

The Godly Life

2 Timothy 3:10-13

2 Timothy 3:10-17 You, however, know all about *my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,*¹¹ **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.*¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a **godly life** in **Christ Jesus** will be **persecuted,**¹³ while *EVIL MEN* and *IMPOSTORS* will go from *bad* to *worse, deceiving* and *being deceived.*

Introduction: Comfort Christianity and the Persecuted Christian (2 Tim. 2:9)

2 Timothy 2:9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained.

A Rugged Example of the Godly Life (10-11)

You Have Closely Followed My Ministry (10-11a; Acts 20:18-21)

1 Timothy 2:7 And for this **purpose** I was **appointed a herald** and **an apostle**--I am telling the truth, I am not lying--and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.

2 Timothy 1:11-12a And of this gospel I was **appointed a herald** and **an apostle** and **a teacher.**¹² That is why **I AM SUFFERING** as I am.

Acts 20:18-21 When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia.¹⁹ I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews.²⁰ You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.²¹ I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

You Have Closely Followed My Persecutions (11b; 13:50-51; 14:2-7; 18-20)

- Antioch

Pisidian Antioch was a city in Pisidia about 100 mi (160 km) north of Perga. It was both a Roman colony and the seat of military and civil authority in S. Galatia. One had to trek over the Taurus Mountains to get there, since the city was 3,600 ft (1,100 m) above sea level.

Acts 13:44-52 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.⁴⁵ When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying.⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of

God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For this is what the Lord has commanded us: " 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.' " ⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

⁴⁹ The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. ⁵¹ So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

- Iconium

Iconium was a city in Lycaonia about 90 mi (145 km) east southeast of Pisidian Antioch. It was the easternmost city of Phrygia.

Acts 14:1-7 At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed. ² But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³ So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴ The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles. ⁵ There was a plot afoot among the Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them. ⁶ But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, ⁷ where they continued to preach the good news.

- Despite the initial hostility reflected in Acts and *Acts of Paul and Thecla*, Iconium became a significant city for the rise of Christianity. The historian Eusebius mentions the transition from one bishop to another in Iconium (*Ecclesiastical History* 6.19.17–18), and at least two councils were held in the city:
 - In AD 235, a council met in Iconium to determine whether the baptism of heretics was valid (Hastings, *Dictionary of the Apostolic Church*, 1:593).
 - At a council in Iconium around AD 378, the city's bishop, St. Amphilochius, defended the deity of the Holy Spirit

- Lystra

Acts 14:13-20 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them. ¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: ¹⁵ "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. ¹⁶ In the past, he let all nations go their own way. ¹⁷ Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." ¹⁸ Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them. ¹⁹ Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. ²⁰ But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

- The account echoes an ancient legend in which the rural natives who failed to recognize the deities faced terrible consequences (Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, 8.618–724). Apparently anxious to avoid such a catastrophe, the crowd seeks to worship Paul and Barnabas. Failing to understand the crowd's intentions until the last minute, Paul and Barnabas narrowly avert a sacrificial procession in their honor.

Paul was Example to Follow (10-12)

The Godly Life in Christ Jesus (12)

The Ungodly (13; 2-5; 2:16-18; 1 Tim. 1:9-11)

2 Timothy 2:16-18 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. ¹⁷ Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

1 Timothy 1:9-11 We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers-- and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine ¹¹ that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

Jude 14-16 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him." ¹⁶ These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

- Evil Men → *The Desires of the Heart are Evil*
- Impostors → *They are False Teachers masquerading as the Real Thing*
- Bad to Worse → *Don't be Surprised if things go Very Wrong*
- Deceiving and Being Deceived → *Like their Father Satan they too are Deceivers...*

Christians Desiring to Live Godly will be Persecuted (12; John 15:20; 1 Pet. 4:12-14)

John 15:20 Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they *PERSECUTED ME*, they will *PERSECUTE YOU* also.

Matthew 24:9 "Then you will be handed over to be *PERSECUTED* and *PUT TO DEATH*, and you will be HATED BY ALL NATIONS *because of me*.

1 Peter 4:12-14 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But **rejoice** that you **participate** in the *sufferings of Christ*, so that you may be **overjoyed** when *his glory is revealed*. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are **blessed**, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Conclusion: Blessed are Those Who are Persecuted (Matt. 5:10-12)

Matthew 5:10-12 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.