

Paul recalls the severe afflictions and persecution he experienced in Timothy's home town and his deliverance out of death. He points out that all who will live godly will suffer persecution. The Lord Himself forecast this just before suffering the ultimate injustice from both the Jewish and Gentile authorities.

***John 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. 23 He that hateth me hateth my Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. 25 But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.***

As we seek to be godly and give His interests priority in our lives and our decisions, He assures us we will experience suffering at the hand of our fellow human beings. Not that we are to seek it or go out of our way to provoke it. The offense of the cross will be sufficient enough to excite resistance, ridicule and worse. This includes receiving undeserved physical, emotional and spiritual pain. And though they will never stamp out the gospel nor the assembly (Church) testimony from the earth, evil men will themselves get worse and worse. They will grow in oppressive energy and deceptive power. No surprise, for after the Spirit (along with us) has been taken out of the way God will send the wicked and seducers who remain left behind a great delusion.

***2Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.***

What is the path given us? Seek to bring wickedness on the earth under control of good men? No! Seek to combat the false prophets of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism? No! Seek to combat the cults of all kinds outside of Kingdom of Heaven and Christendom (the great house) and forcibly impose "Christianity" on them? No! Seek to find and kill unbelievers, the vessels to dishonor, professing Christ within the Kingdom of Heaven so that the Kingdom consists only of believers? No! Seek to find and destroy the vessels to dishonor professing Christ within the confines of Christendom, the great house, that the house may be holy again, and return to be the house of God again? No! None

of the above! See Ephesians 6:10-18.

In these last days we are to **purge ourselves out from** the wicked in professing Christendom and walk separately from the **world**, secular and religious. Then, of course, the purged out remnant gathered unto the name of the Lord Jesus Christ are to observe the scriptural commands to purge out unrepentant wicked **from among themselves**.

The clearly marked path is simply "***continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;***" Not splendid, heroic attacks against the wicked of the world, the secular world, the religious world or even the so-called Christian world. Simply continuing on in the faith, the things learned from the apostle, the things learned from the scriptures. These are what make one wise unto salvation. We lay hold of salvation from the power of Satan, salvation from the power of sin, and ultimately salvation from the very presence of sin and wickedness. The scriptures, not traditions developed apart from inspired scripture, are the only sure source of blessing given. For it is literally God breathed, inspired, whether those knew what they were writing was inspired or not. The early believers were given spiritual insight and wisdom to distinguish the books and epistles that were to be included in the Bible and to refuse those which were not. So all scripture is given from God. It is given by inspiration of God. And all scripture is profitable. It is profitable in several ways:

For doctrine, teaching;

For reproof, conviction, refuting error;

For correction, setting aright, giving guidance;

For instruction in righteousness: training, education in righteousness.

It is given with a purpose, intent;

It is given for the man of God. See ***1Timothy 6:11***

***But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.***

It is given so the man of God can be perfect, **thoroughly furnished unto all good works:**

perfect, fresh, complete, adequate;

thoroughly furnished, fully fitted, fully equipped;

unto all good works, every good work, or action.

Note the similarity of this outcome with that of chapter 2.

***21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.***

So, the two things necessary for one to be useful to the Master are separation from evil and immersion in the scriptures, in that order, for a lifetime.

And don't join those who have forsaken Paul.