

II Timothy 3: Be a Continuer

Bob Boardman

I. Introduction.

A. What a faithful “Timothy” should be: the objective of our ministry, the heart of our prayers, the key to our outreach and the hope of our future.

B. Key verse: “be a continuer” (2 Timothy 3:14)

II. Know your enemy (the intelligence reports).

A. The character of the enemy.

1. These are the “last days” in a continuing sense.
2. The real world consists of the hearts of those there. The love of many is waxing cold in these days. (Matthew 24:12, Mark 7:20-22)
3. Men will be lovers of self. It is impossible to love without God. (Matthew 22:37-39)
4. Men will be coveters. (1 Timothy 6:5-11)
5. Men will be disobedient to parents.
6. Men will be unthankful. Ingratitude is the daughter of pride.
7. Men will be without natural affection—gossipers. This is being hard-hearted (lacking in love towards kinsmen and others) and also homosexuality. (Romans 1:25-31, Deuteronomy 23:17, 1 Corinthians 6:9)
8. Men will be incontinent or without self-control. This is the opposite of faithfulness which should be the chief quality of a growing Christian. (2 Timothy 2:2)
9. Men will be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. One of the first ways this affects us is when we desecrate the Lord’s day. (Isaiah 58:13)

B. The tactics of the enemy.

1. He masquerades as religious. Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light, so it is no great thing that his ministers do so too. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
2. Satan is a disciple maker and a trainer of men.
3. Satan chooses his victims carefully looking for those who are weak.
4. Satan fosters in his victims and agents a form of learning.

C. The end of the enemy.

1. Their end will be the same as the sacred scribes during Moses' time.
2. The false teachers will appear to make progress, but there is a limit to how far their works will be able to extend.

D. Summary.

1. Paul is saying to Timothy, have you known or imagined that this is the kind of enemy you are facing.
2. He may have forgotten the power of the enemy as Paul's younger less experienced compatriot.

III. Know your resources.

A. If the basic elements are not there, one has to substitute. There is no substitute for the Word. Without an example the person can become a maverick. Without home training, the person's own testimony will have to suffice.

B. The example of an executive officer.

1. To produce leaders we must be leaders. (Philippians 4:19)
2. Conduct is essential—without it everything else is in vain.
3. We need to not be afraid of persecution yet not rash about it either.

C. Godly home training.

D. The Word of God.

1. It equips a child for entering eternal and real life.
2. It equips a young soldier in training. (2 Timothy 3:16)
 - a. The Scriptures are supernatural.
 - b. One needs to be prepared for the battle and the bugle needs to have a distinct sound. (1 Corinthians 4:8)
 - c. Paul is talking about the most basic gear.
 - d. The Scriptures are profitable for doctrine (the path to walk on), reproof (refuting error), correction (resetting the direction of one's life), and equipped for every good work.
3. It equips a leader in proficient warfare.

a. God equips and furnishes for every good work the man who gives himself wholeheartedly to the Scriptures.

b. Be a continuer—always suffering a knock down but never a knock out. (2 Corinthians 4)

IV. Conclusion.

Application questions.

1. Have you forgotten the power of the enemy? What are his tactics? What are the effects? What is the limit of his power?

2. What is the importance of knowing your resources? Explain what it means to have an example of an executive officer.

3. What is your plan for mastering the English Bible? How are you getting into the Word on a daily basis?
