

Gospel Soundness in Difficult Times
Part 1: The Foundation of Scripture
A Sermon on 2 Timothy 3:10-17
August 2, 2020
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Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 3:10-17

10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Primary Claim of the Text: March onward in godliness on the foundation of Scripture.

Sermon Synopsis: 2 Timothy as a whole is an intensely personal letter from the now aged Paul to his protégé, Timothy. Paul is imprisoned once more, but unlike last time, he is less optimistic about his release. So, he writes to Timothy, urging him to come to his side one last time before his probable martyrdom and to encourage him to be courageous in ministry after he's gone. Why the call to be courageous? Because, as 2 Timothy 3:1-9 explains, in these last days there will come times of difficulty. Times in which people will be lovers of self rather than lovers of God, and therefore desiring to live godly lives in such a world will inevitably result in persecution. Paul knows this firsthand, and so he wants Timothy to understand the situation he is in while also reminding him of what is needed to keep him grounded, the Scriptures. Upon this foundation, Timothy, as well as us, can not only stand firm in contrast to the ungodliness of the world around us, but we can also march forward for the gospel of our Lord Christ Jesus.

Sermon Outline:

I. The Example of Paul (2 Tim. 3:10-13)

*Paul first highlights why we need such a foundation in the first place through his own example.

II. The Nature of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:14-17)

*Paul then explains why the Scriptures meet that need.

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Sermon Notes:

II. The Nature of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:14-17)

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