

“But As For You”
II Timothy 3:1-17
2PC Summer Amen
June 26, 2020

I. The world _____ the gospel (1-9)

A. The world is _____ (1-5)

- 1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.
2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,
3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,
4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

B. _____ teachers _____ (6-9)

- 6 For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions,
7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.
8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.
9 But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

Note the corrupt character of false teachers in vv. 6–9 and the theme throughout these letters of the deceptive nature of these teachers (1 Tim. 2:14; 4:1–2; 2 Tim. 3:13).

II. You are _____ (10-17)

- 10 You, however,.... 14 But as for you,....

cf. 2:1; 3:14; 4:5

A. You have _____ (10)

10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness,...

Note here Paul as

_____ [vv. 10–11; cf. 1:8, 11–12, 13; 2:9–10]

B. You have _____ (11-13)

11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra- which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Cf. Acts 13; 14

Jesus himself called for such discipleship (Mark 8:34; Matt. 5:11–12), as did Paul (1 Thess. 3:4; 2 Cor. 12:9–10; Rom. 8:17; Phil. 1:29).

C. You have _____ (14,15)

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it

15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The call to suffering [vv. 11–12; cf. 1:8, 16; 2:3–6, 11–12]

John Calvin:

“Those whom the Lord has chosen and honoured with his intercourse must prepare for a hard, laborious, troubled life, a life full of many and various kinds of evils: it being the will of our heavenly Father to exercise his people in this way while putting them to the proof. Having begun this course with Christ the first-born, he continues it towards all his children. For though that Son was dear to him above others, the Son in whom he was “well pleased,” yet we see, that far from being treated gently and indulgently, we may say, that not only was he subjected to a perpetual cross while he dwelt on earth, but his whole life was nothing else than a kind of perpetual cross. The Apostle assigns the reason, “Though he was a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered” (Heb. v. 8). Why then should we exempt ourselves from that condition to which Christ our Head behaved to submit; especially since he submitted on our account, that he might in his own person exhibit a model of patience? Wherefore, the Apostle declares, that all the children of God are destined to be conformed to him. Hence it affords us great consolation in hard and difficult circumstances, which men deem evil and adverse, to think that we are holding fellowship with the sufferings of Christ; that as he passed to celestial glory through a labyrinth of many woes, so we too are conducted thither through various tribulations. For, in another passage, Paul himself thus speaks, “we must through much tribulation enter the kingdom of God” (Acts xiv. 22); and again, “that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death” (Rom. viii. 29). How powerfully should it soften the bitterness of the cross, to think that the more we are afflicted with adversity, the surer we are made of our fellowship with Christ; by communion with whom our sufferings are not only blessed to us, but tend greatly to the furtherance of our salvation.” (Institutes, III, 8)

D. You have _____ (16,17)

1. The _____ of the Scriptures (16a)

16a All Scripture is breathed out by God...

theopneustos

John Calvin: "We owe to Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God, because it has proceeded from Him alone."

BB Warfield cites Augustine: "What Scripture says, God says" See Mt. 19:4-6

2. The _____ of the Scriptures (16b)

16b ...and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

Makes us wise unto salvation

- * teaching
- * reproof
- * correction
- * training in righteousness

John Calvin:

"Doctrine is not an affair of the tongue, but of the life; is not apprehended by the intellect and memory merely, like other branches of learning; but is received only when it possesses the whole soul, and finds its seat and habitation in the inmost recesses of the heart."
(Institutes III,6)

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. - Joshua 1:8

17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. - Matthew 5:17-20

Luther at the end of his life: "I simply taught, preached, wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing...I did nothing; the Word did it all...I did nothing; I left it to the Word."

John Wesley: "I want to know one thing: the way to heaven, how to land safe on that happy shore. God has condescended to teach the way; for this very end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. O give me that book! At any price give me the book of God! I have it: here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be *homo unius libri*."

3. The _____ of the Scriptures (17)

17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Scripture is meant to lead to righteousness

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. - James 1:22

1 John 3:16-18:

16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

17 But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Discussion Questions

1. In verses 2-4, which descriptions sound most like the world we're living in? How does this affect you?
2. What are the most common false teachings you hear today? Why are they attractive to so many people?
3. Who are the mentors who have most powerfully shaped your Christian life? What have you learned from them?
4. How can we be most effective as mentors to others?
5. Describe what role the Scriptures should play in our lives.