

THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

God's Vision for the Church as His Faithful Family

Week 12: Fidelity Anchored in Scripture

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR

**BEFORE THE
READING OF
SCRIPTURE**

FIDELITY ANCHORED IN SCRIPTURE

Outline

- God's Fidelity to St. Paul (2 Tim 3.10–13)
- God's Fidelity to Timothy (2 Tim 3.14–15)
- The Church's Fidelity Anchored in Scripture (2 Tim 3.15–17)

GOD'S FIDELITY TO ST. PAUL

- **What does it mean to Follow?**
- **God's Fidelity in Rescuing St. Paul?**
- **General Principles Drawn from St. Paul's Experience**

GOD'S FIDELITY
TO ST. PAUL

What does it mean to follow?

God's Fidelity in Rescuing St. Paul

General Principles Drawn from
Experience

2 Timothy 3.10-13

You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 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. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

GOD'S FIDELITY
TO ST. PAUL

> **What Does it Mean to Follow?**

God's Fidelity in Rescuing St. Paul

General Principles Drawn from
Experience

What does it mean to “Follow”

- Follow – Conforming to someone's belief or practice by paying special attention; follow faithfully.
- The Positive Examples from St. Paul's life:
 - “my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, [and] my steadfastness.”
- The Negative Examples from St. Paul's life:
 - “my persecutions and sufferings that happened at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra.”

GOD'S FIDELITY
TO ST. PAUL

What Does it Mean to Follow?

> **God's Fidelity in Rescuing St. Paul**

General Principles Drawn from
Experience

God's Fidelity to St Paul

[These] Persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

GOD'S FIDELITY
TO ST. PAUL

What Does it Mean to Follow?

God's Fidelity in Rescuing St. Paul

> **General Principles Drawn
from Experience**

Two Principles

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

“Here [Paul] calls afflictions and sorrows ‘persecutions’ for it is not possible that a man pursuing the course of virtue should not be exposed to grief, tribulation, and temptations. For how can he escape it who is treading in the straight and narrow way, and who has heard that ‘in this life ye should have tribulation?’ If Job in his time said, ‘The life of man upon the earth is a state of trial’ how much more was it so in [Paul’s days]?” – St. John Chrysostom

GOD'S FIDELITY TO TIMOTHY

- **Continue in What You Have Learned and Believed**
- **Faithful Families**
- **Sacred Scripture**

GOD'S FIDELITY
TO TIMOTHY

Continue in What You Have Learned
and Believed

Faithful Families

Sacred Scripture

2 Timothy 3.14–15

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

GOD'S FIDELITY
TO TIMOTHY

> **Continue in What You Have
Learned and Believed**

Faithful Families

Sacred Scripture

Continue, Remain, Abide

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed.

- Boomers – (Not the generation!) – “those who pillage and run...who want to make a killing and end up on easy street”
- Stickers – “those who settle, and love the life they have made and the place they have made it in”
- “The boomer is motivated by greed, the desire for money, property, and therefore power... Stickers, on the contrary, are motivated by affection, by such love for a place and its life that they want to preserve it and live in it.” – Wendell Berry

GOD'S FIDELITY
TO TIMOTHY

Continue in What You Have Learned
and Believed

> **Faithful Families**

Sacred Scripture

Two Faithful Families

- Timothy's earthly family, Lois and Eunice
 - *I long to see you, Paul wrote, so that my joy may be made full, as I recall your tears and am reminded of your sincere faith. This faith dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and mother Eunice, and now, I am convinced, lives in you also (1.4–5)*
 - *Knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings. (3.14)*
- God's family, St. Paul
 - *Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me (1.13)*
 - *What you have heard from me...entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well (2.2)*
 - *You have followed my teaching and my conduct (3.10)*

GOD'S FIDELITY
TO TIMOTHY

Continue in What You Have Learned
and Believed

Faithful Families

> **Sacred Scripture**

2 Timothy 3.15

... and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

THE CHURCH'S FIDELITY ANCHORED IN SCRIPTURE

- **The Origin & Authority of Scripture**
- **The Purpose of Scripture in Ministry**
- **The Results**

THE CHURCH'S FIDELITY
ANCHORED IN SCRIPTURE

The Origin & Authority of Scripture

The Purpose of Scripture in Ministry

The Result

2 Timothy 3.15–17

From childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

THE CHURCH'S FIDELITY
ANCHORED IN SCRIPTURE

> **The Origin & Authority of
Scripture**

The Purpose of Scripture in Ministry

The Result

Scripture is God's Word

All scripture is inspired by God...

- “inspired by God” – *theopneustos*
 - *Theos* – God
 - *Pneustos* – breathe-out
- “In the name of the Holy Scripture we do understand those canonical books of the Old and New Testament, of whose authority was never any doubt in the church.” – Article VI

THE CHURCH'S FIDELITY
ANCHORED IN SCRIPTURE

The Origin & Authority of Scripture

> **The Purpose of Scripture in
Ministry**

The Result

Scripture is God's Word

and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...

- Sound doctrine:
 - Positive: for teaching
 - Negative: for reproof
- Sound behavior:
 - Negative: for correction
 - Positive: for training in righteousness

THE CHURCH'S FIDELITY
ANCHORED IN SCRIPTURE

The Origin & Authority of Scripture

The Purpose of Scripture in Ministry

> **The Result**

The Result

So that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

TODAY'S SOURCES

- Augustine, *on Christian Doctrine*.
- BDAG, s.v. ἔσχατος.
- BDAG, s.v. Τέλος.
- Gordon Fee, *1–2 Timothy, Titus*. Good News Commentary.
- Kent E. Bower, “Eschatology,” *The Reader Must Understand: Eschatology in Bible and Theology*.
- William D. Mounce, *Pastoral Epistles*. Vol. 46 in Word Biblical Commentary.