

**MARKS OF GODLY BELIEVERS
FOLLOWING GODLY EXAMPLES—PT 1
2 TIMOTHY 3:10-13**

Introduction

These verses **stand in contrast with the former verses** which dealt with the characteristics of the ungodly in last days.

In *verses 10-13* here, we have the contrasting marks of godly believers.

1. Mark 1: Following Godly Examples! (vs. 10)

2. Mark 2: Enduring Persecution! (vs. 11-12).

3. Mark 3: Guarding Against Evil Men! (vs. 13)

Tonight, we begin to look at FOLLOWING GODLY EXAMPLES: i.e. FOLLOWING THOSE WITH A TESTIMONY OF GODLINESS!

A godly person follows godly examples. (Vs 10)

This is a **sharp contrast** from the godless marks of those that we mentioned previously in our messages from *2 Timothy 3:1-9*.

We saw the ungodly are concerned about SELF and what it wants!

We will see the godly are concerned about CHRIST and what He wants!

Timothy had **known** and had **closely observed** and had even **followed the godly example of Paul!** The words *“fully known”* means *“to follow a person so closely that one is always by the person's side, conforming his life to that person!”*

It means *“to join oneself to the person, to become his disciple and to follow his example.”*

Paul had lived a godly life as an example before Timothy! Timothy had seen that godly life and was encouraged to follow in Paul's footsteps!

Paul mentions SEVEN things about his life that stand out as a dynamic example. These are things that we who are Believers must focus upon and follow if we wish to live a godly life pleasing to the LORD!

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**I. THERE IS THE MARK OF SOUND DOCTRINE OR TEACHING!
One's DOCTRINE Or TEACHING DOES Make A Difference!**

What was the source of Paul's doctrines? What was it that the Apostle Paul had taught? It was the Scriptures— the very Word of God! Paul declared this time and again!

Romans 1:1-4—“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

Romans 1:16—“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”

*1 Corinthians 15:1-4—“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures”***

*1 Thessalonians 2:13—“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, **when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”***

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2 Timothy 3:16—“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

Titus 1:9—“Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.”

Titus 2:1—“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.”

The word “*become*” means “*to tower up (be conspicuous), i.e. to be suitable or proper; to be fit or right; befitting.*”

The point is this: **the godly person must follow the DOCTRINES of godly teachers!** A *godly person* must have nothing to do with the teaching of false teachers!

A person cannot live *godly* unless he knows godliness!
A person cannot teach *godliness* unless he follows after godliness!

A *godly* person closely observes and follows after those who live *godly* lives! He is a disciple of *godly* examples!

He follows the *godly* teaching of *godly* people.

So, **II. THERE IS THE MARK OF SOUND DOCTRINE OR TEACHING...
THERE IS THE MARK GODLY BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT!**

Paul calls it “*manner of life*” which means “*mode of living.*”

Paul practiced what he preached! He lived what he taught!
He **professed to be a follower of Christ** and as Timothy looked at Paul’s life he could tell that **Paul indeed followed Christ!**
Paul was NOT one that lived in sin or practiced sin, but rather Paul lived in the righteousness of Christ!

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Paul did not profess one thing and do another!
Paul told Timothy that he was to do the same!

And so are we who are Believers! **A Believer is to be a godly person who behaves himself—that is, he conducts his life like he should!** (*Conduct that is becoming of Christ!*) He is to **live** what he **professes!** He is not to pull down what he **teaches** by what he **does!**

The Believer is not only to teach godliness, but he is to also live godly!

Acts 20:35—“I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

1 Corinthians 4:16—“Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.”

1 Corinthians 11:1—“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

Philippians 3:17—“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.”

Philippians 4:9—“Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”

2 Thessalonians 3:7—“For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you”

2 Timothy 1:13—“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

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So, *THERE IS THE MARK OF SOUND DOCTRINE OR TEACHING...
THERE IS THE MARK OF GODLY BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT...*

III. THERE IS THE MARK OF A GODLY PURPOSE! (Acts 26:18)
Now understand that there is both a **GENERAL PURPOSE** that applies to each and every Believer as well as a **SPECIFIC PURPOSE OR PURPOSES** for us personally!

A. GENERAL PURPOSE!

Part of Paul's godly purpose was the **GENERAL PURPOSE** that the Lord gave him and Timothy and us! That *purpose* is to have a part in the evangelization of the world! (i.e. Fulfilling the Great Commission!)

Matthew 28:19-20—"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

That was NOT given to just preachers and teachers, but to every Believer! We all are to have a part in that! Amen!

There are multitudes in this world who still need to know that man's greatest need has been met by the One Who alone could meet the need—The Lord Jesus Christ! Forgiveness of sin and eternal life are now possible through Christ's provision in His Gospel!

Christ's very purpose for coming to earth was to die for man's sin so that man could be set free from the bondage of sin!

Through Christ's work of the Gospel, ANY person on the face of the earth can now both be delivered from eternal death in hell, and can have eternal life and live forever in heaven!

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Every soul has that potential! **But the catch is that they have to hear the Gospel and believe the Gospel!**

Romans 10:13-14 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10:17—"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

"The Gospel is only good news if it gets there in time."
(Carl F.H. Henry)

B. SPECIFIC PURPOSE OR PURPOSES!

Part of the LORD's purpose or purposes for the LORD was specifically given for him to do!

God also has a specific purpose or purposes for us to do!

We are to find them out and live them out in our lives!

Conclusion

That's three down with four more to go LORD willing next week! What kind of examples are you following? Let's seek to follow after godly examples!

So, *THERE IS THE MARK OF SOUND DOCTRINE OR TEACHING...
THERE IS THE MARK OF GODLY BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT...
THERE IS THE MARK OF A GODLY PURPOSE*