



## 2 Timothy 3:1-17 “Persevere”

It's easier to quit than to persevere but the costs will eventually always outweigh and overtake the temporary pleasure physically, spiritually, relationally, and morally.

Three things we need if we are going to persevere in perilous (difficult) times.

### **If You Are Going to Persevere in Perilous Times...**

v1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

“Difficulty” = Gr. (chalepos) Hard to deal with, dangerous, fierce, savage. Same word is used to describe the demon-possessed men in Matthew 8:28 “So fierce that no one could pass that way.”

#### **1) Avoid godless and ungodly people.** vv1-9; Ps1:1-3

V5b “Avoid such people.” Don't follow their lead nor seek their advice.

- Their lives are totally self-centered and self-absorbed. vv2-4; Gen3
- Having the appearance of godliness but denying its power. Vv5-9; Matt15:8
- These are the opposite of loving God and loving others. Matt22:34-40

#### **2) Follow good mentors and models.** vv10-12

- They have very little Gospel gap. v10; Ps26:3
- They don't use God but serve God. v11; Rom14:7-8
- They have a solid theology for suffering. v12; Acts14:21-22; Phil1:29; John15:20; 1John3:13; 1Pet4:12-13; James 1:2-4

#### **3) Immerse yourself in God's infallible and inspired Word.**

vv13-17 Inspired means God worked through human personality to write what He wanted written. v16a; 2Pet1:19-21; Heb4:12

Infallible means incapable of error, never wrong and thus absolutely trustworthy (only the original documents). v17; Ps19:7; 2Pet1:19-21

- Learn it. v14 Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed... John8:31-32
- Love it. v15 “Sacred” = Gr. (hieros) Pertaining and consecrated to God, to be devoutly revered; v15; Matt4:4; Ps119:103
- Live it. vv16-17 Teaching/Correction = instructing in right beliefs. Reproof/Training = instructing in right behavior.

### Growing Notes

- 1) Which environments make it hardest for you to act on your convictions and do the right thing? What is it about the environment that makes it so hard?
- 2) Read 2 Timothy 3:1-17. What period is Paul referring to when he speaks of “the last days”? In the catalog of behaviors that will characterize “the last days,” which ones particularly strike you? Which of these behaviors are most prevalent in our society? How does the possibility of “having the appearance of godliness” without the “power of godliness” warn and convict you (v5)? How does one prevent such a disastrous combination?
- 3) What marks of Paul's life set him apart from such people (vv10-12)? In verse 14 Timothy is told to “continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of.” What does Paul mean and why does he consider it important to exhort Timothy this way? What does Paul say is the source and purpose of Scripture (vv16-17)?
- 4) Review the three things necessary for persevering through perilous times along with the sub points and scripture references. Which of these are most helpful? What areas of your life are you currently needing more perseverance? What are some steps you can take based on this study to develop more perseverance? Pray.