

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings--what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

This is a reminder

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings-

The best kind of Christianity is not only taught, it is also caught by seeing it lived out in other people.

Here is a contrast to the evil workers in previous verses

The things that marked Paul's life as different to theirs:-

Teaching – matching way of life

Motives –purposeful, trusting in God, loving

Resistance that he met with – varied persecution

On Paul's 1st mission

You, however, know all about sufferings- -what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured.

Trouble at Antioch
Iconium
Lystra

- At Antioch, where Paul was kicked out of the city for preaching the gospel (Acts 13:50).
- At Iconium, where Paul was almost executed by stoning (Acts 14:5).
- At Lystra, where they actually did stone Paul and leave him for dead (Acts 14:19) in Timothy's home town

It goes with the job!

Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

God didn't wave a magic wand but He saw him through them.

God had his purposes for Paul - even then in his last days in prison!

“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.”—Isa. liv. 17.

Notes from C.H. Spurgeon's
daily readings from
'Faith's Cheque book'

THERE is great clatter in the forges and smithies of the enemy. They are making weapons wherewith to smite the saints. They could not even do as much as this if the Lord of saints did not allow them; for he has created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire. But see how busily they labour! How many swords and spears they fashion! It matters nothing, for on the blade of every weapon you may read this inscription: *It shall not prosper.*

But now listen to another noise: it is the strife of tongues. Tongues are more terrible instruments than can be made with hammers and anvils, and the evil which they inflict cuts deeper and spreads wider. What will become of us now? Slander, falsehood, insinuation, ridicule—these are poisoned arrows; how can we meet them? The Lord God promises us that, if we cannot silence them, we shall, at least, escape from being ruined by them. They condemn us for the moment, but we shall condemn them at last, and for ever. The mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped, and their falsehoods shall be turned to the honour of those good men who suffered by them.

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus
will be persecuted,

God's purposes for us:-

Why will followers of Jesus be persecuted?

We are in **Enemy territory** – Satan is called 'the god of this world'

We have to deal with **Sinful humanity**

We come up against **Vested interests**

Remember - the real focus of hostility is the Lord Jesus, whether they realise it or not.

It's a fact of life

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

In our own day, Christians are being persecuted all over the world - in China, in the Muslim world, and in Russia, where a strong anti-missionary law was recently passed. And we can face persecution in a social way today.

1 Peter 4:4 describes the mind-set of many of those who socially persecute Christians: *“They think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.”* Does anyone think you are strange?

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

God is 'allowing' evil to continue and grow

It is the inevitable 'progress' of sin if left to itself

Cf. Psalmist etc Why do the wicked seem to get away with it?

Psalm 73

They won't but God's ways and timing are not ours.

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, **deceiving and being deceived.**

This explains how evil people operate.
They also become victims of their own lies.

But as for you,
continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of

The contrast of Paul and Timothy living in a hostile environment.
Keep going on the right track!

Learned = what he found through study and experience
Convinced = He knows it works because it's true.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it

It started with his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5)

They were dependable sources – you know them.
They were people of integrity, faith and grace

and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures,

He was taught the scriptures as a very young child by his Jewish grandmother and mother.

Eg. The stories, the precepts, the praises

It was a requirement of the Rabbis that a child should begin to learn the Law by heart when five years old.

... you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Why are the writings (scriptures) called 'holy'?

Because of:-

Their source:- they ultimately came from God (see later verses)

Their subjects:-

God – his character and ways

Man – his fall, sin and God's loving purposes for us

Their effect:-

warning of danger,

pointing to the only solution – faith in the person and work of Jesus the Messiah

All Scripture is God-breathed

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

All - this is inclusive. Paul is speaking at that time of the Scriptures they possess -the OT cf. Luke 24:44 Jesus teaching on the 3 parts. The Law, the Prophets, the Psalms(writings)
For the NT cf. Jesus' promise (John 16:13), teaching of apostles (Acts 2:42), Peter referring to Paul's letters (2 Peter 3:16) and to the warning in Revelation 22:18-19.

Scripture = writings not oral traditions (cf, Pharisees views)

God-breathed = their source is from God via human writers
(usually – occasional exceptions - Jesus baptism, transfiguration)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Implications of this:-

As originally given, if it is God's production then the human authors were not able to express their fallen nature but they wrote as God intended clearly expressing the mind of God in human terms and words.

Textual criticism deals with the copies of these originals (which are no longer in existence) in order to determine which of varied readings are most likely the original – given the discoveries of many manuscripts of both OT and NT we have a very good guarantee that what we have is what God gave.

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Implications of this:-

The Scripture is God's Word – final, and authoritative in all the areas that it speaks on.

Historical,

Scientific

Salvation

Moral

Prophetic (proof from the past, and hope for the future)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Implications of this:-

It must be useful for all these things that Paul mentions here:

Teaching –the truth to be learned

Rebuking – points out error and warns of the consequences

Correcting –guiding back to the right way

Cleansing –Ephesians 5:23 (washing of water with the word)

Training in righteousness –reveals what God wants us to be

Fully equipped –everything has been provided to live for the Lord

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We would do well to believe this.

Read – study pray to understand (spending time in the Word)

Apply – what it says - we do. Cf Jesus' parable of 2 houses,
James 1:22 – hearing and doing

The scripture is given in order to do good work

Personal growth (grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ)

Sharing our faith (salvation in no other name)

Loving our 'neighbour' - being a blessing

Because of the spiritual level on which the Word of God operates, we don't have to understand it all for it work effectively in our lives. Many people get discouraged because they feel they don't get much when they read the Bible on their own and so they give up. We must work to understand the Bible the best we can, and read it thoughtfully and carefully, but it benefits us spiritually even when we don't understand it all intellectually. Davis Guzik

Finally, another practical consideration about Food and the Word