

Syllabus

ENCOURAGEMENT IN APOSTASY:

An Exegetical Study of 2 Timothy 3:10-4:8

with Ron Merryman

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Dr. George Meisinger, President

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Dr. Robby Dean, Pastor

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-4:8; ENCOURAGEMENT IN APOSTASY

By Ron Merryman

BACKGROUND (ISOGOGICS)

THE PREDICAMENT OF PAUL FORMS THE BACKGROUND OF THIS EPISTLE.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION.

1. WE ARE IN THE YEAR 66-67 A.D.

2. NERO (rules 54-68 A.D.) NERVOUSLY REIGNS

- JULY, '64, ROME BURNS (TACITUS SAYS NERO DID IT) THEN CHRISTIANS IN ROME BURN (LITERALLY)
- 65-66 A.D. SENATORIAL/MILITARY PLOTS EMERGE AGAINST NERO
- PETER ARRESTED; THEN MARTYRED IN ROME
- 67 A.D. JEWS REVOLT IN JUDEA

3. PAUL'S PREDICAMENT

- **1:15** ARRESTED; HE IS REPUDIATED BY CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN THE PROVINCE OF ASIA (W. TURKEY)
- **4:16** AT HIS FIRST LEGAL APPEAL: BELIEVERS DESERTED HIM
- **2:17-18** HERESY REGARDING BODILY RESURRECTION IS PROGRESSING
- **3:1-8,13** APOSTASY TO WORSEN IN LAST DAYS
- **4:4** MANY PEW SITTERS WILL REJECT DOCTRINE
- **4:6 & 13** PAUL SITTING IN A COLD, DAMP PRISON EXPECTING HIS DEATH SENTENCE, WRITES HIS LAST WORDS TO TIMOTHY, HIS SON IN THE FAITH.

OVERVIEW OF 2TIMOTHY: PAUL TO TIMOTHY

“TIMOTHY: IN THE INTEREST OF THE GOSPEL & SOUND DOCTRINE...”

V.8	“...DO NOT BE ASHAMED OF”	CH.1	“...HOLD ONTO”	V.13
V.3	“..SUFFER HARDSHIPS FOR”	CH.2	“...TEACH, PASS ON”	V.2
V.14	“...ABIDE IN DESPITE APOSTASY”	CH.3	“...BE ASSURED BY”	V.16- 17
V.1	“...I CHARGE YOU...”	CH.4	“...PREACH IT”	V.2

2TIMOTHY 3 & 4 A FAITHFUL MINISTRY IN THE FACE OF APOSTASY

3:1-9 APOSTASY PREDICTED

3:10-17 RESOURCES IN COMBATING APOSTASY

V. 10-13 EXAMPLE OF PAUL (GODLY LEADERS)

V. 14-15 EXAMPLE OF GODLY PARENTS

V. 16-17 THE WORD OF GOD

4:1-8 THE SOLEMN CHARGE: **KEEP PREACHING
THE WORD**

THE APOSTASY IS NOT...

... TO DEFEAT US!
... TO STYMY US!
... TO GET US OFF TRACK!

2TIMOTHY 4:1-2a

^{NKJ} **2 Timothy 4:1** *I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word!*

Literal Translation (mine): I charge* you therefore** before the God and Lord Jesus Christ, the One about to judge living and dead ones both by the appearing of Him and the kingdom of Him; HERALD*** THE (ENSCRIPTED) WORD...

*charge = Pres. T., Indic. M., from **diamartu,romai**

= “a solemn, serious, responsibility” (fixed & enduring)

= as in 1Tim. 5:21 & 2Tim. 2:14

**therefore = relates the charge to the context; “in view of departures from the truth” (APOSTASY)

*** herald = Aorist T., Active V., Imperative M. from khru,ssw

Applicable Truth

- 1. TIMOTHY, YOU ARE UNDER COMMAND, ORDERS. YOU ARE NOT LEFT TO YOUR OWN DEVICES.**
- 2. TIMOTHY: IN THE APOSTASY, THE ISSUE WILL BE THE WORD OF GOD, THE TRUTHES EXPRESSED IN THE ENSCRIPTED WORD!**
- 3. TIMOTHY: YOUR CONCERN IS TO BE WITH THE WHOLE COUNCIL OF GOD, NOT JUST SELECTIVE PORTIONS.**
- 4. PASTOR-TEACHERS: ARE WE IMMUNE FROM THESE CHARGES?**

2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

ENCOURAGEMENT IN COMBATING APOSTASY

I. 3:10-14 THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL

“You have fully known...” = “you have followed closely...”

A. v.10,11 Nine aspects of Paul’s life fully known by Timothy

1. His doctrine (didaskali,a/didaskalia), MATERIAL TAUGHT.
2. His conduct (avgwgh, /agoge), WAY OF LIFE.
3. His purpose, TO FULFILL GOD’S DESIGN FOR HIM.
4. His faith, _____, _____ _____.
5. His longsuffering (makroqumi,a/makrothumia), PATIENCE WITH PEOPLE.
6. His love (avgwgh, /agape), RESPECT-TYPE-LOVE FOR PEOPLE.
7. His patience (u`pomoh, /hupomone),PATIENCE IN _____.
8. His persecutions (diwgmo,j/diogmos) RELENTLESS HARASSMENT.
9. His sufferings RESULT OF PERSECUTIONS: see 2 Cor.11:24

PRINCIPLE: MEN OF GOD WILL INFLUENCE MEN WHO WILL BECOME MEN OF GOD. WHAT MAN OF GOD HAD THIS INFLUENCE IN YOUR LIFE?

B. v.12 THE REALITY OF HOSTILITY

C. v.13 THE PERPETRATORS OF EVIL (THE APOSTASY WILL WORSEN). HOW WILL YOU HANDLE IT?

II. 3:14,15 THE EXAMPLE OF GODLY PARENTS (TIMOTHY'S HERITAGE)

A. v.14 THE CHARGE: “_____ in your _____ orientation.”

Encouragement to be comfortable, at home with what he knew.

B. v.15 THE FACT OF TIMOTHY'S BIBLICAL HERITAGE

- “from a child” = brefoj /brephos = a _____, a _____!
- “the holy scriptures” – words reserved by Jews and Christians for the _____.

**WHAT TEXT? WHAT VERSION? ORIGINAL
AUTAGRAHA?**

- “which are able to _____ _____ _____ to salvation by faith alone in Christ alone.”
- **APPLICATION: THE O. T. ITSELF COULD LEAD SOMEONE TO CHRIST.**

HAVE YOU HAD THE INFLUENCE OF GODLY PARENTS IN YOUR LIFE?

III. 3:16,17 THE VERY WORD OF GOD (the ultimate weapon against apostasy)

The third resource-encouragement for Timothy in the face of apostasy by evil men is the veracity, integrity, and capability of God's Word.

A. v.16a The Source and Integrity of Scripture

“ALL SCRIPTURE (IS) GOD-BREATHED...”
Pa/sa grafh. Qeo,pneustoj

Plenary Verbal Inspiration (better “expiration”)

MEANING:

- Scripture is _____ and _____ inspired.
- Scriptural integrity is _____.
- Scripture is _____ (worthy of your _____).
- Scripture is functional (not theoretical).

Applicable doctrine in context:

1. THIS CLAUSE AFFIRMS THE INTEGRITY OF THE ENSCRIPTED WORD OF GOD.
2. IT WILL BE THE VERY ENSCRIPTED WORD OF GOD THAT WILL BE UNDER ATTACK IN THE APOSTASY.
3. THE MAN OF GOD IS TO HERALD THE WORD REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCE. THE EMPHASIS OF OUR MINISTRY IS THE OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE OF THE BASIS OF OUR CONFIDENCE, OUR FAITH. IS THE WORD OF GOD THE OBJECT OF OUR CONFIDENCE?

2 Timothy 3:16

^{NKJ} All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God,

pa/sa grafh. qeo,pneustoj

and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...

B. v.16b The Function of Scripture

Profitable (beneficial, indispensable) for:

1. doctrine (didaskalia) - _____.
2. reproof (elegmos) _____ (of _____/_____).
3. correction (epanorthosis) - _____ (to right).
4. instruction (paideia) - training in _____.

C. v.17 The Purpose and Sufficiency of Scripture

- “that God’s man (anthropos) might be _____, meaning _____.”
- “toward every good work _____.”

MEANING IN CONTEXT:

1. The Scripture is the indispensable necessity in fighting apostasy.
2. Men of God are critical to combating apostasy.
3. Men of God are _____ through the Word of God.

ISSUE: HOW CAN ONE BE A MAN/WOMAN OF GOD WITHOUT THE WORD OF GOD? IMPOSSIBLE!

IV. 4:1-8 PAUL'S FINAL CHARGE

9 IMPERATIVES FOLLOW PAUL'S SOLEMN CHARGE IN 4:1

A. 4:1 THE SOLEMN CHARGE

B. 4:2 & 5 NINE IMPERATIVES (ALL AORIST TENSES)

v.2	{	1. HERALD THE WORD 2. STAND READY 3. REFUTE (REPROVE) 4. REBUKE (CENSURE) 5. EXHORT	}	How: with all longsuffering & doctrine
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v.5	{	6. BE SOBER (WATCHFUL) 7. SUFFER HARDSHIPS 8. EVANGELIZE 9. CARRY OUT YOUR MINISTRY	}	
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C. 4:3-4 THE DEFECTION OF SOME PEW-SITTERS

D. 4:6-8 THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL

CONCLUSION: In the apostasy, the written Word of God will be the focus of attack. Teachers of God's Word will be tempted to use gimmicks, to revert to psychological appeals, to use superficial means in order to attract hearers. Paul reminds us that it is only the Word of God that can accomplish the will of God.