



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## NINE DISTINCTIVE MARKS OF A BELIEVER: PART 1 - 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-11

COLORADO

MARCH 29, 2016

Dan File, P.O. Box 1088, Lake City, CO 81235-1088/303-345-8830 / [filefamily@centurytel.net](mailto:filefamily@centurytel.net)

*Timothy observed Paul with close and careful interest over many years of association. The knowledge Timothy gained was not theoretical but practical as he saw Paul live out what he believed. Timothy saw Paul happy, sad, worried, and angry. He watched him handle difficult people and difficult situations. He observed Paul study and handle carefully the Word of God. He heard Paul pray. He saw Paul's passion, purpose and mission. He travelled with him on tireless missionary journeys where Paul's devotion to Christ was tested and proved genuine. He saw that Paul never took his calling lightly. He learned from his sermons and studied under his teaching. In fact, Timothy may well have come to Christ while listening to one of those sermons in Asia Minor while Paul was on his first missionary journey. Timothy saw Paul endure great hardship for the gospel and was reminded that he too would have to persevere through trials of all kinds for the sake of proclaiming the gospel. And Timothy saw how Paul's life matched his doctrine, his beliefs.*

### I. NINE MARKS OF A BELIEVER- 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-11

*"(10) But you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, (11) persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; and out of them all the Lord delivered me!" 2 Timothy 3:10-11*

What was it that Timothy followed, observed carefully and took as an example to emulate? It wasn't that Timothy had just fully known Paul or just observed Paul's life, doctrine and conduct; but more that, he had saturated his life not just as a casual observer, but as a dedicated disciple of Paul. Timothy made Paul's teaching his own. Timothy believed it, absorbed it, and lived by it. Yes, he watched Paul's life, but went on to imitate it.<sup>1</sup> Paul praises Timothy as one who had imitated his own virtues. These stand in direct contrast to the apostate leaders in the church. Certainly these are essential qualities so needed by all who possess a genuine faith. We must keep in mind that Paul wasn't boasting about his abilities at all. Rather these virtues were a simple fact demonstrated by character and fruit borne out in his life as a result of the Lord's transforming work. And Paul remained steadfast to these principles through many grievous persecutions. So what was it that Timothy *"followed"*?

#### A. "YOU FOLLOWED MY TEACHING..." - 2 TIMOTHY 3:10

Timothy followed Paul's instruction, his doctrine and this had the foremost influence on his life. Teaching was perhaps Paul's greatest gift and it is this instruction which was the means by which Timothy came to faith. The instruction and understanding of God's Word is fundamental to the life of every believer. It is where we receive wisdom for our journey. By God's Word we are influenced,

energized and refreshed. It is the teaching of Scripture that is *"inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."* (2 Timothy 3:16) In Acts 2:46 we see how the disciples devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching to grow in their understanding of their faith in Jesus Christ. This instruction becomes the foundation for all else. We are benefactors of Paul's doctrinal instruction as well today, for we have the Epistles found in the New Testament of which 2 Timothy is one. Paul's teaching explained his life and his life exemplified his teaching.

#### B. "YOU FOLLOWED MY CONDUCT..." - 2 TIMOTHY 3:10

Paul walked what he talked. Conduct referred to one's whole demeanor and way of life and the guiding principles in Paul's life found expression in his conduct. Paul knew he taught with his words, but also by his conduct. (Acts 20:18-35, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12) There is no better commentary on the inspired Word of God than the consistent conduct of the one who proclaims it.<sup>2</sup> Paul's teaching was supported by his conduct and demonstrated what Scripture and sound doctrine can do in one's life. Paul commends Timothy that this was evident in his life as well. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, does your walk match your talk?

#### C. "YOU FOLLOWED MY PURPOSE..." - 2 TIMOTHY 3:10

Purpose refers to the central mission, the chief aim of one's life. Paul makes his chief ambition, his greatest pursuit clear in 2 Corinthians 5:9, *"Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him."* It was to please God in all he did. His passion in life became the commission given to him by Jesus Christ in Acts 9:15 to take the gospel to the Gentiles and to bear Christ's name before kings. Paul was under compulsion to proclaim the gospel. (1 Corinthians 9:16) This is what motivated Paul and made his life meaningful; a steadfast devotion to the furtherance of the gospel was the driving passion of his heart. And Paul never took this calling lightly. His pursuit was to fulfill the ministry to which he was called by God. (Acts 20:24) Paul continued to discharge his responsibility to proclaim without compromise, the gospel of Jesus Christ and the full counsel of God's Word. That driving force created a life of integrity and faithfulness in professed truth and lived out truth. The single greatest motive for Paul and Timothy was the unreserved passion to fulfill the purpose of their divine calling to the glory of God.<sup>3</sup> What is the passion of your life? Is it to please God above all?

#### D. "YOU FOLLOWED MY FAITH..." - 2 TIMOTHY 3:10

Paul doesn't refer to saving faith here but rather the faith and trust in God and His Word. Paul had a stalwart confidence in God no matter

### BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

# Colorado

## NINE DISTINCTIVE MARKS OF A BELIEVER: PART 1- 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-11

*“(10) But you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, (11) persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; and out of them all the Lord delivered me!”*

what happened in life. He took God at His word and believed God's promises were true. Paul's faith towards God remained the motivating power in his life. And because of this faith, Paul himself was faithful and trustworthy. Do you trust God and believe His promises are true? How can that be a motivating factor in your life?

### E. “YOU FOLLOWED MY PATIENCE...”- 2 TIMOTHY 3:10

Paul's work didn't always receive a kind reception as he dealt with those who opposed his teaching or with erring brethren he had to correct. But Paul possessed a trait that enabled him to persist in his efforts to reach and train others in the gospel of Christ regardless of the hardship that came from people, even aggravating people. That trait was “*patience*”.

---

“*patience*” Greek “*makrothumiai*” meaning to hold out long, longsuffering towards people, even aggravating people.

---

It specifically refers to being patient with people. It means to remain gracious and still labor on no matter the ingratitude, hostility, folly, blindness or rejection of those you interact with, never forgetting your purpose. It's never giving up or giving in. It's more than an attitude but rather a determined way of life. And we must remember this is God's attitude towards us. He is unwavering in His love for us no matter what we do. Thankfully, God is long suffering toward us. This marked Paul's life and Timothy's. Does it mark out yours?

### F. “YOU FOLLOWED MY LOVE...”- 2 TIMOTHY 3:10

This word for love describes a volitional, unselfish, unconditional love towards all. Paul's longsuffering with people reveals his genuine love for them. Paul's love for God and his fellow man stood in stark contrast to the false teachers whose love was only for themselves, money and pleasure. Paul had a love for friend and foe alike. This enabled Paul to share the gospel to many for whom others showed no concern. Love is so crucial that the one who doesn't love isn't a child of God. (1 John 4:7) Jesus prayed on our behalf before going to the cross that the love we were loved with by God, would be the same love we would have in us for the world. (John 17:26) Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:2 to walk in love just as Christ loved us. That's how we are called to live and love. To love others is to forgive them unconditionally and care for them as God forgives and cares for us. That's a tall order on the level of impossible. Only God can enable us to do that. Paul and Timothy's life stand as examples of that love towards others for the sake of the gospel. In 2 Corinthians 12:15 Paul wrote, “*And I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls.*” That's genuine love. Does that kind of love towards God and others stand out in your life? If not, take some time to ask yourself why not.

### G. “YOU FOLLOWED MY PERSEVERANCE”- 2 TIMOTHY 3:10

The Greek word for “*perseverance*” means to remain under the load. It is the patient steadfastness in trying circumstances. The word for patience we looked at earlier referred to longsuffering towards people whereas this characteristic pertains to endurance in trying circumstances. It is this kind of perseverance that enabled Paul to remain firm under the most discouraging and harsh circumstances yet never capitulate to self-pity or despair. Paul was given the grace to bravely endure and not give way under a heavy load of hardship and trials. In fact, he endured endless hardships but he just kept going. One time he was stoned and left for dead. But he eventually got up and went back into that city. He endured for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which was his passion and purpose. This is not a passive endurance but rather a triumphant facing of them so that out of this evil could come good and glory to God and the salvation of many. It describes not the spirit that can merely accept life, but the spirit which takes control of it.<sup>4</sup> This can only be done through the grace given by God.

Paul understood James 4:6, “*For He gives a great grace.*” God will always supply a greater, sustaining grace than the hardship we are asked to endure. Paul knew the truth of Hebrews 4:14-16, “*Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.*” Paul himself would write this in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, “*And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.*”

Paul was patient because his greatest concern was for the souls of all mankind. Having a genuine faith in God with a willing love for all, combined with patience and long suffering towards even the most difficult people together with an endurance to the end...this was the showcase of Paul's life.<sup>5</sup> What's the showcase of your life?

---

<sup>1</sup>Stott, John R.W., *The Message of 2 Timothy*. Inter-Varsity Press: Downers Grove, Illinois, 1973. Pg. 94.

<sup>2</sup>Hiebert, D. Edmond, *Second Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1958. Pg. 92.

<sup>3</sup>MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.129.

<sup>4</sup>Barclay, William, *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 1956, revised 1975 and 2003. Pg.222.

<sup>5</sup>Hughes, R. Kent and Chapell, Bryan, *1 and 2 Timothy and Titus; To Guard the Deposit*. Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois, 2000. Pg. 232.