

“But You Did Follow...”

I. Introduction

A. After warning against the path of evil that many choose, the inspired apostle Paul said that Timothy was choosing an entirely different path, as *we* must. **2 Timothy 3:10-11**

II. Teaching

A. The first thing the apostle Paul said Timothy was following is his teaching (doctrine). It's imperative for all of us to follow the apostles' doctrine. **2 Timothy 3:10a; Acts 2:42; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:20**

III. Conduct

A. Timothy was not just *believing* and *teaching* the truth, but also *living* it. Paul said Timothy was following his conduct. **2 Timothy 3:10b; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21**

IV. Purpose

A. Paul's conduct was driven by his purpose, which he said Timothy also followed. We, like him, should make it our aim to please God. **2 Timothy 3:10c; 2 Corinthians 5:9**

V. Faith

A. Timothy also followed Paul's faith. **2 Timothy 3:10d**
B. Like Paul exemplified, faith involves “seeing the unseen.” It involves trusting what God says to be true no matter what. **2 Corinthians 5:7; 4:18; Hebrews 11:30**

VI. Longsuffering

A. Paul further said that Timothy followed his patience, or longsuffering. **2 Timothy 3:10e; 1 Corinthians 13:4; Romans 12:17-21; 2 Peter 3:9**

VII. Love

A. Timothy was also following Paul's love. **2 Timothy 3:10f**
B. Paul exemplified love for God by putting God's will above his own (cf. **Gal. 2:20**). He also exemplified love for others by seeking others' highest good, as we must. **1 Corinthians 10:33-11:1; Philippians 2:4**

VIII. Steadfastness

A. The final thing mentioned in verse 10 is “steadfastness” (WEB / ESV), “perseverance” (NKJV), or “patience” (KJV / ASV). **1 Timothy 3:10g**
B. This involves continuance and constancy in doing what's right, especially through trials. **1 Peter 2:21-23; 1 Corinthians 15:58**

IX. Persecutions and Sufferings

A. Steadfastness is particularly crucial because of the reality of persecutions and sufferings. While such are not deliberately pursued, like the things mentioned in verse 10, they are inevitable for the one who pursues a life that pleases God. Paul's life exemplifies this. **2 Timothy 3:11a; 2 Corinthians 11:23ff; Acts 14:19; 2 Timothy 3:12**
B. Like Paul, we can take heart in the midst of trials, knowing that, with God, we can endure. **2 Timothy 3:11b; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 13:5; Song 341**

X. Conclusion

A. May we, like Timothy, abide in the apostle's doctrine, and follow Paul's conduct, purpose, faith, patience, and love, while steadfastly enduring persecutions and sufferings we face. **2 Timothy 3:10-11**