

"A Godly Example"  
2 Timothy 3:10-14  
(Preached at Trinity, September 18, 2022)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. After spending the first 9 verses exposing the corruption of counterfeit Christians that would infiltrate the church and cause great peril, Paul now contrasts it to the life of a godly man. He begins **Verse 10** with the very common Greek conjunction  $\delta\acute{\epsilon}$  - usually translated "but." This was is how the KJV and even the NAS translates it, but the NASB chose to translate it "now." The word "but" expresses the contrast better.
2. In contrast with the counterfeit Christians described in **Verses 1-9** Paul now commends Timothy for the excellent example of genuine Christianity he was providing to this church. Timothy was following the same example provided by Paul.
3. As usual, Paul carefully chooses the words to express his feelings. Paul lists several areas of which we should be most concerned.  
*teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, suffering*
4. Paul had often exhorted Timothy to maintain this high quality of lifestyle.  
**1 Timothy 4:12 NAU** - "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe."  
**1 Timothy 6:11 NAU** - "But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness."  
**2 Timothy 2:22 NAU** - "Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."
5. In our present verses Paul is reminding Timothy that he had demonstrated these things with his own life. His own life had been a sermon; a demonstration of holiness. In the Greek each word is preceded by the definite article linking each back to the possessive pronoun – literally it should be read, "My doctrine, My conduct. . . etc."
6. Each of us should consider ourselves mentors. Every believer has others watching him or her. In fact, the testimony of our lives is an essential aspect of our Gospel witness. Each of us has an influence upon someone. Each of us should strive to live a life in which we would be able to tell others as Paul in **1 Corinthians 4:16**:  
"Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me."

This morning I want to examine these areas Paul considered of the greatest importance – May God grant us the wisdom to make these things the pattern of our own lives.

## I. My teaching

- A. Paul's doctrine is what the Bible calls "the Apostles doctrine"
1. The Apostles received direct Divine revelation that the church recognized as absolute truth which must be believed and obeyed. Few today recognize the importance of Apostolic authority or the uniqueness of the prophecy they received
  2. Paul recognized his authority – V. 1 – "My teaching"  
**V.14** – "Knowing of whom thou has learned them."  
**2 Timothy 2:2 NAU** - "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."
- B. The early church followed the Apostolic teaching as the doctrine of the church  
**Acts 2:42 NAU** - "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."
1. These writings were clearly the Word of God and became the foundation of the church  
**Ephesians 2:19-20 NAU** - "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,"
  2. Doctrine was the basis of fellowship for the church, the basis of unity.
- C. Doctrine must continue as the bedrock of the church today
1. Paul warned Timothy that many would forsake sound doctrine replacing it with things consistent with man's carnal desires  
**2 Timothy 4:3 NAU** - "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,"
  2. Paul's word to Timothy, and to us, is  
**2 Timothy 3:14 NAU** - "You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,"

## II. My conduct

- A. Paul was continually mindful of the effect of his life upon others
1. He was not ashamed to tell others to follow his example – his life was consistent with his doctrine.  
**Philippians 3:17-18 NAU** - "Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ,"
  2. Peter exhorted the elders to be mindful of the power of their example  
**1 Peter 5:2-3 NAU** - "shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of* God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; <sup>3</sup> nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock."

- B. We must all be aware of our example before others
1. **James 3:13 NAU** - "Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom."
    - a. Holiness cannot be separated from Christianity  
**Hebrews 12:14 NAU** - "Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord."  
(the particular sanctification or consecration that characterizes Christianity)
    - b. Every area of our life must be conformed to the righteousness of Christ
  2. We need to be continually mindful that our example is a powerful testimony of the grace of God  
**1 Peter 3:1-2 NAU** - "In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, <sup>2</sup> as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior."  
**1 Peter 2:12 NAU** - "Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation."

### III. My purpose

- A. Paul's purpose was to honor God
1. He felt a compulsion to proclaim the gospel  
**1 Corinthians 9:16-17 NAU** - "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. <sup>17</sup> For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me."
  2. Paul demonstrated this mission everywhere he went
  3. This was his course – his purpose – his high motive  
In **Chapter 4:7** he tells Timothy that he had stayed on course
  4. We must stay on course.
    - a. We must determine our purpose and continue on it
    - b. In everything we do (particularly as a church) we must ask ourselves, "What is the purpose?"
- B. What is your divine calling? What is your purpose in life?
1. Our chief purpose is to bring glory to God  
**1 Corinthians 10:31 NAU** - "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."
  2. Is your life consistent with the Bible?  
Is your greatest desire to honor and please God?  
Is everything in your life directed towards Kingdom work?  
(your daily work, your finances, your lifestyle, your desires)
  3. Again, Paul's word to Timothy, and to us, is  
**2 Timothy 3:14 NAU** - "You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,"

#### IV. My faith

- A. The word πίστις has several different uses in the NT.
1. It can carry the sense of the basic content of the Christian message  
**Jude 1:3 NAU** - "Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints."
  2. It can refer to conversion where a man receives the knowledge of the gospel of Christ, believes it, and commits his life to it. We are justified by faith.  
**Ephesians 2:8 NAU** - "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God;*"
  3. It can carry the meaning of faithfulness or fidelity - the sense of being true, trustworthy, and reliable, both in our dealings with others and in our relationship to Christ.  
**2 Timothy 2:2 NAU** - "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."
- B. By faith here we are to understand the ongoing life of trust that is the fruit of saving faith. This is the quality of life that leads to faithfulness.
1. Our Christian life is a journey, a process in which our faith will be tried and tested. How we end is of the greater importance.  
**1 Peter 1:6-7 NAU** - "In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;"
  2. Many who profess to have saving faith do not possess it at all. As Paul said in **Verse 5**, they only hold to a form of godliness.
- C. This aspect of our faith grows and matures
- 2 Thessalonians 1:3 NAU** - "We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is *only* fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows *ever* greater;"
1. The Bible mentions those who were strong in faith – in their absolute confidence in God that was demonstrated in every aspect of their lives. Stephen, one of the first deacons demonstrated this faith.  
**Acts 6:5 NAU** - "The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch."
  2. It is this great faith that enables us to fight off the attacks of Satan  
**1 Peter 5:8-9 NAU** - "Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world."

**Ephesians 6:16 NAU** - "in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*."

- D. It is this faith that must be demonstrated to others  
**Hebrews 13:7 NAU** - "Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith."  
 1. We must demonstrate this faith to others. No matter what we face we remain steadfast in our confidence in Christ  
 2. Genuine faith will always result in faithfulness

V. My patience

This word describes the quality of forbearance, tolerance, the ability to wait without agitation, the ability to exercise self-control

- A. This is the quality of a person that is able to put up with others even when their actions make it most difficult  
 1. This does not come naturally to men  
 a. Stephen Charnock – "Men that are great in the world are quick in passion, and are not so ready to forgive an injury"  
 b. Patience demands the powerful inner working of the Holy Spirit. This is the word Paul uses in his description of the fruit of the Spirit in **Gal. 5:22**  
 2. It is most often the lack of this quality that causes us to respond towards others in anger  
 This the quality of life that allows us to overlook the faults of others – their imperfections, the things that aggravate us
- B. This is also the quality of life that allows us to "wait" upon God for those things we think we deserve now  
 1. Sanctification demands must patience – we all want to be holy now. Pastors must manifest patience – sheep often need continual leading.  
**2 Timothy 4:2 NAU** - "preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."  
 2. Evangelism demands much patience – we want to see people respond instantly – sometimes it demands much labor.  
 3. We want to see our church grow "now."  
 4. We often want to be healed from an infirmity "now."  
 5. We often want to be delivered from a trial or adversity "now."  
 We must receive it and continue in patience.
- C. Paul considers this one of the great things that must be demonstrated to others. Are you patient or impatient.

VI. My love -

- A. With love we find our highest duty  
 1. Love is the very foundation of Christian character  
 We are rooted and grounded in love  
 The fruit of the Spirit is love  
 Christians are to walk in love  
 Our hearts are knit together in love  
 We are made perfect in love

2. This ἀγάπη is only possible for one who has been transformed by the regenerating grace of God.
    - a. The lost man can have emotional feelings but not agape love. Everyone on this earth is motivated by some type of love. Some love money, honor & prestige, pleasures – They love the world.
    - b. Ultimately, the lost man can only ultimately love himself –  
**See verse 2**
  3. This love is NOT just an emotional feeling though it stirs our heart. This love is a volitional, willful action – a purposeful, unselfish service to others
  5. This ἀγάπη love has two objects – God supremely and our fellow man
- B. We must demonstrate our love to others always mindful of our example
1. This is the highest Christian virtue
    - a. Do you have faith  
Paul said, "though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing."
    - b. Have you done many acts of mercy? And have you sacrificed much?  
Paul said, "And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing."
    - c. Do you have great patience?  
Paul said, "Love is patient"
    - d. Do you consider yourself to be humble  
Paul said, "love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud."
  2. Jesus said that it is this virtue that shows others the reality of God's grace in us.  
**John 13:35 NAU** - "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

#### Conclusion:

1. To these Paul adds perseverance even in persecution and suffering. We'll look at this next time.
2. At the beginning of this chapter Paul described in great detail the characteristics of counterfeit Christians. Unfortunately, throughout history these people have sought to change the standard of Christianity. Paul says, "NO! This is not the way. Look at my example."  
"Look at my doctrine, my conduct of life, my purpose, my faith, patience, and love."
  - a. "Look at how I have not wavered in my trust in our Great God. Look at how I have faithfully continued in my Christian duty."
  - b. "Look at how I have continued to labor with great patience, patiently forbearing with those who are less mature and patiently waiting upon God in the great work of the Gospel."
  - c. "Look at how I have pressed on in love. How I have demonstrated my great love for our Lord and my love for His people."
3. May God grant us such a life that others can imitate us. That others might see us as living examples of godliness.