

# Wednesday Evening Prayer

## 2 Timothy 3

### Reflection # 3

- *There will be terrible times in the last days... and the disturbing thing is that that **great long list there** is about stuff that happens **INSIDE** the church – not **OUTSIDE**...*
- The sort of stuff thrown up by the royal commission...
- We know that because it would only be people **inside** the church of whom the writer says v5 has a **form of godliness** (outward show?) *but denies its **power**... ///*
- But that's not the **focus** of the passage...
- The **focus** is ensuring that Timothy doesn't model himself on **that** kind of life... but on that modelled by **Paul**...
- ...not on a model of **pleasure** seeking... but the way of **suffering**... in the **cause** of Christ – after the **pattern** of Christ...
- ...because in fact v12 *everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus **will be persecuted**.... //*
- Like our brother priest in France last week who lost his life even whilst celebrating Mass... //
- **Are you prepared to suffer in the cause of Christ?**
- One way or another you **will**... that's a promise... if you want to live a **godly life**.... //
- So Paul urges Timothy to **continue** in what he learned and had become convinced of - from infancy - from the holy Scriptures... //

- Let me ask you... do you ever think you're in danger of **NOT** continuing?
- It's possible isn't it that you could become **cold** in your faith? **Hard?**
- It's possible as a bishop or priest or deacon that you could get to the stage where you just go through the **motions** of your faith?
- That you could follow the **outward rituals** because – well – that's your **job**... but all the time in reality... you haven't **continued**...?
- You've become **stale**?
- You've lost your **edge**?
- You've come **self-reliant – self-sufficient??** ////
- I want to urge you today to **continue** in what you've **learned** and become **convinced** of... ///
- When I was ordained I was encouraged to make sure of two things....
- ....that I remained **fresh** and **holy**....
- **Fresh** – so that my relationship with Christ is **real**... **growing**... **deepening**... That I'm **learning** and **seeing new insights**...
- And **holy** – **uncompromising** in following Jesus... growing in his **likeness**... saying **no** to sin and selfishness... that others may see Jesus in me... ///
- Are you staying **fresh** and **holy**???
- How might we do that?

- *How from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus...*
- That's the **first** blessing of Scripture – Old Testament – maybe by the time of writing – parts of New Testament – **wise** for **salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus...
- So many of our people in our churches... even though we proclaim the gospel... still think that salvation comes by their **church attendance**, their **good works** and not having done anything **major wrong**....
- The **clearer YOU** are on that – the clearer **THEY** will be on that... continue in that... drink down deep into the well which is salvation by faith in Christ Jesus... and the more we read the Scriptures the more we will be convinced that there is no other way... and we will never **want** to wander from that truth...
- But of course it doesn't mean that doing good is not important... of **course**... because after the Scriptures have made us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus they will thoroughly **equip** us for **every good work!** – by **(slow) teaching, rebuking, correcting and training us in righteousness**...
- Sisters and brothers in Christ... many are the **temptations**... many are the **distractions**... **difficult** may be the **persecutions**....
- ... but I encourage **YOU** today to **continue** in what you have **learned** and become **convinced of**...
- **Do** that by the getting your head and heart into **the Scriptures**... which are able to make you **wise for**

**salvation through in Christ Jesus... and to equip you for every good work.**