Psalm 34:17-19

*“The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.
The Lord is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
A righteous man may have many troubles,
but the Lord delivers him from them all;”*

Now when Paul makes a list there are lots of times he will stop and summarize everything he had to say. And you can always get that clue by the little word *“indeed.”* It is like I am driving the point home.

Verse 12

V. 12 *“And indeed all (that is us) those who are desiring to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”*

Paul is making a **SUMMARY STATEMENT** to Timothy telling him that he can expect suffering if he is going to be living in a **“GODLY”** manner **“IN CHRIST JESUS.”**

Phil. 1:29

“For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him,”

Matthew 5:10-12

“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

John 15:18-21

“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.”

In essence, Paul is saying to Timothy:

“It’s a law of life for believers. ‘ALL THOSE WHO ARE DESIRING TO LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS WILL BE PERSECUTED.’ Timothy, you are not alone in this. Even as I have faced the persecution, so you, as well, will face the same.”

Verse 13. *“But (in contrast) evil men and imposters will go from bad to worse, leading astray and being led astray.”*

In this verse we get the **CONTRAST** between the:

RIGHTEOUS and WICKED.

We see in Psalm 1, the entire Psalm contrasts the righteous and the wicked and is summarized in:

Psalm 1:6

“The Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

There are **THREE THINGS** that Paul is going to say here about the **“EVIL MEN AND IMPOSTERS”**:

1. **“[They] GO ON FROM BAD TO WORSE.”**

This is the obvious conclusion of what we have seen in the first verses of this chapter, as he has characterized these wicked men.

2. **“[They are] LEADING ASTRAY.”**

We have seen in:

2 Timothy 2:18

“the very ones who have deviated from the truth saying that the resurrection already has taken place and they are upsetting the faith of some.”

3. **“[They are] BEING LED ASTRAY.”**

They are not only **“LEADING ASTRAY”** others, but they likewise themselves are **“BEING LED ASTRAY”** by: **SATAN,**

**SELF, and
SIN.**

**The CONTRAST between the believer and the unbeliever is for
the:**

BELIEVER, things constantly go from BAD TO BETTER, and

UNBELIEVER, things go “FROM BAD TO WORSE.”

**JESUS opens his final message on the
MOUNT OF OLIVES with these words:**

Matthew 24:4-12

“And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many.

And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name. And at that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many. And because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.”

Verse 14

V. 14 *“But you be remaining in the things which you learned and became convinced of, knowing from whom you learned them.”*

Once again, we have the little words “BUT YOU.”

We ran into this phrase BACK in the first verse of the study, verse 10:

“But you followed faithfully my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, steadfastness, love, perseverance.”

Whereas, it was:

“followed faithfully”—verse 10, now it is

“BE REMAINING”—STAYING ON COURSE—verse 14.

**THE CULTURE IS GOING DOWN BUT YOU
STAY BY THE STUFF!**

1 Timothy 4:16

“Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.”

Ruth 1:16-17

But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.”

Matthew 25:21

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.’

This is the **KEY VERSE** to Step #9:

FAITHFUL: May He Find Me Faithful.

faith•ful . . . *adjective*

1. with unwavering belief: believing firmly in something or somebody, especially a religion
2. consistently loyal: consistently trustworthy and loyal, especially a person, a promise, or duty
3. not promiscuous: not having sexual relations with somebody other than a spouse or partner
4. conscientious: displaying or resulting from a sense of responsibility or devotion to duty
5. correct: accurate and true • *a faithful account of the events*

Here we are **FOCUSING** on:

LOYALTY and

DEVOTION.

Bruce Wilkinson said:

“The world crowns success, but God crowns faithfulness.”

Revelation 3:11

“I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, in order that no one take your crown.”

This step toward making a **FANTASTIC FINISH** involves **STICKING TO:**

THE WRITTEN WORD and

THE LIVING WORD.

Our **TOTAL AND COMPLETE DEVOTION** to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God is the way to make a fantastic finish.

Although these other ***“evil men and imposters will go on from bad to worse, leading astray and being led astray,”*** you form a **CONTRAST** to them by:

“REMAINING IN THE THINGS WHICH YOU LEARNED AND [have been] CONVINCED . . . KNOWING FROM WHOM YOU [have] LEARNED THEM.”

The **COMMAND** is:

“BE REMAINING.”

This takes us **BACK** to:

2 Timothy 1:13-14

“Be holding fast the pattern of sound words which you heard from me in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. Guard the precious deposit which has been entrusted to you through the Holy Spirit who is dwelling in us.”

Don't be led “astray” by the storms of opposition which are blowing against you, but remain steadfast “in the things which you learned.”

Here I believe Paul is reminding Timothy once again of his heritage and the faith which he had learned from:

his grandmother LOIS, his mother EUNICE

and the Apostle PAUL.

Not only had he learned from them, but he has been “CONVINCED OF [these things] “KNOWING FROM WHOM [he had] LEARNED THEM.”

When we think of this step toward a fantastic finish, we need to reflect on the fact that what God is asking of us is also one of HIS DOMINANT CHARACTERISTICS.

Isaiah 25:1

“O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.”

Lamentations 3:22, 23

“Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

1 Thessalonians 5:24

“Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.”

Psalm 36:5

“Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.”

Psalm 86:15

“But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.”

Psalm 92:1-2

“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night,”

2 Timothy 2:13

“If we are unfaithful, He is remaining faithful for He is not able to deny Himself.”

No matter what we do:

NOTHING WE DO AFFECTS THE CHARACTER OF GOD!

Verse 15

V. 15 “And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

Timothy needed to be reminded again of his “CHILDHOOD” and the fact that he had been raised in a Christian home and had opportunity to know the Scriptures from earliest recollections.

Paul also tells Timothy what the Scriptures are able to do:

“ARE ABLE TO MAKE YOU WISE UNTO SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS.”

It is in the Word of God we get the message of life, which can be ours in Christ.

“Through faith in Christ” we come to know LIFE ETERNAL.

We read the **WRITTEN WORD** and receive the **LIVING WORD**, and thus our lives and destinies are changed eternally.

Warren Wiersbe says:

“Timothy had been taught the Word of God from the time he was a child. Some people are prone to say, “Well, I needed the Bible when I was younger; but I can do without it now that I’m older.” How wrong they are! Adults need the guidance of the Word far more than children do because adults face more temptations and make more decisions. Timothy’s grandmother and mother had faithfully taught him the Old Testament Scriptures. (The word *whom* in v. 14 is plural, referring to these women; see 1:5.) Timothy was to continue in what he had been taught. We never outgrow the Word of God.”

Wiersbe then continues finally saying:

“As soon as your child is born, surround him with the Word of God and prayer. You will not have this opportunity after he grows up.”

Now Paul speaks about the word of God to wrap this up.

Verse 16 *“Every Scripture is God-breathed and beneficial for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for training in righteousness,”*

In this verse, PAUL GIVES US HIS OWN FEELINGS about the Scripture, and the value of the Scriptures in our lives.

First of all, he makes the statement:

“EVERY SCRIPTURE IS GOD-BREATHED.”

There are many today who would deny this fact and say that THE BIBLE IS ONLY A WORK OF MAN. Yet, Paul felt very different about it.

2 Peter 1:20-21

“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

Not only do we find that the Scriptures are:

“GOD-BREATHED” but they are also

“BENEFICIAL.”

Paul gives us **FOUR REASONS** they are **“BENEFICIAL”**:

1. “FOR TEACHING,”
2. “FOR CONVICTION,”
3. “FOR CORRECTION,” and
4. “FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

The “SCRIPTURE IS . . . BENEFICIAL”:

1. “FOR TEACHING.”

Teaching is essential to Spiritual growth.

As we are taught the Scriptures, so we begin to grow into Christlikeness.

1 Peter 2:2-3

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.”

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS WE NEED TO BE TAUGHT?

The doctrines of:

the THEOLOGY of God the FATHER, God the SON, and God the HOLY SPIRIT,

SALVATION.

SATAN—our enemy,

LAW AND GRACE,

SANCTIFICATION—being made more like the Lord Jesus, and

the CHURCH and the SECOND COMING of Jesus Christ.

The “SCRIPTURE IS . . . BENEFICIAL”:

2. “FOR CONVICTION.”

As the Scriptures are faithfully communicated, they are going to bring CONVICTION and CORRECTION to our wayward ways. This is the ministry that is going to keep us from “*being led astray*” into error.

What are some of the ways we RECEIVE REPROOF from the Word?

In our lives the sins of:

THE TONGUE,
PRIDE,
JEALOUSY,
REVENGE,
SOWING DISCORD,
INSINCERITY,
INGRATITUDE,
DOUBTS,
TEMPTATION,
LAZINESS, and
SELFISHNESS.

All of these things are MATTERS FOR DISCIPLINE that take place when we are reprovved by the Word of God.

The “SCRIPTURE IS . . . BENEFICIAL”:

3. “FOR CORRECTION.”

Many of the **BIBLICAL CHARACTERS** had to struggle with the issue of **OBEDIENCE** having priority over any other aspect of their spiritual lives.

The “**SCRIPTURE IS . . . BENEFICIAL**”:

4. “**FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.**”

As we would **DISCIPLINE AND TRAIN OUR CHILDREN** so that they would grow up to be good representatives of the Lord Jesus, so likewise, the Scripture will train us in the ways of “**RIGHTEOUSNESS.**”

The Word of God was designed for:

TEACHING us,
TESTING us,
TURNING us, and
TRAINING us.

“Timothy, stick to the word, because in it you will find everything that you are going to need to meet all the demands of living the Christian life.”

Wiersbe says further:

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for:

doctrine—what is right
reproof—what is not right

correction—how to get right
instruction in righteousness—how to stay right”

(Preaching and Teaching with Imagination by Warren Wiersbe)

Verse 17 our last verse.

V. 17 “*in order that the man of God may be adequate, having been equipped for every good work.*”

Now we have a STATEMENT OF PURPOSE for why the Word of God is “*God-breathed and beneficial for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for training in righteousness*”:

“IN ORDER THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE ADEQUATE, HAVING BEEN EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.”

In verse 16 we have the POWER and the PROFIT of the Word of God.

The POWER being that the:

“Scripture is God-breathed.”

The PROFIT being:

“teaching,”

“conviction,”

“correction,” and

“training in righteousness” which can be ours.

Now we come to the PURPOSE:

“IN ORDER THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE ADEQUATE, HAVING BEEN EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.”

The first thing Paul says is:

“IN ORDER THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE ADEQUATE.”

Hebrews 5:11-14

“Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for some one to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For every one who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.”

Here Paul tells us the **FIRST PURPOSE** of the Word of God is that:

**“THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE ADEQUATE” or
MATURE.**

Now we come to a consideration of the **SECOND PURPOSE** of the Word of God:

“THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE . . . EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.”

The **FOCUS** of the first purpose was upon the **“MAN.”**

The FOCUS of the second purpose is upon the MINISTRY.

The PICTURE in this word is of a SHIP that is fully equipped for a voyage.

What is Step # 9? Faithful: May He Find Me Faithful.

Is that the longing of your heart?

Be faithful to the God who is faithful to you and is going to demonstrate that faithfulness throughout the rest of your life.

Now there are 14 lessons that come out of this study.

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: Step #9 is Faithful: May He Find Me Faithful.

LESSON #2: The world crowns success, but God crowns faithfulness.

LESSON #3: Timothy was faithful to listen to his mentor and follow his model.

LESSON #4: Suffering is part of the godly life.

LESSON #5: The Word of God is our message to the world.

LESSON #6: The Lord has been faithful to deliver Paul out of all his troubles.

LESSON #7: Things keep getting worse and worse for the non-Christian and better and better for the Christian.

LESSON #8: The Word of God teaches us, turns us, tests us, and trains us (verse 16).

LESSON #9: The culture is going down but you stay by the stuff.

LESSON #10: The secret to faithfulness is to stay steadfast in the storm.

LESSON #11: It is never too early to start exposing our children to the Scriptures.

LESSON #12: The Scriptures make us “wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (verse 15).

LESSON #13: Scripture is “beneficial for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for training in righteousness” (verse 16).

LESSON #14: Knowledge of the Scriptures prepares us to “be adequate” and to be “equipped for every good work” (verse 17).

STUDIES IN THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY

“The Twelve Steps to a Fantastic Finish”

Key verse 2:15 — *“Make every effort to present yourself to God, approved, as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, guiding the word of truth along a straight path.”*

STEP NUMBER Nine – Faithful: May He find Me Faithful 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Key verse 3:14

Notes

- v. 10 But you followed faithfully my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, steadfastness, love, perseverance,
- v. 11 Persecutions, sufferings, such as came to me in Antioch, in Iconium, in Lystra, what manner of persecutions I endured; and out of them all the Lord delivered me.
- v. 12 And indeed all those who are desiring to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
- v. 13 But evil men and imposters will go on from bad to worse, leading astray and being led astray.
- v. 14 But you be remaining in the things which you learned and became convinced of, knowing from whom you learned them.
- v. 15 And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- v. 16 Every Scripture is God-breathed and beneficial for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for training in righteousness,
- v. 17 in order that the man of God may be adequate, having been equipped for every good work.

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QUESTIONS

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17 and summarize in your own words what Paul is saying in this section.
2. What nine ways has Timothy been faithful to follow the apostle, according to verses 10 & 11?
3. What has the Lord done for the apostle, according to verse 11?
4. How will those who are “desiring to live godly in Christ Jesus” be treated, according to verse 12?
5. What does Paul say about “evil men and imposters,” in verse 13?
6. What is Paul commanded to do in verse 14?
7. What are the scriptures able to do for us, according to verse 15?
8. In what four ways are the scriptures beneficial to us, according to verse 16?
9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?
10. What lesson have you learned from this study?