



End of the World Part 4

Key Text: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

You know what people are about when you see people go through a difficult time and how they respond. Each circumstance will prepare you and equip you to be steadfast in your faith.

Setting the Scene:

⁷Share your food with the hungry and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help. ⁸"Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal. **Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the LORD will protect you from behind.** ⁹Then when you call, the LORD will answer. 'Yes, I am here,' he will quickly reply. "Remove the heavy yoke of oppression. Stop pointing your finger and spreading vicious rumors! Isaiah 58:7-9

Persecution causes

- Doubt
- Disappointment

¹O God, whom I praise, don't stand silent and aloof ²while the wicked slander me and tell lies about me. ³They surround me with hateful words and fight against me for no reason. ⁴I love them, but they try to destroy me with accusations even as I am praying for them! ⁵They repay evil for good and hatred for my love. Psalm 109:1-5

- Distraction
- Discouragement
- Disaster

1. Who do you trust? (2 Timothy 3:10-11)

- Paul – you believe in all these teachings because you have seen my way of life.
- 3:10 – I want to say this at the end of life (Matt) – Paul is saying, look at the totality of my whole life and tell me if you can trust me.

Trustworthy people exhibit faith under pressure.

- Faith
- Patience
- Love
- Endurance

Paul: You saw my patience and how I stuck with it even when it was tough. You saw my love, endurance/steadfastness- under pressure. You saw my persecutions and sufferings.

- Patience speaks to the mindset and attitude on the inside when trouble comes.
- Endurance/Steadfast: The end result. It speaks to the results or actions. It is the ability to remain strong under pressure.

¹⁹Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowds to their side. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of town, thinking he was dead. ²⁰But as the believers gathered around him, he got up and went back into the town. The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe. Acts 14:19-20

²⁴Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. ²⁶I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not.^[a] ²⁷I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. 2 Corinthians 11:24-27

⁴Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4

2. Would you suffer for Christ? (2 Timothy 3:12-13)

- “all who want to live a godly life for **Christ** will be persecuted” Would you include yourself in that phrase” Do we not gather to live a godly life?
- Not might . . .but will be persecuted
- If you stand up for the Word of God, you will be persecuted

If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. John 15:18

If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. John 15:20

¹⁴If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God^[a] rests upon you.^[b] ¹⁵If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. ¹⁶But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name! 1 Peter 4:14-16

Believers must set out to follow Jesus rather than being on a quest to find trouble. It is possible to be persecuted for being obnoxious rather than for being obedient. Don't go looking for trouble—obey Christ and let trouble find you!¹

3. What can we learn from persecution? How will it prepare us for the end? (2 Timothy 3:14)

- The end result will outweigh the hurt. (Unique Fellowship with God)
- Evidence of a relationship with Jesus.

²⁹For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. ³⁰We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it. Philippians 1:29-30

- It is proof of our obedience to Jesus. You must be do something right. (James 1:2–4, trials test our faith, develop endurance, and strengthens our character).
- Forges closer Christ-like relationships.
- A reminder that it could be worse.

Some people are rivers: they know where they want to go, and they confine themselves to the banks that lead to that goal. But some people are swamps: they spread over everything; their minds are so open they cannot hold a conviction; they are everything and nothing.... Paul could say: "This one thing I do." They can say, "These forty things I dabble in." Paul left a mark; they leave a blur.

E. Stanley Jones²

One Last thought: Leave a legacy of strong faith under pressure. Continue with what you have learned so that you may be able to be prepared when persecution comes.

⁵I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you. 2 Timothy 1:5

¹ Barton, B. B., Veerman, D., & Wilson, N. S. (1993). [1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus](#) (p. 214). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

² Barton, B. B., Veerman, D., & Wilson, N. S. (1993). [1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus](#) (p. 215). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.