PERSECUTED FOR BEING GODLY

2 Timothy 3:12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

Review

2 Timothy 3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

2 Timothy 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.

2 Timothy 3: But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

You Know Me

2 Timothy 3:10 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,

“Know all about.” Luke 1:3a “With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning,”

Acts 16:1 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek.

“My teaching, my way of life.” Timothy was very familiar with what Paul taught and with what his belief in his teaching produced in his life.

“My purpose, faith.” You could paraphrase the first part of the verse this way: “You know what I believe and teach and how it leads me to live the way I do and what motivates me to live the way I do.”

“Patience” is *“makrothumia”* in Greek. Vine’s note about this word is interesting: “(It) is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger, and is associated with mercy…”

“(Endurance) is the quality that does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial; it is the opposite of despondency and is associated with hope.”

Between patience and endurance, Paul puts the word love, *“agape.”* The commitment to do for others what is in their best interest even if it costs you. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,” John 3:16a

Persecutions, Sufferings

2 Timothy 3:11(You know all about my) persecutions, 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.

Acts 13:50&51 But the Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women of high-standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. So they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium.

Acts 14:4-7 The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles. There was a plot afoot among both Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them. But they found about it and fled to the Lyconian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, where they continued to preach the gospel.

Acts 14:19&20 Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

“Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.” We might not think of a failed stoning as being rescued, but Paul apparently did.

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John 15:18-20 “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater that his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.”

John 15:21&22 “They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have not excuse for their sin.

I Peter 4:12&13 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

I Peter 4:14-16 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

Matthew 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.”

Deceivers Who Are Deceived

2 Timothy 3:13 while evildoers and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

“Evildoers” is literally evil people. “Evil” is *“poneros,”* the word used to describe Satan as the “evil one” in I John 2:13&14

“Imposters” are simply people who pretend to be something they are not.

Unless there is a significant work of God, the evildoers and imposters will just get worse and worse.

The “evildoers and imposters” deliberately deceive others but are themselves totally deceived.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

Things to Remember

Paul reminds Timothy of what he had already thoroughly investigated, his beliefs and teaching, the way of life that flowed from that and why he lived the way he did, and also his commitment to patiently endure persecution and suffering so that others could know God.

He reminds Timothy of what happened to him in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra.

And then tells Timothy that these experiences are normal for those who want to be godly.

Being godly will get more difficult as evil people and imposters go from bad to worse. These people are deceived because they choose evil and they choose to deceive others.