

4. Remember all who desire to live a godly life in Jesus will be persecuted.

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 2 Timothy 3:12–13 (ESV)

Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." John 15:20 (ESV)

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:11–12 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. Review your sermon notes and the above outline. What stood out in this message? What did you learn that you didn't know?
2. How does reading about Christians who suffered for Jesus encourage you when life is hard? What stories of Christian heroes of the past are especially encouraging to you?
3. How does it help to know that the more closely we walk with Jesus and the more godly of a life we live for Jesus, the more likely it is we will encounter opposition for Jesus?
4. Paul gave a number of areas of his life that Timothy intentionally copied. What areas of your life would you want someone to copy so you can say, "Follow my example as I follow Christ?" What areas of your life would you not want them to copy?
5. Why are young Christians in desperate need of godly role models? How can we be a more effective role model for them?
6. Read Hebrews 11. In this chapter, we read about heroes of the faith. What does this chapter teach us about how to be a Christian hero in everyday life?
7. Read 2 Peter 3:11-18. What do these verses teach us about how we can live a Christian life others can copy?



2 Timothy 3:10-13 – Why Do I Need Christian Heroes?

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1. We need to learn from Christian role models in prior generations.

You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness,... 2 Timothy 3:10 (ESV)

The great heroes of the faith will almost always point to another hero of the faith they learned from in a prior generation.

That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. 1 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)

I urge you, then, be imitators of me. 1 Corinthians 4:16 (ESV)

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV)

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord,... 1 Thessalonians 1:6 (ESV)

2. What are the areas of life where I should learn from Christian heroes?

You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct,... 2 Timothy 3:10 (ESV)

A. Learn from the way heroes of the faith pastored.

Teaching

...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)

Conduct

B. Learn from the way heroes of the faith lived.

You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love,...

2 Timothy 3:10 (ESV)

Aim in Life

For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

1 Corinthians 9:16 (ESV)

Faith — Faithfulness to Jesus

Patience — Patience with difficult people

Love

C. Learn from the way heroes of the faith suffered.

...my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; ... 2 Timothy 3:10–11 (ESV)

Steadfastness — Patience in difficult circumstances

Persecutions

But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. Acts 17:13–14 (ESV)

Sufferings

Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the

Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. 2 Corinthians 11:23–27 (ESV)

Antioch

...but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it.” Acts 13:14–15 (ESV)

But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. Acts 13:50 (ESV)

Iconium

When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, Acts 14:5 (ESV)

Lystra

Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking. Acts 14:8–10 (ESV)

But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. Acts 14:19 (ESV)

3. Remember that God rescues the righteous.

...yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 2 Timothy 3:11 (ESV)

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. Psalm 34:19 (ESV)