

## Lesson 11 – THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

## 2 Timothy 3:10-17

**(3:10-11)** – Paul distinguishes himself from false preachers in several ways. **“But thou hast fully known my doctrine”** – This is where we must begin in making our calling and election sure. Do we believe God’s Gospel? Do we abide in the doctrine of Christ? Just as the false teachers evidence the state of their hearts by their false doctrine, Paul evidenced the state of His heart under God’s grace by the truth of the Gospel he preached. **“Manner of life”** – Paul’s dedicated himself to the ministry of the Gospel for the glory of God and the salvation and edification of Christ’s sheep. **“Purpose”** – To glorify God in the preaching of the Gospel. **“Faith”** – Faithfulness to continue in the ministry in opposition to the world and its persecutions. **“Longsuffering”** – Persistence in suffering much from the unbelievers, and the heartaches that sometimes came from believers. **“Charity”** – love Godly love is one of the main evidences of salvation as it regards first and foremost the honor of God’s redemptive glory in Christ. **“Patience”** – Endurance in the faith and his resignation to God’s will in things of providence. **“Persecutions and afflictions”** he had endured over his testimony of the Gospel. Paul states that he had **“endured”** these afflictions, but it was **“the Lord”** who **“delivered”** and preserved him.

**(3:12)** – **“All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”** due to our identification with Christ, following Him in the truth of God’s grace, against the hatred of the world (*John 3:19-20; 15:18–16:3; Rom. 8:15-17; Heb. 13:12-13*). Unbelievers despise the message of the cross as it offends their pride and self-righteousness and exposes their false refuges (*Gal. 5:11*). It leaves sinners with no hope of salvation, righteousness, and eternal life but Christ, His blood and righteousness alone. To **“live godly”** is to live by faith in Christ, serving and worshipping Him. The **“persecution”** we all suffer for Christ may not be in the same form or degree for all, but it is common to all believers in some form and degree. This is the persecution our Lord taught as part of our blessedness in Him (*Matt. 5:10-12*). We are to rejoice not in the persecution and suffering themselves, but in the grace of God that saved us and brought us to Christ.

**(3:13)** – **“Evil men and seducers”** are false professors who claim to be Christian but who refuse to abide in the Gospel and suffer persecution for Christ’s sake. They will avoid it to win the approval and praise of men (*John 12:42-43*). They will grow **“worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”** They willingly compromise the Gospel of God’s grace by speaking peace to and having fellowship with others who deny the doctrine of Christ. Their seduction comes in the form of love and holiness as they preach in the name of love and holiness which is actually legalism and works religion that denies Christ and His righteousness as the only ground of a sinner’s salvation.

**(3:14)** – Paul exhorts Timothy to **“continue in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of”** amidst all persecution and suffering through which he would go. We know that we are not only saved by the grace of God in Christ but we are also kept by the grace of God in Christ (*Php. 1:6; 2:12-13; Jude 24-25; Heb. 13:20-21*). Our continuation in grace and in the boldness of faith that enables us to stand firm against opposition is of God’s grace and power, not our own. Yet, we must be encouraged in these areas of perseverance in the faith. The key is **“knowing of Whom thou hast learned them.”** Timothy, like all true believers, had been taught of God and convinced of the truth as it is in Christ by the Holy Spirit. Although God uses the

means of preaching by men, it is HIS teaching and convincing that brings us to faith, repentance, and endurance.

**(3:15)** – All of Timothy’s learning and assurance was founded upon God’s Holy Word as recorded in the **“Holy Scriptures.”** If our faith is true, it must be derived from the written Word of God that leads us to Christ for all salvation. *“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,”* (Rom. 10:17), and we know it is God’s Word as we find it in the **“Holy Scriptures.”** Any who claim to have authority from God and preach truth but do not support their authority and preaching with the **“Holy Scriptures”** are liars and charlatans – *“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them”* (Isa 8:20).

**“Which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”** – Man by nature has no knowledge of or wisdom in salvation (1 Cor. 2:14). It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit through the preaching of God’s Word revealed in the **“Holy Scriptures”** that sinners are made **“wise unto salvation.”** It is through the preaching and teaching of the Word that we receive the knowledge of how God saves sinners by His grace through the Lord Jesus Christ. And this is how the Scriptures make us **“wise unto salvation”** – BY LEADING US TO CHRIST FOR ALL SALVATION (Luke 24:27, 44-47; John 5:39-47). It is true that many read the Bible and never become **“wise unto salvation,”** because they never see the glory of Christ and Him crucified as revealed therein. This is why it takes a sovereign, powerful work of the Holy Spirit to give us spiritual eyes, ears, and hearts to see, hear, know, and receive Christ from the **“Holy Scriptures.”**

**(3:16)** – **“All scripture is given by inspiration of God”** – The whole Bible, Old and New Testament, is verbally inspired, inerrant Word of God. It is literally “God-breathed” (2 Pet. 1:19-21). God used men to write the words, but they are HIS words, not man’s, for no man could have conceived of the wisdom that lies within the pages of the Bible. When it comes to salvation and godliness, God’s Word is our one and only authority.

**“And is profitable for doctrine”** – In the Bible we find the doctrine of Christ, the doctrine of grace, that pertains to salvation, godliness, and eternal life. This is **“profitable”** (useful) to make us *“wise unto salvation.”* Man devises his own doctrine and ways, but they are useless and even deadly to our souls. The Word, or **“doctrine,”** found in the Bible is life to a believer (John 6:63). **“For reproof,”** (refuting error and convincing us of truth); **“for correction,”** (setting things right and guiding us in the right way); **“for instruction in righteousness:”** (teaching the way of righteousness before God in and by Christ and the way to walk by faith in Him).

**(3:17)** – **“The man of God”** is the sinner saved by grace in Christ. This is instruction for every believer, but especially for those who teach the Word of God. **“May be perfect”** (complete, mature, adequate) for every task in the service of Christ and His church. **“Thoroughly furnished unto all good works”** is to be equipped or well-fitted for service to God. The idea here is competence for all works of ministry as we are prepared and equipped by the grace of God through His Word.