



The following is the summary of the Sunday sermon that is sent to the body at Steadfast in an email called "The Weekly"

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Faithfulness in the Filth

How do we make a difference during the difficult (*perilous, violent, dangerous, hard, savage*) days in which we live? In 2 Timothy 3:1-9, Paul described 19 characteristics we will observe in people during these last days. The 19th characteristic tells us that they will hold to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power (5). They will be lovers of self rather than lovers of God. However, they will look and sound religious. Paul calls these people evil and imposters who are being deceived (by Satan) and deceive others. In verses 10-13, he reminds Timothy of how he followed his leadership. If we want to make a difference during the difficult days in which we live, we will be faithful to follow those who follow Christ. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Be imitators of me just as I also am of Christ." He reminded Timothy of how he followed his teaching (sound doctrine), conduct (how he lived), purpose (the aim of his life which was to glorify God), faith (complete reliance on God), patience, love, perseverance (steadfastness), persecutions, and sufferings. These characteristics are a stark contrast to those Paul describes in verses 1-9. Most false teachers holding to a form of godliness yet denying its power are not signing up for suffering. Their teaching points people to them, not Jesus. Their lives certainly do not demonstrate the characteristics outlined in verses 10-11. Timothy was so fortunate to be able to follow Paul as he followed Christ. In verses 14-17, Paul highlights that if we want to make a difference during the difficult days in which we live we will be faithful to follow God's Word. All Scripture is inspired by God. The Scriptures are profitable for teaching (sound doctrine- what is right), for reproof (rebuke or revealing what is wrong in our lives), for correction (how to get right), for training in righteousness (providing instruction that leads to proper behavior and habits). The Scriptures also equip us for service! The word "adequate" (17) means "equal to the task." In the midst of the deterioration of our society, it is imperative

that we know and live God's Word. The only thing that will expose the lies and deception of Satan is the truth of God's Word. As you seek to apply this passage to your life, ask yourself these questions:

- **Am I faithfully following those leaders who are pointing me to Christ or am I caught up in Christian celebrity?** In the day and age in which we live, it's so easy to get caught up in Christian celebrity. It can be easy even to be deceived. If you want to make a difference during the difficult days in which we live, you will faithfully follow those who imitate Christ and point you to Him and not themselves.
- **Am I continuing in what I have learned and been convinced of (14)?** One of the hardest things to do is to "continue in" because it's so easy to get distracted even with good things. How many Christians have strayed off of the path? How many were walking well but stopped "continuing in"?
- **How committed am I to getting to know God in His Word?** How I treat God's Word will play a major role in how I live during these difficult days. God's Word exposes deception, reveals sin and my need for a Savior, tells me God's wonderful plan of salvation, tells me who God is, show me who I am, helps me grow, and equips me for He wants me to do. Praise God for His Word!

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