The Proof Of Timothy

Intro: One may prove his religion. He can do this by giving book, chapter, and verse—for which we should all be prepared. Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”; 2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

Another way of proving one’s religion is by being transformed. Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” In Philippians 2:22 “But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.” Here Paul mentions the proof of Timothy. Let us notice some of Timothy’s “proof.”

I. HE WAS A DISCIPLE OR LEARNER—THIS PROVES HIS INTEREST IN DIVINE THINGS
   A. Acts 16:1 “Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:”
   B. The need to study.
      1. 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
      2. 2 Tim. 3:15 “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
      3. Only those interested in spiritual things will study and learn.

II. HE WAS UNSELFISH—THIS PROVED HIS LOVE.
   A. Phi. 2:20-21 “For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. 21For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s.”
   B. Love is unselfish
      1. 1 Cor. 13:5 “Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;”
      2. This is a God-like and Christ-like trait.
         a. Rom. 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
         b. John 10:11, 18 “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.... 18No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”

III. HE SERVED—THIS PROVED HIS GREATNESS.
   A. Phi. 2:22 “But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.”
   B. Serving proves true greatness; Mat. 23:11 “But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.”
   C. Christianity is a religion of service; Mat. 20:28 “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

IV. HE WAS A WORKER—THIS PROVED HIS FAITH.
   A. Rom. 16:21 “Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.”
   B. Jam. 2:18 “Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”
V. HE WAS A WORKFELLOW—THIS PROVED HIS PEACEFULNESS.

A. Rom. 16:21 “Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.”

B. We must work together.

1. 1 Cor. 3:9 “For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.”

2. 2 Cor. 6:1 “We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.”

3. Some people have to work over or against you; they cannot work with you; cf. 3 John 9-10 “I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.”

VI. HE BECAME, “ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN” THAT HE MIGHT SAVE SOME—THIS PROVED HIS SOUL-WINNING SPIRIT.

A. This is evident from his being circumcised even though it had no religious significance at the time.

B. Acts 16:3 “Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.”

VII. HE HELD THE FAITH WHEN OTHER SHIPWRECKED IT—THIS PROVED HIS DOCTRINAL SOUNDNESS.

A. 1 Tim. 1:18-20 “This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; 19Holding 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.”

B. Doctrinal unsoundness shows a disrespect for God’s Word.

1. Rev. 22:18-19 “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

2. Gal. 1:8-9 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

C. 1 Tim. 4:16 “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

Conclusion: Do you prove your religion? Do you prove it by giving book, chapter, and verse? Do you prove it by living the transformed life?