

## Breathed Out; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### I. Follow

- a. We follow.
  - i. I mean that we find examples of things we like or approve of, and we imitate and follow them.
  - ii. We even find examples in people, and we follow them.
    1. I like Jim McGuiggan and his nephew, Billy McGuiggan.
    2. I listen to them, and they have become an example for me.
    3. We can find good and bad examples to follow.
    4. I pray we can discern the difference.
- b. We are admonished and encouraged to follow Christ throughout Scripture.
  - i. 1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.
  - ii. Ephesians 5:1 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.
  - iii. "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery" Charles Caleb Colton, 1820.
  - iv. An earlier version is found in a biography of Marcus Aurelius by Jeremy Collier and André Dacier, titled *Emperor Marcus Antoninus his conversation with himself*, 1708: "You should consider that Imitation is the most acceptable part of Worship, and that the Gods had much rather Mankind should Resemble, than Flatter them."
  - v. This goes back to God's teaching that Jesus is our example and that we should imitate Him.
  - vi. We find this same idea in the context of our memory verse for March.
  - vii. 2 Timothy 3:10–11 (ESV) <sup>10</sup> You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup> my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.
- c. We follow Jesus even through His suffering.
  - i. 2 Timothy 3:12–13 (ESV) <sup>12</sup> Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.
  - ii. Paul mentions that Timothy had followed him even through his suffering and persecutions (verse 11).
  - iii. Following anyone through heartache, persecution, or suffering is not something most of us are prepared, or even want, to do.
- d. Why are we following Jesus?

### II. Continue

- a. 2 Timothy 3:14 (ESV) <sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it
- b. Follow and continue in love, patience, conduct, aim, steadfastness, persecution, and suffering.
  - i. Continue in what you have learned.
  - ii. The New Testament letters admonish us to remain true to God's word.
  - iii. The Apostles and Prophets combat different kinds of false teachings in most of the NT letters.

- iv. 2 Timothy 1:13 (ESV) <sup>13</sup> Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
  - v. Jesus rebukes the church at Sardis in Revelation 3:3
  - vi. Revelation 3:3 (ESV) <sup>3</sup> Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.
  - vii. Paul encourages the church in Rome
  - viii. Romans 6:17 (ESV) <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,
  - ix. We are encouraged to follow, remember, and be obedient.
  - x. We are also admonished not to listen to anything else.
  - xi. Galatians 1:6–9 (ESV) <sup>6</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup> not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.
  - xii. 2 Corinthians 11:4 (ESV) <sup>4</sup> For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.
- c. Why are we continuing?

### III. Sacred Writings

- a. 2 Timothy 3:15 (ESV) <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- b. Of course, Paul would be referring to the Old Testament since the new one had yet to be canonized.
  - i. Peter refers to Paul's writings as Scriptures.
  - ii. 2 Peter 3:15–18 (ESV) <sup>15</sup> And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup> as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. <sup>17</sup> You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. <sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
  - iii. The Apostle Peter corroborates Paul's letters and counts them as sacred writings, Scripture, Gospel, and the Word of Truth.
  - iv. We must recognize God's word as truth.
  - v. Jesus says in John 17:17, "your word is truth" speaking of God.

- vi. Both Paul (in Ephesians 1:3 and 2 Timothy 2:15) and James (in James 1:18) use this phrase to describe the Gospel, the Scriptures
  - c. This is why we follow; this is why we continue.
- IV. Breathed Out
- a. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV) <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
  - b. The idea of ‘breathed out’ or ‘God-breathed’ comes from the Spirit, literally, ‘breath.’
    - i. God breathed out all of creation; He spoke everything into existence.
    - ii. The Holy Spirit (the Breath of God) gave us the Scripture.
    - iii. 2 Peter 1:21 (ESV) <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
  - c. We follow, we continue because we find we are complete with God, we are equipped by His Word
  - d. Follow Him
  - e. Continue in Him