

## Useful to the Master - Part 4

WORSHIPFUL CONDUCT 2Timothy 3:10-17

### STIMULATE

\*\* Last week in part three of "**Useful to the Master**", we saw the one characteristic of mankind during the last days which would present the "**Widespread Challenges**" to the truth of God's word.

It was the fact that "men will be lovers of self".

\*\* We discussed the benefits and personal cost to being prepared to be a wise corrector of error. Have you experienced the joy of being prepared and the sense of being "Useful to the Master" that accompanies it?

If not, we need to become more dedicated to that preparation process and less devoted to the trivial matters of life.

\*\* As a backdrop for today's study, I would like you to consider the following question.

How do you spend your time? The answer can be encouraging or frightening, if we will be honest about what holds our attention.

### MOTIVATE

\*\* Today in part four of "**Useful to the Master**", we will conclude this series and hope to learn the seven components of "**Worshipful Conduct**" that will provide the stamp of integrity needed so that the Truth we share can be distinguished from the heresy of false teachers. Please open your bibles to 2Timothy 3:10.

Read passage (V.10-13) (V.14-17)

Opening Prayer

### *Worshipful Conduct*

### INVESTIGATE

**V.10** \*\* Obviously, this passage begins with a contrast, but who is it that Paul is contrasting with whom?

He had just been talking about those who "oppose the truth" (V.8) or false teachers who's "folly will be obvious to all"(V.9). He is now about to draw a contrast between them and his own reputation as a man of God.

\*\* What did Timothy know about the life and ministry of the apostle Paul?

Practically all there was to know! The list continues right into verse 11. A note just before we look at it, Paul said that Timothy "followed" all nine of these things in the list. What he is saying is that Timothy intimately knew all of this to be true about Paul. He had physically followed and studied the man. Now, about the list.

Timothy knew about Paul's...

teaching - apostolic teaching, cf. 2Timothy 4:3

conduct - matched the teaching, cf. Philippians 1:17-18

purpose - to fulfill his calling, cf. Acts 20:27

faith - [pistis] faithfulness, cf. 2Timothy 4:7  
patience - [makrothumia] w/people, cf. John 21:15-17  
love - Paul loved others in Christ, cf. Philippians 1:8  
perseverance - circumstances, cf. Philippians 4:4-5  
persecutions - Paul's history, cf. 2Corinthians 11:23-27  
sufferings - Paul knew in advance, cf. 1Thessalonians 3:1-4

**V.11** \*\* Where did these types of persecutions take place?

At Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra. Lystra was Timothy's hometown (Acts 16:1), and he may have witnessed the stoning of the apostle that took place in that city (Acts 14:19-22).

\*\* How did Paul go through all of those persecutions?

He "endured" them. [hupophero] Lit: to bear by being under, this is a willingness to suffer.

\*\* How did the Lord respond to this willingness to endure for His name sake?

He delivered Paul out of them all! cf. King David - Psalm 34:19  
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - Daniel 3:17-18

**V.12** \*\* Is the suffering of the apostle unique to him only?

No! "...indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."

\*\* Herein lies the first of seven components of Worshipful Conduct. Do you see it?

**1) Desire Godliness** - this is an obedient child of God following the will of His Master.

\*\* How do you suppose the world around us feels about our desire to be like the Holy One who called us?

They hate it, us and the Lord! (cf. John 15:18, Luke 21:16-17) It is no wonder that we will suffer the persecution of this world!

**V.13** \*\* As difficult as it is in today's world, to live godly in Christ Jesus, how will the false teachers and their followers change as time goes on?

They are going to "proceed from bad to worse"..  
The heat in the proverbial kitchen is only going to get hotter!

\*\* What is the net effect produced by their decline?

Others are deceived regarding the truth.

\*\* Is that all?

No, the false teachers are being self-deceived by their own sin. cf. Titus 3:3

**V.14** \*\* How was Timothy to be different?

You [Timothy] "continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of..."

\*\* We have just seen the second component of Worshipful Conduct, did you catch it?

## 2) **Continue in the Truth**, cf. 2Timothy 1:13-14

\*\* Paul and Timothy both knew who he had learned the Truth from, who was it?

His grandmother (Lois) and mother (Eunice) taught him while he was a child (2Timothy1:5) and Paul taught him as a young man (2Timothy 2:2).

**V.15** \*\* How long had Timothy been intimately familiar with the Word of God?

"...from childhood..." Here is the validation for training up children with God's word.  
cf. Proverbs 22:6

\*\* What are the "sacred writings" able to do for you?

"...give you wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus..."  
cf. Romans 10:17

\*\* Here is component number three, care to guess what it is?

**3) Accept the wisdom of God's Word** - If Timothy learned the sacred writings and was led to salvation through Jesus Christ, it is because he accepted the gospel message as the power and wisdom of God even though men think it to be foolish. cf. 1Corinthians 1:18

Worshipful Conduct then continues to accept God at His word and all of the instruction that comes from knowing it intimately.

**V.16** \*\* The final four components come quickly in this verse. Before we see them, what very definitive and striking statement does Paul make regarding God's word?

"All Scripture is inspired by God..." The word used here for inspired is "theopneustos" and means "breathed out by God" or simply, "God-breathed".

While the "sacred writings" of verse 15 referred to the Old Testament that Timothy was raised on, this term for Scripture describes all that was written in the New Testament as men "moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God". (2Peter 1:20-21 & 3:14-16)

\*\* Alright, Paul now says that the Word of God is profitable as it leads us into the final four components of Worshipful Conduct. What are they?

**4) Teaching** [didaskalia] - This is not the process or method of teaching but rather the content or doctrine given to believers through God's Word.

Worshipful Conduct is always in response to the doctrinal truth of God's Word! (James 1:22)

**5) Reproof** - This word carries the idea of rebuke in order to convict of misbehavior. Here God's Word is the tool used to stop us from a pattern of sin. Our conduct becomes worshipful as we stop our sinful behavior in obedience to His word. (Hebrews 4:12-13)

**6) Correction** - While reproof was in the negative, getting us to stop the sin in our life, now the correction of God's Word is positive in that it starts us going again in the right direction. Jesus set people onto the right road, after they had been exposed to error. (See Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44)

Our worshipful conduct is defined by the new direction in our life, provided by the Word.  
cf. 1Peter 2:1-2

**7) Training in Righteousness** - This is where the rubber meets the road of our Christian life. The word of God is seen as the instrument that will train us to reflect the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Look with me to what King David had to say regarding our training and the word of God. All see - Psalm 119:9-16, 105-106

Our worshipful conduct increases as we are trained by the Lord, through the power of His word. cf. 2Peter 3:18

**V.17** \*\* Having learned these seven components of "Worshipful Conduct", what is the result, fruit or outcome of such an effort?

"...that the man of God may be adequate..." The term used here for adequate is "artios" and refers to a person who is complete, capable and proficient in everything they are called to be or do. Paul spoke of this concept to the Colossians. cf. Colossians 2:10

\*\* What does living a life of "Worshipful Conduct" equip us to do?

"...every good work"!

\*\* If we are walking each day in humble submission to the truth of God's word, which "good works" will we be doing?

The very ones that He selected for us to do, before the world was made.  
cf. Ephesians 2:10 and Titus 2:14

## **EXTRICATE**

\*\* Our passage for today began with a contrast, do you recall what that was?

The heretical and hypocritical life of the false teacher was held in contrast to the "known" integrity of the apostle Paul.

\*\* What are we to do when we meet such a godly example?

We are to imitate their faith! (Hebrews 13:7) Even the apostle Paul repeated that same concept to the Corinthians when he said, "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ" (1Corinthians 11:1). Paul shows us that the best godly example to follow is Jesus Christ Himself.

## **DELINEATE**

\*\* What are the seven components of Worshipful Conduct?

- 1) Desire Godliness - obey the Word
- 2) Continue in the Truth - guard the Treasure
- 3) Accept God's Wisdom - daily application of Truth

- 4) Teaching - living in response to doctrine
- 5) Reproof - stopping sinful behavior
- 6) Correction - living life in a new direction
- 7) Training in Righteousness - spiritual growth

## **EVALUATE**

\*\* In this series we have come to understand the importance of avoiding "**Worldly Chatter**", because that form of arguing only lends credibility to the heresy of false teachers.

\*\* We have seen that "**Wise Correction**" is possible as we gently and humbly proclaim the truth of God's word and pray for Him to grant repentance to the hearer so that they may come to the knowledge of the truth.

\*\* We have learned that the love of self in the last days will provide the "**Widespread Challenges**" to the truth of God's word. Since we are seeing that in today's world, we should be compelled to be prepared to offer a defense to anyone who is brought across our path by the Lord.

\*\* And finally, today we saw that our "**Worshipful Conduct**" is the stamp of integrity needed so that the Truth we share can be distinguished from the heresy of false teachers.

\*\* All of this wonderful information, when aggressively applied, will make us "**Useful to the Master**".

**Is that your desire?**

## **ACTIVATE**

\*\* Last week I asked you to count the cost of being prepared for the Master's use, knowing that it was going to infringe upon your daily routines. Today I asked, "How do you spend your time?"

As you try to apply what we have learned in this series, let me invite you to do an audit of your time this next week so you can see how this series has changed your usefulness to Christ.

Closing prayer