Thou Hast Fully Known My Manner Of Life

Intro: In contrast to the false teachers (as Jannes and Jambres who had withstood Moses) these false teachers folly would be manifest to men. Paul’s says that Timothy already fully knew his life as opposed to the lives of the false teachers; 2 Tim. 3:10 “But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience.”

Paul’s life is easily divided into three sections. Let us consider a few things about each part.

I. PRE-CONVERSION LIFE
   A. His first introduction:
      1. Approving the death of Steven; Acts 7:58 “And cast him out of the city, and stoned him and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man’s feet, whose name was Saul.”
      2. Immediately after; Acts 8:1-3 “And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. 3As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.”
   B. He was zealous in his actions
      1. Gal. 1:13-14 “For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews’ religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: 14And profited in the Jews’ religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.”
      2. Phi. 3:4-6 “Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”
      3. Examples:
         a. Acts 8:3 “As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.”
         b. Acts 9:1 “And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,”
   C. He was sincere and of a good conscience
      1. Acts 23:1 “And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”
      2. Acts 24:16 “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.”

II. CONVERSION
   A. Acts 9, 22, 26
   B. On the road to Damascus
      1. The Lord appears to him.
      2. Saul comes to believe in the Lordship of Jesus and confesses his faith in Jesus as being Lord.
         a. Acts 9:6 “And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”
         b. Denominational world teaches this is all that is necessary.
c. Mat. 7:21-23 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

3. However, he was not saved at that time.

C. In Damascus
1. We see his sorrow for sin; Acts 9:9, 11 “And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.... 11And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,”

2. He was instructed to be baptized
   a. Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
   b. Acts 9:18 “And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.”

3. Immediately began preaching; Acts 9:20, 22 “And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.... 22But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.”

III. POST-CONVERSION LIFE
A. He possessed the same zeal (an uncompromising zeal), but now for Christ.
1. Questionable actions
   a. The situation with John Mark.
   b. Paul refused to give him a second chance; Acts 15:36-39 “And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. 37And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. 38But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work. 39And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;”
   c. Because of Barnabas’ efforts, Paul would later write that Mark was profitable to him; 2 Tim. 4:11 “Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.”

2. False teachers
   a. Notice his dealings with the Judaizers
      (1) Acts 15:1-2 “And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. 2When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.”
      (2) Gal. 2:4-5 “And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: 5To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.”
   b. 1 Tim. 1:19-20 “Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: 20Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.”
   c. 2 Tim. 2:17-18 “And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”
B. He had an evangelistic attitude.
   1. He went on 3 missionary journeys.
   2. His desire is seen in his attitude toward the Israelites.
      a. Rom. 10:1 “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”
      b. Rom. 9:1-3 “I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy
         Ghost, 3That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. 4For I could wish that myself
         were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:”

Conclusion: Paul would say to follow him as he followed Christ; 1 Cor. 11:1 “Be ye followers of me, even
as I also am of Christ.” Have you followed Paul in being baptized for the remission of your sins? Have you
followed him in having a zealous attitude for Christ and for teaching the lost?