

CONQUERING THE TOXIC ENVIRONMENT

(Part 2 of 2)
September 12, 2022

2 TIMOTHY 4:5 NKJV (5) But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Last week Paul told Timothy as well as the people today the toxins that are very existent in our environment today. We are not to participate or run from what is before us. Instead, Christians have been called to be the ultimate example through kingdom teaching. We are here to conquer that which is not an example of the kingdom by standing for righteousness! We don't run, participate with toxic living, but conquer through righteous living, prayer and acknowledging the "[Good news!](#)"

Paul gives Timothy four commands for conquering the toxic environment

(5a) But you be watchful in all things. Timothy was to be focused and alert, talking his life and role seriously. The concept of living a "sober" life, as used here, is not a reference to alcohol (**1 Timothy 5:23**), but to be calm, focused, and controlled.

(5b) Endure afflictions. Timothy needs to "endure suffering." Endurance is a major theme in this letter, mentioned several times already (**2 Timothy 2:10, 12; 3:11; 4:3**). The idea is not merely "surviving" situations, but maintaining his Christian perspective during those hard times.

(5c) Do the work of an evangelist. Timothy is to "do the work of an evangelist." An evangelist is literally a person who presented the good news of Christ. Timothy, whether this was his spiritual gift or not, is being commanded to communicate the gospel as part of his ministry as a church leader.

What's also interesting about this is how Paul has *not* described Timothy in a certain title. **MATTHEW 28:16-20 (THE GREAT COMMISSION)**.

(5d) Fulfill your ministry. Timothy is to do more than endure; he is to accomplish the purposes of his ministry calling. Ministry is hard work and there is often a temptation to quit. There is a natural lure to settle for less than our best. Here, Paul commands Timothy to continue, even during difficult times, to complete the calling God had given him. Review **2 TIMOTHY 4:11** - Many had left Paul, with only Luke remaining.

Represent the "[Kingdom!](#)"

SCRIPTURE READING: AMOS 3:3

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: If you accept the expectations of others, especially negative ones, then you never will change the outcome.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"