

Verse: 2 Timothy 3:10 NKJV

¹⁰But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,

Paul had just described the state of the world in these last days, saying that people will be lovers of self, lovers of money and lovers of pleasure; proud, unthankful, unholy and more. This was in society – the world – but then also in the church were those who resisted the truth, who were men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith.

This is a pretty bleak and potentially discouraging picture of the future. Paul was in prison and knew he was on his way out of this world to meet his Saviour. He would no longer be around to help his young friend and son in the Lord. And yet, he was not discouraged. Timothy, and others like him, were his hope for the future.

Just like his Master, Jesus, Paul had invested his life and teaching into younger men, who he trusted would be faithful to guard and preach the gospel and pass it on to other faithful men who would do the same. That is our hope for the future of the church too!

Paul could commend Timothy for carefully following his doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love and perseverance, because Paul himself had modelled his life on Jesus and followed His teachings, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love and perseverance.

Our model in everything is Jesus. We are to emulate Him and teach Him to others. We ought to bring them close, so they can see how we live and conduct ourselves, in our families, workspaces, neighbourhoods, etc. They are to see our manner of life that reflects Jesus, so they have an example to follow as we teach them about Him.

In our society, where confusion reigns and people are left to discover their own truth within themselves, they desperately need the Truth, Jesus, and people who can teach them and show them Him. We have the words of eternal life and the responsibility to rescue those who are perishing, bring them to safety and teach them about our anchor in life, Jesus Christ. May we take personal responsibility to pass on this glorious gospel of life and peace to the next generation.

Prayer:

Father, thank you for loving this world so much that you sent your Son to die in our place. Help us to grasp the extent of your love and the magnitude of this great salvation, and to share it with others. Lead us by your Spirit and empower us to be witnesses to those who are perishing and disciples of those who have received Christ. May we lay down our lives for them, in Jesus' name. Amen.