

# What You See is What You Can Be

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Timothy 3.

B. People are facing all kind of stresses in our society.

C. The Christian faces this challenge, and he must know how to respond.

## II. Paul commends Timothy to remember his own model in times of stress.

A. A model can have tremendous impact.

B. Paul reminds Timothy that he accompanied him through every struggle and persecution.

C. Paul exposed the delusions of the day to the reality that is in Scripture--every Christian ought to be able to teach the truth about reality.

1. There are limits to the ability of man to influence the times in which we live.

2. This gives us hope in hard times.

D. Paul exposed delusions through his conduct.

1. People live in fear because of what the future holds for them.

2. The greatest thing a Christian can do to stay the world amidst danger is to conduct oneself rightly.

E. Paul had the right attitude--aim in life, patience, steadfastness.

1. Paul did nothing except that which would contribute to his aim--to please God. (II Corinthians 5)

2. Christianity is not about special things--it is a special way of doing everything.

3. Faith enables this--the consciousness of invisible realities.

4. Paul was patient towards people despite the difficulty.

5. If one wants a person to be patient with him, then it is only right to be patient with another.

6. Love looks at everyone as valuable.

7. Endurance bears all things.

F. Paul reviews persecutions that he underwent.

1. One never really understands a person until he knows what he has gone through.
2. The early experiences of Paul's persecution burnt themselves into Timothy's mind--when you become a Christian, God does not necessarily protect you from peril.

G. The Lord rescued Paul from all persecutions.

1. Paul learned the secret of the divine presence.
2. In all times good and hard, Jesus stood with Paul. Paul saw Jesus as Lord of all events.

H. True Christianity is always a counter-cultural movement.

1. Paul taught the truth.
2. He practiced what he preached.
3. He expected trouble.
4. Above all, he walked with the Lord.

**Application questions:**

1. What role does suffering play in the Christian's life?

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2. What stands out to you about Paul's response to challenges?

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3. How can it be said that the Lord rescued Paul from all persecutions? Explain.

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