

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
**PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY**  
**LESSON 3**  
**2 TIMOTHY 3:1-17**  
**WEEK OF MAY 11 – May 16**

**TROUBLING TIMES TRUMPED BY TIMELESS TRUTH**

Paul, knowing that his execution is imminent, pens his final letter, directed to Timothy. In chapter 3, Paul provides in 2 Timothy 3:1-9 a realistic warning to Timothy of the growing dangers and perilous times facing the church. Paul goes on in 2 Timothy 3:10-14 to instruct Timothy to follow his example of godly living and ministry in a world that is hostile to God and His church. Paul concludes in 2 Timothy 3:15-17 exhorting Timothy to grow in the knowledge and application of God's Word to provide all that is needed for life and godliness in the perilous times in which he ministered. In our days, these instructions are so applicable since, as Paul explained, "*Evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived*" (2 Timothy 3:13). As you study and meditate on the truths in this portion of scripture, consider how you should respond to Paul's exhortation and instruction.

**Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9 Danger to the Church**

1. In **2 Timothy 3:1**, "*these last days*" begin with first coming of Christ. How does Paul describe the conduct and character of men (particularly false teachers within the church) in these last days?
2. From **2 Timothy 3:5**, how was Timothy to respond?
3. What lessons do you learn from Paul's description and warning of our perilous times?

**Read 2 Timothy 3:10-14 Follow Godly Examples**

4. In contrast to the description of the lives of ungodly men and false teachers described in **2 Timothy 3:1-9**, what reminder and instruction does Paul give to Timothy in **2 Timothy 3:10-12**?  
What does Paul say about his ministry, his character and difficult experiences?
5. Paul reminds Timothy in **2 Timothy 3:12** that persecution of the believer is inevitable, but how does Paul provide encouragement to Timothy in **verse 11**?
6. What is Paul's instruction to Timothy in **2 Timothy 3:14**?

## Read 2 Timothy 3:15-17 Follow God's Word

"No other passage in the New Testament speaks so concisely of the nature and work of God's Word in salvation and sanctification. In this text, the spiritually transforming power of divine revelation is delineated."

MacArthur Commentary 2nd Timothy, page 137

7. In **2 Timothy 3:15**, what does Paul explain about the role of God's Word in salvation?

"To avoid the false trust against which Jesus warned - of trusting the knowledge of scripture itself to give eternal life (John 5:39) - Paul like his Lord, makes clear that the words in sacred writings do not in themselves have power to save but rather that the wisdom they impart leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

MacArthur Commentary 2nd Timothy, page 141

8. What does Paul state about the nature of God's Word in **2 Timothy 3:16**?

Inspiration, literally means breathed out by God or God-breathed. "Inspiration. The act of the Holy Spirit upon the biblical writers that ensured what they wrote was the Word of God." Biblical doctrine, MacArthur Mayhew, page 391

9. From **2 Timothy 3:16**, what four works in the sanctification of the believer does God's Word provide and describe each of those works.

10. From **2 Timothy 3:17**, what does God's Word accomplish in the life of the "man of God" and all who follow and obey the Word of God?

11. How do these truths about the Word of God impact your desire for and devotion to the study and application of Scripture?

"When it comes to godly living and godly service, to grow in "the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4), God-breathed Scripture provides for us the comprehensive and complete body of divine truth necessary to live as our heavenly Father desires us to live. The wisdom and guidance for filling everything he commands us to believe, think, say, and do is found in His inerrant, authoritative, comprehensive, and completed Word."

MacArthur Commentary 2nd Timothy, page 154