

# Why We Have the Liturgy

## **Read 2 Tim 3:10-17**

<sup>10</sup>You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup>my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. <sup>12</sup>Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup>while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom<sup>Ⓜ</sup> you learned it <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God<sup>Ⓜ</sup> may be complete, equipped for every good work.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Context: Timothy faced many challenges. The world was ungodly (v1-6) and he faced much opposition from false teachers (v7-9). Paul is in prison and being persecuted as well. Paul even says that the persecution and suffering of Christians is to be expected for everyone who seeks a godly life. (3:12)

The more closely we follow Christ, the more likely we are to face opposition and persecution.

## **DISCUSS**

- 1) Can anyone share a time when following Jesus led to a difficult situation? How did you respond and how did God help you through it?**

## **Paul's gospel teaching and life**

In our passage, Paul's main call is to urge Timothy to "continue" (v14) in what he has learned.

In the past, he has learned by observing Paul's gospel doctrine and life. Paul lists nine things: His teaching, conduct, aim in life, faith, patience, love, steadfastness, persecutions and sufferings. (v10-11).

Paul begins with his teaching, emphasizing the gospel teaching is of first importance. It is the gospel that firstly shapes our mind, and then our hearts and hands. Paul follows the teaching and moves on to the other virtues, showing that *right belief leads to right behavior* – a behavior that endures even in the face of persecution and suffering.

This life Timothy is to follow stands in stark contrast to that of the world (v1-9)

**1) How has a mature Christian influence your faith? In what ways would you like to both follow and lead others on this gospel path?**

## **Timothy's childhood**

Timothy learned the gospel from his grandmother and mother during his childhood (v15, cf. 2 Tim 1:5).

Having family members who can teach the gospel *and* also exemplify a gospel life that contrasts with the world is crucial for one's upbringing.

**2) In what ways can you live out the gospel life at home, showing Jesus' sacrificial love to your family?**

### **All Scripture is God-breathed**

As Paul is about to depart (4:6-7), Timothy must continue to remain in the gospel doctrine and life by sticking to the Scriptures (v16-17). These Scriptures are able to fully equip him and the church leaders for ministry.

The Scriptures are meant to teach, correct, rebuke and train in righteousness (v16). In one sense, learning the Bible is uncomfortable. It should challenge our current thinking and way of life as we grow in being more like Jesus.

**3) How does knowing that the Bible will challenge our thinking and actions change the way we posture ourselves when we come to the Word (in our devotions, cell groups, service)?**

Paul exhorts Timothy to remain in the gospel through Scripture, which trains believers for godliness. Similarly, Anglican liturgy immerses us in Scripture, shaping our faith through prayer, creeds, and readings

**4) How do you currently engage with Scripture? In what ways can you make Scripture a more active part of your daily life?**

#### **Pray:**

1. Pray that we will remain faithful to the gospel in both our beliefs and our daily lives, even when facing challenges or opposition.
2. Pray that as we engage with Scripture, we will have open hearts and minds to be shaped, corrected, and equipped for every good work.
3. Pray that our worship, especially through the liturgy, would not be routine but a transformative reminder of the gospel that strengthens our faith and love for Christ.