

Sunday, August 25, 2019

The Pastoral Epistles

II 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.”

In contrast to the ungodly Paul just wrote about, Timothy was faithful in his support of Paul. He had followed him through the worst of times. Paul specifically mentions three locations of persecution. What are some significant things about these locations as found in the historical record of Acts?

Antioch – Acts 13:14-52

Iconium – Acts 14:1-5

Lystra – Acts 14:6-19

No doubt, Paul was persecuted for his faith. As a matter of fact, Paul assures Timothy that persecution is par for the course for those who live a godly life. However, in contrast, the sinful will wax worse and worse in their deception.

This then prompts Paul to encourage Timothy to keep pressing on in his own walk with God. He is grounded by two important sources: the apostle (last part of verse 14), and the Word of God (verse 15). Of the two Paul emphasizes the authority of Scripture in verse 16. All of God’s Word is of use to do four important things:

1. Teaching
2. Reproving
3. Correcting
4. Training in righteousness

What is the result of being in God’s Word? Becoming complete and equipped.