

Sermon Title: The Attributes of Defending Against Apostasy Part III

Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 3:10-13

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to defend against apostasy in an individual, home, and the church.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 attributes that help people to become defenders of the faith.

I. The character development of a defender of the faith. V.10

A. The development of a spiritual discipleship relationship. V.10a

Timothy had a tremendous spiritual example to follow. If you are going to be a strong defender of the faith, then you need to learn from and follow a strong defender of the faith. You need to find someone to pattern your life after. The people and pattern you follow will mark you for life. We all are copying, mimics, and imitators of someone, and who you follow and pattern your life after is going to determine who you turn out to be. These mentors will in a large part mark you with their convictions, perceptions, and perspectives.

The phrase “But you” is in the emphatic position in the Greek language. It is in contrast to all the false teachers, charlatans, and wicked seducers. Timothy had a different pattern to follow, he received very distinct training.

The word “followed” is not a simple word, it is pregnant with meaning (parakolouthen) literally means to follow alongside. But if we examine its use in ancient times it opens up to new insights. For example, the stoic philosopher used the word as a technical term for the relationship between a disciple and his master, a student and his teacher, a very close relationship was expressed in this term.

You followed not from a far, not at a distance, but you followed in an intimate relationship as a master and a disciple are connected. Some translated to mean “to study at close quarters,” or “to carefully note with a view to reproducing,” or “to take us an example.” Here’s the idea brother and sister “But you carefully noted my life with a view to reproducing it.” You Timothy began to think like I think, talk like I talk, walk like I walk, react like I react. You pattern your life after me.

1 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

The word my is a possessive pronoun and should be read before each one of the following character traits.

B. The character development of ministry responsibilities. V.10b

1) followed my teaching – didaskalia – means doctrine, teaching, divine truth, instruction in God’s revelation. The Apostles doctrine (**Acts 2:41** *Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*) is what Timothy followed Paul in, and taught the same message.

2) followed my conduct – (agoge) – means pattern of behavior or manner of life style. It has to do with the idea of daily living. Paul’s doctrine was in perfect harmony with his daily living. When you live what you teach and preach you have a powerful influence on people’s lives.

C. The character development of motivational qualities. V.10c

1) followed my purpose – this has to do with motive, which deals with what’s in one’s heart. The driving passion of a person’s heart. (**Acts 20**)

1 Corinthians 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! **17** For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. **18** What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.

1 Corinthians 4:3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.

Paul had a deep seated motivation to spend his entire life proclaiming God’s truth without compromise. He was a single-minded soldier, in his commitment. It is the driving force from within that creates a life of truth and duty.

- 2) followed my faith – could mean faith in God or faithfulness or trustworthiness.
Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
1 Timothy 2:15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.
1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
 Paul may be saying that Timothy has followed his pattern of faith in God, as well as trust in God. It can also refer to trusting in God's faithfulness, loyalty, in helping us to protect the truth and to protect the purity of the church. Faith in God produces faithfulness to God.
- 3) followed my longsuffering in patience – markrothiemia – this is the spirit that endures persecution from people. The steadfast spirit that never gives up and never gives in. It means patience with people who are persecuting you.
- 4) followed my enduring love – this is the love that loves God through it all. This is enduring love for the church, to the point of dieing if necessary. You learned to love the lost, and your enemies who persecuted you. This is a love that is volitional from the will and the Spirit.

II. The commitment development of a defender of the faith. V.11-12

- 1) followed my perseverance – hupomone – means patience with circumstances that demonstrated his true character (spiritual character) times in jail, thorns in the flesh, rejection, etc. These various situations and circumstances were given to keep him humble and dependent upon God. In his humility God gives strength. It means we must remain under our circumstances without compromising. Timothy learned and illustrated the ability to endure negative circumstance.
1 Timothy 4:6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.
- 2) followed my persecutions – diogmos from dioko – means to pursue, persecution is defined here as pursuit, for the purpose of incarceration, or to kill. The plots against Paul's life.
(Acts 17:13-14; 8:1-4)
- 3) followed my afflictions – The word here in its root is the idea of pathos, meaning suffering, sorrow. He suffered in his own body. Paul said, "I bear in my body the marks of Christ."
(2 Cor. 11:3 ff)
2 Corinthians 1:6 Now if we are afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation.

The 3 cities were in the province of Galatia and that was Timothy's home province. Lyster was Timothy's home town, this area is the first place where there is recorded hostility against Paul. **(Acts 13 & 14)** On his 1st missionary journey Paul faced afflictions. **(Acts 13:14ff, verse 42ff, 50; Chp. 14:1, 5, 8)**

Paul doesn't link up with Timothy until Chapter 16. Timothy's first impression of Paul was a man of tremendous courage, commitment, and character, one who would give his life in the proclamation of the Gospel truth and the purity of the church. Paul saw persecution as a way of life. It was promised to him. It is a part of life for a "Defender of the Faith." **(Acts 9:10-16)**
Matthew 5:11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **12** "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

But out of all of his persecution, afflictions in various places God was faithful, "to drag to rescue" all the faithful defenders of the faith. All who are faithful should anticipate difficult experiences and circumstances, but know God's rescue is at hand.

The question is, how do we know if we've been faithful? V.12 answers that question. There are 2 major qualifiers for deliverance in the midst of persecution and afflictions. The 1st

qualifier is “a desire to live godly.” If you desire to live godly or “who desire” a participle that means the willing ones, the one’s willing to live godly, not that we’re perfect, but our desire or meticulous passion is living godly. The 2nd qualifier is, that it must be in Christ Jesus.

The Bible gives at least 4 reasons why those who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

- 1) They shall suffer persecution because they are not of this world. **(John 15:19)**
- 2) They shall suffer persecution because believers strip away the world’s cloak of sin. **(John 15:18, 22; Phil. 1:29)**
- 3) They shall suffer persecution because the world does not know God nor Christ. **(John 15:20-21; 16:3; 1 John 3:13)**
- 4) They shall suffer persecution because the world is deceived in its concept and belief of God. **(John 16:23)**

III. The concern development of a defender of the faith. V.13

- 1) The concern about evil men – poneros – its used of Satan in **(Matthew 13:19** *"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.)* they are malicious and wicked as he is. V.13a
- 2) The concern about imposters – translated many ways in the Greek as diviners, wizards, magicians, sorcerers, cheaters. It refers to the crafty trickery, of deceitful people like Jannes and Jambres in v.8 for they tried to lead the people in rebellion against God and Moses. V.13b
- 3) The concern about decay. V.13c