

Bible Study Guide

Recognize & Obey / Spiritual Disciplines

2 Timothy 3:10-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹²In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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Introduce

The book of 2 Timothy is a letter written by the apostle Paul at the end of his life to his beloved friend and student, Timothy. In chapter 3, Paul warns about “terrible times in the last days.” He reminds his young mentee, who is shepherding a church, not to give in to the world’s deceitful teachings and desires, nor emulate the character of false teachers. Rather, Paul encourages Timothy to continue in what he has learned from Paul and two important women in his life: his mother and his grandmother (1:5).

Learn more!

The book of Acts describes Paul’s persecutions in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. Check out Acts 13-14 to learn about Paul’s ministry in these cities.

Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Discuss

1. **How does Paul both warn and challenge Timothy to live a godly life?**
In his counsel to Timothy, Paul lists his various teachings, sufferings, and persecutions. How do these serve as both warnings and challenges for Timothy to live a godly life in Christ Jesus?
2. **What are the implications for Timothy’s decision-making?**
Paul’s teaching about the power of the Scriptures as “God-breathed”—infused with God’s Spirit and God’s presence—is one of the most potent in the entire Bible. Timothy has learned the truths of the Scriptures all his life. As Timothy defends the gospel by teaching, encouraging, and training others, why is it so important that he ground his ministry in the Scriptures?

Apply

1. **Respond to challenges.**
Paul faces many persecutions and sufferings but sees these as a normal part of his Christian life. What are some challenges that you recognize, both personally and among your community? In what ways can your response to these challenges reflect the faith, patience, courage, and endurance exhibited by Paul?
2. **Spend time in Scripture.**
Paul lists the benefits of reading the Bible and asking God to help you apply it to your life. What would it look like for you to develop or improve the spiritual discipline of spending regular time in Scripture? What is one specific commitment can you make this week? If reading the Bible is new to you, a good way to start might be to read one chapter of Mark every day (only 16 chapters!) and meditate on it in conversation with Jesus. Who can you invite to help you or participate with you?

Conclude

Pray with each other.

For tips on leading a small group online, [watch this!](#)