

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Growing Rightly
Different

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Theme: Continue in the right way to grow rightly different.

Introduction: We are all familiar with bullying and the practice of being ostracized by those who would mock or exclude you because you are different. Christians especially know that to follow the Lord Jesus often brings us into conflict with the world around us, a world be on rebellion against the Lord. We know that we must identify with and obey him, regardless of what the world thinks or does to us.

Paul shows us 2 aspects of being different for Christ:

1. We are rightly different from the world (10-13)

Paul showed us God's evaluation of the world in last week's text (vv. 1-7): people are thoroughly wicked and in rebellion against him.

In today's passage, Paul shows us the contrast, and he also commends something powerful: Timothy's example.

Example is especially necessary and powerful for Christian growth (e.g., Jesus living with his disciples for 3 years).

Paul commends Timothy for following Paul's example and being willing to be different from the world.

We should also recognize that Paul's example included suffering, and he promises that suffering will be included for us, too.

2. Continue to walk in that path (14-17)

Paul also commends Timothy because he had "firmly believed." Some today see doubt as a virtue, but Scripture never does.

Doubt produces instability, born of immaturity. We need God's grace to grow out of our doubts.

Paul highlights 2 aspects of Timothy's faithfulness: 1) his roots (those he's learned from); and b) his knowledge of Scripture.

As we grow, we cannot deny Christ because he is our greatest confidence and hope. We should be increasingly sure of him.

Paul teaches the nature of Scripture: sacred, inspired, and profitable (for teaching, reproof, correction, training), producing Christian maturity.

Questions:

1. Do you tend toward seeking the world's approval (e.g., being cool), or being in conflict with the world?
2. Is your life exemplary? Do you follow the godly examples of others?
3. Are you persevering and growing in faith?
4. What maturity are you pursuing?