



The God Breathed Scripture 2 Timothy 3:10-17

In 3:1-9 Paul described in detail the character of false teachers and their methods of preying on vulnerable people. They will increase as the evilness of the last days increases and intensifies. These teachers reflect the world in which we live. Yet we Christians are called to be different – the light in the darkness. So, Paul tells Timothy how we can be that.

Follow Paul's Example

Paul warned Timothy of the false teachers but told him to follow Paul's example. In contrast to the false teachers, Paul (1) taught truth (2) conducted himself in a godly way, (3) the sole purpose of his life was proclaiming the gospel, (4) had faith in God and others (5), exercised patience with people and with God (6) had love for God and others (7) endured through great persecutions and sufferings. Paul specifically mentions his persecution in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra. Paul visited these cities on his first missionary journey before Timothy joined Paul on his second missionary journey. Timothy's hometown was Lystra. Also, at Lystra Paul was stoned by Jews who followed him there from Antioch and Iconium and left him for dead (Acts 14:19). Paul mentioning these towns would have brought to Timothy's mind the intense persecution Paul had faced in Timothy's own hometown. Paul says that "The Lord rescued me from them all." He probably means God spared him from death so he could continue to proclaim the gospel, or God worked in his heart so Paul would continue preaching in spite of the persecution.

Continue Learning and Believing the Scriptures

The solution to combating evil and false teachers is to know and live out in obedience the Word of God. Timothy had been taught the Scriptures from an early age and Paul encouraged him to continue in "what you have learned and firmly believed."

What are the Scriptures? – The Scriptures are literally "God breathed." 2 Peter 1:21 tells us the human authors of the Bible were carried on by the Holy Spirit. This means the Bible is God's words to us and without error. The specific Scriptures Paul references are the Old Testament. But by even Paul's time Christians recognized some New Testament books as inspired by God (2 Peter 3:16)

What does it teach us? – The Bible gives wisdom for salvation. It also (1) teaches, (2) rebukes (3) corrects (4) and trains in righteousness.

What's its effect? – A Christian is complete and fully equipped to do good works. The Bible obviously doesn't contain knowledge about everything. But everything that is important – who we are, how we got here, what is our purpose, how do we live our lives, who is God, what He has done, why our world is messed up, how God will fix it, and what is the future for individuals and the world are all found in the Bible.