

**Running the Race of Faith
2 Timothy 3:10-15 (Week 08) 06/07/2026
Living A Godly Life**

This is my message written prior to being preached. Please excuse the bullet point format and any grammatical mistakes. This is meant to be spoken.

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. (2 Timothy 3:10-15)

Introduction & Review

- I want to remind everyone that **2 Timothy** is a letter written by **the Apostle Paul** to encourage and instruct Timothy as he seeks **to lead the Ephesian Church**.
- A church that was experiencing **difficulty because of false teaching**.
- **And so**, throughout this letter Paul presents **two kinds of people** in the church.
- There are those who once professed faith in Jesus Christ but have fallen prey to false teaching.
- They've rejected the true gospel, and **some are trying to lead others astray as well**.
- In **Chapter 2** Paul refers to these people as dishonorable vessels that need to be cleansed.
- Then in **chapter 3:1-9** he describes in great detail **the character and activity** of these **difficulty causing evil false teachers**.
- Along with **their many vices and sins**, Paul says that they have...

⁵ ...the appearance of godliness, but deny its power. (2 Timothy 3:5)

- They have only an **external superficial form of godliness**.
- But there's a **second group of people, led by Timothy**.
- **True believers** who continue **to** trust in the gospel and are seeking to lead others to **the faith**.
- In **chapter 2** Paul describes them as...

²¹ ...(vessels) for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. (2 Timothy 2:21)

- And it's these honorable vessels that Paul addresses in our passage for today.
- While the false teachers have **"the appearance of godliness" but deny its power**.
- Paul speaks to Timothy and...

¹² ...all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:12)

- So, the question we must face today is, “**do you desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus**”?
- If not, then you are a **dishonorable vessel** that needs cleansing.
- But if so, then in our passage, Paul will help you fulfill that desire.
- And to do that, the first thing he does is give Timothy...

1. A Picture of a Godly Life

- If you want to live a godly life, then you need to know what it looks like.
- Verse 10...

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... (2 Timothy 3:10-11)

- Remember Paul has just finished describing both the character and activity of the evil false teachers of Ephesus.
- And so, the phrase “**You, however,**” is meant to establish a contrast.
- Unlike these evil people who only have an **appearance of godliness...**
- Timothy, you are different because **you have followed my example**.
- And what this implies is that following Paul’s example is a good idea for Timothy and all believers.
- That word followed in the Greek means **to follow closely or carefully investigate.**
- Timothy had **closely followed the Apostle Paul for years.**
- He’d traveled with Paul during much of his **second and third missionary journeys.**
- So, he had **plenty of time to learn** from and observe **Paul’s ministry and character.**
- And what did he see?
- Well, in contrast to the **20 or so negative character qualities** of the false teachers.
- Paul, in **verses 2-4**, lists **eight positive aspects of his life.**
- **This is what Timothy and all believers should follow.**
- **This is a picture of a godly life.**
- And Paul begins with **his message**, first, **Timothy followed Paul’s...**

teaching

- Timothy had heard Paul’s **doctrinal and practical instruction** wherever they went.
- **Six** of Paul’s letters to churches list **Timothy as a co-author or co-sender:**
- He knew and even contributed to what Paul taught.
- He knew how Paul’s teaching incorporated **and explained the Old Testament.**
- He knew the full gospel of Jesus Christ.
- He knew the way **to salvation and sanctification is through Christ alone.**
- And more than just knowing Paul’s teaching **Timothy followed it.**
- And this is where a godly life begins, **following the sound teaching of the apostles.**
- Timothy got it **personally from Paul**, but we have it **written down in our Bibles.**

- We can follow not only **Paul's teaching**,
- but the teaching of Jesus and all God's Spirit Inspired authors,
- by reading All the Scripture (More on that next week when we look at verses 16 & 17).
- So first, Timothy followed Paul's teaching,
- **Then second**, Timothy followed Paul's

conduct

- **Conduct** in the Greek means "**way of life.**"
- Timothy knew how Paul lived, **which included the avoidance of sin**,
- hard work and passion to accomplish God's.
- To the Corinthians Paul wrote...

¹ Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1)

- Paul exemplified godly, Christ-like, living and Timothy sought to follow Paul's example.
- And we too can follow not only Paul's conduct, but that of Christ and other godly men and women, by reading and applying all Scripture.
- **Then Third**, Paul says Timothy followed his...

aim (purpose) in life

- So, what was Paul's purpose in life?
- Well, I think his **teaching and conduct** reveals that he had two clear and related purposes.
- **First**, in **Philippians Chapter 3**, after listing his **pedigree and accomplishments** before coming to Christ, **Paul wrote...**

⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. (Philippians 3:7-8)

- Paul's **first aim is clear**, he does everything, **gives up everything else that he might know Christ Jesus His Lord.**
- Then, **flowing from his relationship with Christ**, in **Romans Chapter 15** he wrote...

²⁰ ...I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, (Romans 15:20)

- Paul's ambition his aim was to **preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- Specifically, **to those who had yet to hear.**
- And if you **read Acts 13-28** this is what you will find.
- Wherever Paul went, whoever he encountered **be they Jew or Gentile**, rich or poor, weak or powerful.
- He preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to them.
- And so, we can summarize Paul's aim, his purpose in life.
- **He desired to Know Christ and to Make him Known.**

- This is what Timothy followed, this is why Timothy *hung in there in Ephesus*.
- Because he, like all who seek to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus,
- desired to **know him and make him known**.
- In fact, if you want to evaluate your Christian life, **ask yourself these two questions**.
- **What am I doing to know Christ better?**
- **And what am I doing to make him known to others?**
- The answers will determine whether you are living a godly life or not.
- **Fourth**, Timothy followed Paul's

faith

- We've already seen that **Timothy knew and followed the content of Paul's faith**.
- He knew and believed his teaching **that salvation and sanctification** come through Christ alone.
- But he also followed the **conduct of Paul's faith**.
- **Faith begins** with what you **believe** but it must **impact the way you live**.
- As Paul said to **the Corinthians...**

7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

- Walking **is a metaphor for living**.
- We must **live by faith**, and what that means is we make decisions, we take actions,
- based on **our faith in God, our faith in Jesus Christ**.
- And that's what Paul did.
- His priority was not his personal safety or his comfort.
- His priority was doing the will of God, **come what may**.
- He took risks, he did things like confronting religious and political leaders with the gospel.
- Putting his life in danger but trusting that God would accomplish his purposes through him.
- Walking by faith, living by faith means living in obedience to God regardless of knowing the outcome.
- This is how Paul lived and this is how Timothy and all who desire to live godly lives must live.
- **Fifth** Timothy followed Paul's...

patience

- In Galatians Paul tells us that patience is a **fruit of the Spirit**.
- Now when we hear the **word "patience" in English** we often think only of **passively waiting**.
- And this is part of the Greek word for **patience**, but it also includes the **idea of endurance**.
- To bear up under **difficulty, pain, suffering and persecution**.
- And throughout Paul's life he endured (**was patient during**) many difficulties and trials.
- **Even as he writes this letter, he is patiently enduring life in a Roman prison**.
- And all who seek to live a godly life **must also patiently endure** the sufferings of this world.

- **Sixth**, Timothy followed Paul's

love

- Paul understood where his love originated.
- To the **Romans he wrote...**

5 ...God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Romans 5:5)

- Paul's love and in fact all human love is given to us as a gift from God.
- As the **Apostle John wrote...**

19 We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

- And this love that Paul and all believers receive from God is then returned first to God himself.
- We must ***love the Lord with all our hearts souls minds and strengthen***
- And then turned to others, **God gives us love that we might love our neighbors as ourselves.**
- And that we might **even love our enemies.**
- Paul certainly demonstrated this kind of **love.**
- **One example is found in Acts chapter 16.**
- After **he and Silas were severely beaten and thrown into prison,**
- an earthquake broke open the prison doors.
- But instead of escaping or seeking revenge by letting the Roman jailer face execution for losing his prisoners,
- Paul showed love to **his captor** who panicked **and tried to kill himself.**
- Paul called out for him to stop and went on **to preach the gospel to him and his household.**
- **Which is in fact the most loving thing you can do to a non-believer.**
- And because of Paul's love for his enemy, the jailer was saved along with his household.
- And it is this love for **God, neighbors, friends, family and even enemies** that those who desire to live a Godly life must have. **For God is Love!**
- **Seventh**, Timothy followed Paul's...

steadfastness

- **Like patience, this word also includes the meaning of endurance.**
- But **the focus** is on holding steady, **remaining true** to your aim (your purpose) even in times of difficulty, persecution and suffering.

- And this steadfastness is seen again and again in Paul's life,
- In **2 Corinthians 11** he recounts his many times of suffering for the gospel.

²⁴ Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶ on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸ And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. (2 Corinthians 11:24-28)

- And yet through all of this suffering and persecution he remained steadfast.
- He continued to move forward; he continued to grow in his knowledge of Christ.
- And he continued to proclaim the gospel.
- Now, most if not all of us will have trouble relating to Paul's many difficulties and suffering.
- But there are places in this world where believers still face prison, poverty, violence, even death for believing and especially proclaiming the gospel.
- And even though, we may not suffer in these ways.
- Believers in the West still face hardships.
- We can be **ridiculed for our belief in God**.
- *I can't believe **someone in the 21st century** would believe that God exists and miracles are real.*
- We can also be **seen as haters** for proclaiming the **exclusive nature of the gospel**.
- Proclaiming that only those who **trust in Jesus Christ will be saved**.
- And hearing, *who are you to say that your God will send good people to hell if they don't believe what you believe.*
- Or especially in our culture, we can be rejected (ostracized by family and friends) for holding a biblical standard on current yet ever shifting social moral issues.
- *What do you mean you don't fully support rights of all human beings to love and live with and marry anyone they chose or to choose what gender they identify as.*
- *If that's true, then I want nothing more to do with you.*
- And if you desire to live a godly life, then you must, like Paul, remain steadfast during times of trouble, suffering, ridicule, rejection.
- You must value **knowing Christ and making him known** above being accepted by a lost world.
- And then **flowing from his steadfastness**, Paul ends this list by saying that Timothy followed...

my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra

- Now these events are recorded in **Acts 13-14, before Timothy joined Paul**.
- Possibly before Timothy was a believer.
- But Timothy's hometown was Lystra, **so he had witnessed or heard of these events**.

- In each of these cities, Paul and Barnabus proclaimed the gospel **and some believed**.
- But others, **led by the Jewish religious leaders**, drove them out of these cities,
- They were seeking and in **Lystra succeeding** to stone Paul. **Acts 14:19 says...**

19 But Jews came (to Lystra) from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. (Acts 14:19)

- So even though Timothy was not with Paul he knew that persecution even stoning was Paul's lot in life.
- And yet Timothy followed, **Timothy was willing to face even stoning, death for the gospel.**
- **Paul then adds...**

which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. (2 Timothy 3:11)

- This probably refers to the fact that after Paul was stoned and left for dead outside Lystra.
- **Within hours, he headed for Derbe and another effective ministry.**
- This shows how **"the Lord rescued"** Paul during constant trials.
- God delivered Paul in them, **not from them.**
- **So**, we've seen this picture of the Apostle Paul.
- He was Godly man and Timothy followed his godly ways.
- His teaching, his conduct, his aim in life, his faith, his patience, his love, his steadfastness, his persecutions and suffering.
- And we too, if we desire to live godly lives,
- are called to follow Paul's example in these things as well.
- **In fact**, Paul continues by telling Timothy and **us that his Christian life is not unique.**
- **And he does this by giving...**

2. A Promise of a Godly Life

- **Verse 12...**

12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (2 Timothy 3:12)

- I know some wouldn't consider this **a promise**, since it's not positive.
- **If Paul wrote** all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be **rewarded in some way.**
- Everyone would agree that's a promise...
- But whether you consider **being persecuted a promise** or not, it is certainly a TRUTH a FACT.
- Those who desire (or choose) to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
- Now the first thing I want you to notice about **this promise** is that the **godly life** Paul is speaking of is **in Christ Jesus.**
- For there is no other **kind of godly life.**
- There is no other way to **live as God wants us to.**
- There is no other way to **live in obedience to him.**

- Because **we human beings are by nature and practice ungodly sinners**,
- Therefore, we cannot be godly or live godly lives.
- **Unless we are in Christ Jesus.**
- That is unless we **are united to Christ Jesus.**
- And **this union takes place when we turn from our sin and trust in Christ alone.**
- When that takes place, we are united with Christ, **we receive his righteousness, his godliness.**
- And we are given **the power (in Christ) to live godly lives.**
- Okay now we turn to the promise itself.
- **Again, this is not the kind of promise that Christians tend to claim.**
- The **false prosperity gospel** completely ignores **this verses.**
- Even **teaching the opposite**, if you **are godly, if you have enough faith..**
- Then God will reward you with blessings here on earth.
- Well, unless you consider **persecution a blessing**, that's a lie.
- Jesus, himself, **gives a similar promise...**

20 ... "A servant is not greater than his master." If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you... (John 15:20)

- Jesus (both God and the godliest faith filled man who ever lived) was persecuted severely!
- **Isaiah** describes it well...

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter... (Isaiah 53:7)

- And as we've seen, Paul, a godly man, was persecuted again and again.
- In fact, immediately after Paul's Damascus Road conversion, the Lord promises Ananias,

15 ... "Go, for he (Paul) is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." (Acts 9:15-16)

- And from then on, throughout Paul's life, he experienced persecution and suffering for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **He also understood** that persecution and suffering were a part of every Christian life.
- **He certainly says that here in 2 Timothy.**
- But also, to **the Thessalonians** he wrote...

2 we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, 3 that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. (1 Thessalonians 3:2-3)

- We are destined for afflictions, suffering and persecution.

- Paul was also clear about suffering with the **Philippians**...

29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, (Philippians 1:29)

- Suffering for the sake of Christ, is not only promised, **it is a gift** from God.
- So, there should be no doubt about the promise that...

12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (2 Timothy 3:12)

- But the question comes, **why?**
- Why do the godly suffer, why are they persecuted.
- OR why does God allow his children to suffer?
- **Big Questions!**
- And, I believe Scripture gives two answers, that are true at the same time.
- **The first is that persecution comes to those who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus.**
- **Because of EVIL in this world.**
- As we saw at the end of **chapter 2** that those **without Christ** have been...

26 ...captured by [the devil] to do his will. (2 Timothy 2:26)

- And so those who know Christ become **the opponents of the devil** who is...

4 ...the god of this world... (2 Corinthians 4:4)

- So, if anyone **goes against** the prevailing satanic world view,
- Which is what living a godly life will do.
- He or she is bound to have trouble. **And if, as William Barclay says,**

Anyone proposes to introduce into his life a loyalty which surpasses all earthly loyalties, then there are bound to be clashes and collisions. (William Barclay)

- Some form of opposition will come if we attempt to witness to a world that hates to be told the **truth and loves darkness.**
- And that **opposition backed by the devil**, comes through his servants, **evil men and women.**
- Paul describes them in **verse 13...**

13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (2 Timothy 3:13)

- There is a connection between the **persecution of the godly** and **the rise of the godless.**
- In this world and even in **the church there are evil people.**
- There are **imposters who have an appearance of godliness**
- **And they will go from bad to worse.**
- This suggests that **their sin (and opposition to the gospel)** increases over time.

- But at the same time, they are deceiving (drawing people away from the gospel)...
- They themselves are being deceived. **Which makes total sense.**
- **When people tell a lie often enough**, they may eventually believe it.
- And these **evil people and impostors believe their own lies.**
- **This was certainly true of the Pharisees.**
- They were leading people astray (deceiving people) laboring to make converts to works based legalistic false religion.
- But **they believed what they were selling.**
- So much so that when Jesus (the godliest man ever) didn't fall in line with **their appearance of godliness...**
- They opposed him, **sincerely believing that they needed to stop him.**
- And ultimately, **they persecuted him unto death.**
- **And their kind will do the same today.**
- The world is filled with **evil people and impostors.**
- People who've bought into the lies of the devil.
- People who've been deceived into believing that **true godliness,**
- **holding to a biblical standard** is wrong and bad and therefore **must be eliminated.**
- And so, they will oppose the godly,
- They will oppose those who proclaim and seek to live out the gospel.
- So, the first reason why ***all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted***
- Is because **the god of this world and his evil deceived impostors hate Jesus Christ and those who seek to live for him.**
- But at the same time, there's another GREATER answer to **why the godly are persecuted.**
- And that is because it is **God's Will.**
- This is **a difficult, yet important principle found in Scripture.**
- This principle is best said by Joseph when he addressed his brothers who'd **sold him into slavery. Joseph said...**

20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good... (Genesis 50:20)

- Satan and his evil impostors will persecute those **who desire to live godly lives.**
- They mean it **for evil against God and his people.**
- **But at the same time God means it for good.**
- That is, God will use the persecution of his people for their good, the good of others, and his glory.
- **We see this in the life of Joseph who God used...**

to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. (Genesis 50:20)

- And if you read **the book of Acts**, you'll see this principle **again and again in the life of Paul.**
- We already touched on how God used Paul's beating and jail time in Philippi to save the jailer and his family.

- And of course we see this in **the persecution of Jesus Christ**.
- **His torture and crucifixion** were the **greatest evil ever perpetrated in human history**.
- Because it was not **only the killing of a completely innocent man**,
- but the crucifixion of the righteous, holy, perfect Son of God.
- And yet, **this greatest of evil resulted in the greatest of good**.
- Because of **Christ sacrificial death on the cross**,
- you and I and all people have the opportunity to receive forgiveness of our sins, salvation of our souls and eternal life in the presence of God.
- Satan and his minions meant it for great evil, but God meant it for the greatest of all goods.
- And in a similar but lesser way, **when we are persecuted for living a godly life in Christ Jesus**,
- whether our persecution **be physical suffering, imprisonment, death or rejection and ridicule**.
- In any case **the enemy means it for evil, but God means it for good**.
- **For example**, it may be that your **patient, steadfastness, love** and forgiveness in the face of persecution is what God uses to reach a family member or friend with gospel of Jesus Christ.
- As they see the reality of your faith in the midst of suffering...

²⁵...God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. 2 (Timothy 2:25-26)

- And let us not forget that **no matter what impact our persecution has on others**,
- **it will have a positive impact on our lives**. As Paul wrote to the Romans...

³...but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Romans 5:3-5)

- God uses suffering **to transform our lives**, to make **us more godly**.
- And this should be an **encouragement to you as you face or prepare to face whatever suffering and persecution that comes your way**.
- Our **natural tendency is to flee suffering**,
- To do what it takes to avoid pain, and for the Christian this would involve not living a godly life.
- **Not proclaiming the gospel**, not standing for biblical values.
- If you don't want to suffer for Jesus in this life then don't talk about him,
- don't live godly lives for Jesus.
- But if you're willing to suffer, if you are willing to live for Christ and represent Christ in this world.
- **Then Yes**, you can expect suffering, persecution of some kind.
- But be assured that through your suffering, God will work in and through you to accomplish his purposes in your life and the life of others.

- Okay, so, we've seen the **picture of a Godly life in the Apostle Paul.**
- And we have been given **the promise of a godly life which is persecution.**
- **Now we turn to...**

3. The Path of a Godly Life

- **In verse 13,** Paul has mentioned **the evil deceptive & deceived imposters** who go from bad to worse, who persecute the godly.
- Then beginning in **verse 14** he continues...

14 But as for you, (in contrast to those evil imposters you Timothy) continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it... (2 Timothy 3:14-15)

- **Here Paul urges Timothy to continue in the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- Again, this is **the foundation for living a godly life.**
- As we saw in Paul's example, a godly life is steadfast, enduring, continuing even in times of persecution.
- And so, Paul calls Timothy **to continue in what he has learned and believed.**
- To endure; to not forsake the faith.
- And not only that but to know (**or remember who he learned it from**).
- As we've talked about in prior studies, **as a young man...**
- Timothy was convinced of the gospel **through the instruction of three people.**
- **First,** he was instructed by his **grandmother Lois, his mother Eunice,**
- In **Chapter 1 of 1 Timothy Paul** had written...

5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. (2 Timothy 1:5)

- Evidently even though Timothy's father **was a non-believing Gentile,**
- his **Hebrew mother and grandmother** had educated him in **the Old Testament Scriptures.**
- Then later when Paul, **on his first missionary journey,** came to their hometown of Lystra,
- **preaching the gospel from the Old Testament,**
- These women believed in Christ and, **and with Paul's help, they instructed Timothy,** so that he too believed.
- From the lips of his mother, grandmother, and Paul, Timothy learned the gospel message,
- **and from their examples he saw it lived out.**
- And this **had a saving effect on him, he believed.**
- **And Paul is saying continue in that belief, continue steadfast in the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- He then adds

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. (2 Timothy 3:15)

- **From this we can surmise** that Lois and Eunice began to teach Timothy from the earliest possible **age the substance of the Old Testament**.
- His first stories **were Bible stories**.
- There were **no picture books**, but Timothy was blessed by the beautiful oral tellings and **retellings by those godly women**.
- From them he learned of the great events and commands and principles of the Old Testament.
- These godly women filled his head and heart with...

the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

- Some people believe that all we Christians need is the New Testament.
- But reading, knowing and understanding **the Old Testament** is what prepares a person to hear and believe **the gospel**.
- Because the Old Testament **Scripture not only clearly show the sinfulness of man..**
- **But they point to the savior, the Messiah, Jesus Christ.**
- Jesus makes this very clear in his **post resurrection interaction** with two disciples on the road to Emmaus. In **Luke chapter 24:45** we read...

⁴⁵ Then [Jesus] opened their minds to understand the Scriptures (the sacred writings, the OT), ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (Luke 24:45-47)

- And it was through these **same Sacred Writings** that Timothy came to understand the gospel of **Jesus Christ**.
- As Timothy came to faith, **he understood that Jesus fulfilled the sacrificial system**,
- the Passover lamb, **the Tabernacle**, and all the many **messianic prophecies**.
- **Timothy** would have also **seen that salvation never came through works of the law but by faith alone**.
- For in the first book of the Bible, **Genesis** he would have read of Abraham’s salvation...

⁶ And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:6)

- And it was through passages like this **from the Old Testament** that Timothy had been made

wise for salvation

- And what he learned from the Old Testament was then confirmed, fulfilled, expanded on and made clear by **the teaching and instruction of the Apostle Paul**.
- So, Timothy’s faith (his firm belief) in Christ Jesus came through learning the gospel from his mother, grandmother and the apostle Paul.
- He learned from their examples, and he learned from their instruction,
- **all of which was based on the sacred writings, the Old Testament Scripture.**

- And all of that took place when **Timothy was a younger man.**
- Now, he's leading the church in Ephesus.
- And Paul exhorts him to

continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it.

- **Why?**
- Because **this is the path to a godly life in Christ Jesus.**
- We must continue to live out what we have learned.
- **Remembering and following the examples of those who have gone before us.**
- **Remembering and following their faith that was seen in their godly lives.**
- And **continuing to hold fast to the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- Not forsaking the gospel as the evil imposters, the false teachers have done.
- **But remaining true to the gospel.**
- Remaining faithful to Jesus Christ, **by living out the gospel and proclaiming the gospel.**
- **By knowing him and making him known.**
- Even when this results, **as we have been promised,** in persecution.
- So as Brian comes to lead us in communion,
- As we remember Christ's sacrificial death for us,
- As we remember the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Let us commit ourselves to lives of godliness in Christ Jesus!

Prayer