

Posted April 16, 2020

Read 2 Timothy 3.10–17 in your favorite translation. I will print the NET2 translation.

10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, my faith, my patience, my love, my endurance, 11 as well as the persecutions and sufferings that happened to me in Antioch, in Iconium, and in Lystra. I endured these persecutions and the Lord delivered me from them all. 12 Now in fact all who want to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 13 But evil people and charlatans will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived themselves. 14 You, however, must continue in the things you have learned and are confident about. You know who taught you 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy writings, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work.

COMMENTS:

The first two words of v. 10 emphasize the contrast between the ministry of Timothy and the false teacher he warned up about yesterday. He says, “You, however, have followed my teaching.” He had condemned the false teachers and now he holds up his star pupil and recruit, Timothy.

Paul had a clean conscience about his service to God. Seven times in this one verse he uses the word “my.” He is not afraid to hold himself up as an example to Timothy. He doesn’t just present the joy of his ministry. He acknowledges the persecutions he has endured.

He doesn’t just speak of everything that has happened to him. It seems strange to many that he lists persecutions from early in his ministry in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra. My personal guess is that Timothy may have been a witness to those events. (Just a personal guess, no proof.)

In Acts 15:36–41 we hear of a conflict between Paul and Barnabas over John Mark (generally considered the author of the Gospel of Mark. Mark had turned back during a missionary trip earlier which is why he doesn’t want him to go along this time.

Barnabas, whose name means son of encouragement, was true to his name. He was ready to forgive Timothy and give him a second chance. I think it is safe to say that Paul changed his mind about Timothy later.

At the end of v. 11 Paul points out that the Lord delivered him from all of them. Then in v. 12 he warns that all who want to live a life in service to God will be persecuted. Then as if to warn them that God may not deliver all of them from the persecution they experience.

He warns that evil people will go from bad to worse. They will deceive others, but even worse, they deceive themselves. Paul continues his warning to Timothy saying, “continue is what you have learned and who taught you and the source of their teaching. He was taught by mother and grandmother from the Holy Scriptures and assisted by the Holy Spirit..

All Scripture is useful for teaching because it is working in the hearts of people dedicated to God. Thus they will be capable and equipped for doing good works which will honor God.

REFLECTION QUESTION: The significance of the Bible is one of the most significant issues for Christian. I know too many people who read books about the Bible or religion rather than the Bible itself. I’m not against reading those books, but if you read them more than the Bible which is God’s revelation of himself, you have your reading unbalanced. Listen to God first and then

you can properly evaluate what other human beings say about God. See the goal of reading something from the Bible each day. Don't see how fast you can finish. Listen to God carefully.