



## THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A BORN AGAIN BELIEVER – PART ONE

### A PROFITABLE PATTERN TO PURSUE – 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-13

After spelling out the character traits of the last days in verses 1-9, Paul writes Timothy about the type of person he was, by contrast. This was not to boast, but to \_\_\_\_\_ the young pastor to persevere. Remember, these are the apostle's last recorded words before he is executed; he knows his disciple may face the same trouble someday. The truths contained here are timeless and become a \_\_\_\_\_, not only to Timothy, but to us in these perilous times.

1. Patterns for us to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The Apostle Paul – 1 Ti. 1:16; 1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 2 Thess. 3:9
  
  - b. Other faithful believers – Acts 20:35; 1 Ti. 4:12; 1 Thess. 1:6-7; Titus 2:7; 1 Peter 5:3
  
2. A profitable \_\_\_\_\_ to pursue *when times are perilous* – 2 Timothy 3:10-13
  - a. Characteristics of a fruitful believer – verses 10-12
    - Be an open book – verse 10a; Acts 26:4
      - Be the same wherever you go – not two-faced, one way here, another way there
      - No facades, no pretenses – be the person God made you to be
      - Be consistently \_\_\_\_\_ and open with people
      - Think through the choices you make – take them to a logical conclusion whenever possible
  
    - Adhere to sound \_\_\_\_\_ – verse 10b
      - Salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone, plus nothing, minus nothing – Ro. 2:16; 16:25; Gal. 1; 1 Cor. 15; 2 Ti. 2:8
      - Assurance of salvation, eternal security, one body in Christ, Christ in us, the rapture and second coming, the deity of Christ, the restoration of the nation of Israel, the devil and his end-times religion, spiritual circumcision, liberty in Christ, etc.
  
    - Practice what you preach – verse 10c
      - Manner of life:
        - Have a soft and sensitive \_\_\_\_\_ toward wrong and right – Acts 23:1; Ro. 9:1
        - Work diligently, over and above what is required – 1 Cor. 15:58
        - Labor and live life with the motive to please God – 1 Thess. 4:1
        - Pray more often, maintain your *personal* relationship with God – 1 Thess. 5:17

- Remember your purpose: to bring \_\_\_\_\_ to God – verse 10d; Ro. 15:5-9; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 10:31; Eph. 3:21; Rev. 4:11

Ways and means to glorify God:

Faith – *believe* what the Bible says and *act* upon it

Longsuffering – to endure or bear personal injury and insult *without provocation*

Charity – to give of your time, talents, and treasures out of *love*, expecting nothing in return

Patience – persevere, wait long for justice or expected good *without discontent*

- Be willing to endure \_\_\_\_\_ for the testimony of Jesus and the word of God – verses 11-12; Rev. 1:9

Persecutions – *unjustly* experiencing pain, punishment, or death, the vengeful acts of another upon you

Afflictions – sickness, poor health, loss, grief, sorrow, adversity, heartbreak, humiliation, mockery

b. Characteristics of evil men and seducers – verse 13

- They shall wax worse and worse
- They deceive others
- They are deceived themselves

They need eyesalve to see clearly

Conclusion: The world needs a profitable pattern to \_\_\_\_\_

While the evil world system and its adherents wax worse and worse, we must seek to become more and more faithful, more holy, and more like Jesus Christ. This is our \_\_\_\_\_ against all the evil we see in the world – 2 Cor. 10:6

Will you be that pattern?

NEXT SUNDAY: The characteristics of a born again believer – part two – 2 Timothy 3:14-17