

2 Timothy 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life,
purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

Analysis

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience. Paul contrasts Timothy's knowledge of his teaching and life with false teachers' error. "But thou" (sy de, σὺ δέ) creates sharp contrast—"you, however." "Hast fully known" (parēkolouthēsas, παρηκολούθησας) means followed closely, traced accurately, understood fully—from para (alongside) and akolouthēō (follow). Timothy didn't merely hear Paul's teaching but observed his entire life pattern.

Paul lists nine areas Timothy observed. First, "my doctrine" (mou tē didaskalia, μου τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ)—Paul's teaching, the apostolic gospel. Second, "manner of life" (agōgē, ἀγωγή)—conduct, behavior, lifestyle. Third, "purpose" (prothesei, προθέσει)—resolve, intention, life aim. Fourth, "faith" (pistei, πίστει)—faithfulness, trust in God. Fifth, "longsuffering" (makrothymia, μακροθυμία)—patience under provocation. Sixth, "charity" (agapē, ἀγάπη)—self-sacrificial love. Seventh, "patience" (hypomonē, ὑπομονή)—endurance, perseverance under trials.

This comprehensive list demonstrates that authentic Christianity requires consistency between teaching and living. False teachers' corruption was exposed by their immoral lives (vv. 2-5); Paul's authenticity was validated by observable godly character. Ministers must not merely teach truth but embody it. Their lives either commend or contradict their message. Timothy had fifteen years of observing Paul, providing ample evidence of genuineness.

Historical Context

Ancient philosophical schools emphasized teachers' character as much as doctrine. Students lived with teachers, observing daily life, not just hearing lectures. Hypocritical teachers who taught virtue while living viciously were exposed and ridiculed. Paul appeals to this expectation: Timothy observed Paul's life intimately during years of missionary partnership. Unlike false teachers who infiltrated sneakily (v. 6), Paul lived openly, inviting scrutiny. His suffering, far from discrediting his gospel, validated it—he practiced what he preached, enduring hardship without compromise.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How closely does your life align with your profession—would close observation validate or contradict your Christian claims?
2. Who are the godly mentors whose lives and teaching you've 'fully known' and can imitate with confidence?
3. In what areas—doctrine, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance—do you need growth to better reflect Christ and commend the gospel?

Interlinear Text

Σὺ	δὲ	παρηκολούθηκάς	μου	τῇ	διδασκαλίᾳ	τῇ
thou	But	hast fully known	my		doctrine	
G4771	G1161	G3877	G3450	G3588	G1319	G3588
ἀγωγῇ	τῇ	προθέσει	τῇ	πίστει	τῇ	μακροθυμίᾳ
manner of life		purpose		faith		longsuffering
G72	G3588	G4286	G3588	G4102	G3588	G3588
ἀγάπῃ	τῇ	ὑπομονῇ				
charity		patience				
G26	G3588	G5281				

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 6:11 (Faith): But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Titus 2:7 (Parallel theme): In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

1 Timothy 4:6 (Faith): If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

Philippians 2:22 (Parallel theme): But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

Hebrews 13:9 (Parallel theme): Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Acts 11:23 (Parallel theme): Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.