

## 2 Timothy

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### Lesson 9: 2 Timothy 3

Before his salvation, Paul was zealous in his persecution of the church. However, as a believer, he is even more passionate about protecting God’s church. One of the ways he protects the church is by warning Timothy about false teachers that will come into the church as impostors. He also urges Timothy to be a defender of God’s church. The greatest way Timothy can do this is through the most powerful weapon any minister of God can use—the Word of God. No other passage in the New Testament gives a description of the nature of God’s Word like 2 Timothy 3:15–17. Let’s dive in and see what Paul tells Timothy about battling false teachers and defending the faith.

➤ **Read 2 Timothy 3:1–9**

1. In verse 1, what does Paul tell Timothy? What does this reveal to us today?
2. In verse 2, Paul describes false teachers by what they “will be” rather than by what they “will do.” Why do you think Paul does this?
3. In verse 2–4, what is the motivating factor of these sinful “men”?
4. What does verse 5 reveal about these “men”? What kind of men are they?
5. What does Paul tell Timothy to do with these men in verse 5?

**Application:** Using the list of sins in verses 2–5, what are some ways you have been able to spot false teachers?

**Application:** Using the list of sins in verses 2–5, what are some sins that you have tolerated in your own life and need to repent of?

**Application:** How has the church’s embrace of culture allowed for impostors to come in? How can you respond to this embrace?

6. According to verse 6, who do the false teachers target? Why?

7. In verse 7, how does Paul describe these deceived women?

8. In verse 8, what three ways does Paul describe false teachers?

9. In verse 9, what is the outcome of false teachers?

**Application:** In order to protect ourselves from false teachers, we must practice discernment. What are ways you are practicing discernment in order to spot false teachers?

➤ **Read 2 Timothy 3:10–17**

10. In verses 10–11, what does the list that Paul gives reveal about his view of discipleship?

11. In verse 11, why would Paul’s testimony about persecution be an encouragement to Timothy?

12. Read John 15:18–21. In what ways does 2 Timothy 3:12 reaffirm the promise Christ gave?

**Application:** What ways have you been persecuted for your faith? If you haven’t, what might this reveal about your faith?

13. In verse 13, what is the result of sin in evil men’s lives?

14. In verse 14, what does Paul command Timothy to do? What two things does Paul say happened to Timothy?

15. In verse 15, what does Paul say the Scriptures give us?

16. In verse 16, what are four ways Scripture is “profitable”?

**Application:** Of the four benefits of Scripture, which do you most often experience? Least often experience? Why do you think this is so?

17. In verse 17, what is the result of someone who heeds the Word of God? What is the result if they neglect the Word of God?

**Application:** What verse(s) impacted you the most in this lesson? Why?