



2 Timothy 3:10-17

KNOWING THE WORD IN A DECEPTIVE WORLD

We must make a great difference between God's Word and the word of man. A man's word is a little sound, that flies into the air, and soon vanishes; but the Word of God is greater than heaven and earth, yea, greater than death and hell, for it forms part of the power of God, and endures everlastingly; we should, therefore, diligently study God's Word, and know and assuredly believe that God himself speaks unto us... A fiery shield is God's Word; of more substance and purer than gold, which, tried in the fire, loses naught of its substance, but resists and overcomes all the fury of the fiery heat; even so, he that believes God's Word overcomes all, and remains secure everlastingly, against all misfortunes; for this shield fears nothing, neither hell nor the devil... Now, wherever you hear or see this Word preached, believed, professed, and lived, do not doubt that the true ecclesia sancta catholica [holy catholic church] must be there.... And even if there were no other sign than this alone, it would still suffice to prove that a Christian, holy people must exist there, for God's Word cannot be without God's people and, conversely, God's people cannot be without God's Word. —Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Paul has exhorted Timothy to be a **good soldier** (the spirit of power) and a **faithful servant** (the spirit of love). Now, he exhorts him to be a **wise student** (the spirit of a sound mind). Timothy has to be both discerning of the world (3:1-9) and devoted to the Word (3:10-17).

In the midst of a deceptive world, with evil people, impostors, false teachers, and spiritual con artists all around, Paul gives Timothy one central command in this passage.

But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them... (3:14)

KEEP FOLLOWING GODLY EXAMPLES (3:10-12)

Timothy had "carefully followed" Paul's life for many years.

Paul's Ministry	Paul's Character	Paul's Struggles
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All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be _____
(3:12; cf. Matt. 5:3-12; Jn. 15:18-21; 16:33; 17:14; Acts 14:22; Phil. 1:29).

Whose life has been a godly example to you? _____

The world often takes its notions of God from the people who say that they belong to God's family. They read us a great deal more than they read the Bible.

—Alexander MacLaren

Those ministers are likely to do good, and leave lasting fruits of their labors, whose manner of life agrees with their doctrine; as, on the contrary, those cannot expect to profit the people at all that preach well but live poorly.

—Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

When you set an example, you are giving people a pattern to follow. Someone once said, "Your life speaks so loud I can't hear what you say." Your lifestyle is your most powerful message.

—John MacArthur, Jr.

Persecution may vary in degree and take different forms...but the basic hostility of the world to the godly man remains unchanged.

—D. Edmond Hiebert

If we were not strangers here, the hounds of the world would not bark at us. —Samuel Rutherford

KEEP FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD (3:13-17)

Evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in the things that you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them.

- The _____ of Scripture (3:13).

And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- The _____ of Scripture (3:14-15).

All Scripture is God-breathed (Greek, theopneustos)...

- The _____ of Scripture (3:16a).

Profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...

- The _____ of Scripture (3:16b).

- Scripture teaches me what is _____.
- Scripture tells me when I am _____.
- Scripture shows me how to _____.
- Scripture trains me how to _____.

That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- The _____ of Scripture (3:17).

The boy of five years of age ought to apply to the study of the sacred Scriptures. —Yehuda ben Teima

The Bible was written over 1600 years by 40 different authors in 3 different languages, yet it tells a unified story. It is the most read, most printed, most translated (3300+ languages), and most influential book in human history.

There are over 5800 Greek manuscripts of the NT, plus over 19,000 ancient manuscripts in other languages, with fragments dating to AD 100-150. Early church fathers quoted the NT 36,289 times. They quote all but 11 verses in the NT.

Each word (verbal) and every word (plenary) is inspired by God. The Spirit carried the human authors to write God's Word (2 Pet. 1:21). This is not just true of the OT but of the NT as well (cf. Matt. 24:35; 1 Th. 4:15; 1 Tim 5:18 w/Lk 10:17; 2 Peter 3:16; Rev. 1:1; 22:18-19).

Let us yield ourselves and bow to the authority of the Holy Scriptures, which can neither err nor deceive. —Augustine (354-430)

The Scriptures are sufficient to inform the ignorant, to confute the erroneous, to reform the wicked, and to guide, direct, support and comfort the godly. Here a lamb may wade—and here an elephant may swim! Here is milk for infants and meat for strong men!

—Thomas Brooks (1608-80)

God the Father is the giver of Holy Scripture; God the Son is the theme of Holy Scripture; and God the Spirit is the author, authenticator, and interpreter of Holy Scripture.

—J. I. Packer