

The Epistle of Timothy
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Introduction

1 Timothy is one of the Pastoral Epistles of Paul.

The others include 2 Timothy and Titus.

Timothy was a young man was led to the Lord by the Apostle Paul.

The Bible tells us a few other things about him as well.

- * His father was an unbelieving Greek (Acts 16:1).
- * Timothy was not circumcised, which leads us to believe he was educated in the Greek teachings and customs of his father (Acts 16:3).
- * He had a godly mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5).
- * Paul adopted him as his own spiritual son (1 Timothy 1:2).

It is evident from 1 & 2 Timothy, that Paul had a tremendous love for this young man.

Yet they were very different.

Two Testimonies

Timothy was raised in a Christian home while Paul was raised a devout Jew that believed that Christianity as a lethal threat to Judaism.

Timothy was saved as a youth while Paul wasn't saved until later in life.

Good vs. Bad Testimonies

Now many times we're tempted to believe that those who have the worst past have the greatest testimony.

I disagree.

Salvation at a young age is a greater testimony in that scars and regret are less.

You see, Paul could tell everyone how God saved him from his sins, but Timothy could tell everyone how God kept him from his sins.

I think that is a far better proposition.

Chapter 1

Establishing Authority

vv.1-2 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope; (2) Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

We see Paul doing two things in this verse.

(1) Establishing His Authority

The word “Apostle” is the word “Apostolos” which means a person sent forth.

This meant three things:

- He belongs to the king or country that sends him.
- He is commissioned to be sent out.
- He possesses all the authority and power of the person or country that sends him.

I believe that Paul wanted to make sure that Timothy took this letter as from an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ and not just his close friend Paul.

Paul was not speaking as a friend of the family.

Illustration: Pastors can have this problem as well. He is the congregation’s friend, but he is also God’s messenger.

After he established his AUTHORITY-

(2) He Establishes His Reason for Writing.

- I. The Purity of Doctrine
- II. The Purpose of Doctrine
- III. The Perversion of Doctrine

First, let’s look at...

I. The Purity of Doctrine

vv.3-4 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, (4) Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

One of the signs of a mature Christian is his love and respect for the Word of God.

The world may not care, but the child of God does.

Everything I know about God comes from the Bible.

That is what is called doctrine.

Doctrine by definition is whatever is laid down as true by an instructor or master.

Of course, our Master was Jesus and our Instructors are the Apostles.

Illustration: I heard a preacher say one time on national television. “Our church is a church of love that does not get caught up in doctrine.”

Illustration: I saw a sign on the front of a church that said, “Doctrine divides, but love unites!”

Anytime you hear someone say something like that, it should send your little red flag up!

What they are saying is that they do not stand upon the Word of God.

Acts 2:42 *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

Unity can only come through a clear understanding of the Bible and the doctrine contained therein!

Illustration: It's like one going into his medicine cabinet and saying, “All of this medicine is good, let's pour it all together in one bottle and it'll be even better!” Hey, if a dab will do you, then more is better! I'm glad that a pharmacist doesn't think that way.

Doctrine is Divisive

Yes, doctrine is divisive!

It divides the FALSE church from the TRUE church.

Paul gave Timothy the *“pure doctrine,”* and told him he expected him to do the same - give it to others.

Paul said in 2 Tim. 2:2, *“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*

vv.5-6 *Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: (6) From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;*

Notice that the reason for keeping the doctrine pure is love.

Why? Bad doctrine can take you to hell.

Illustration: The JW believes practically everything in the Bible except that Jesus is God!

Close only counts in horseshoes, not theology!

Note the words, *“from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,”*

In other words, Paul believed what he was teaching.

He wasn't being hypocritical about it.

Illustration: The best salesman is the one who believes in his product.

Second, let's look at...

II. The Purpose of Doctrine

Look at verse 4.

Timothy was in Ephesus that was known for its many mysterious religions.

There were three temples there.

- The Temple of Hadrian (Today it is the Roman Stock Exchange)
- The Temple of Trajan
- The Temple of Diana

All these temples were built on Greek mythology.

The Christians were to stay away from these teachings.

Also, Paul said, *“Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies....”*

The word “Fables” is the word “Muthos”, which refers to all forms of false fictional teaching and doctrine.

Paul said not to give heed to these kinds of teachings.

Genealogies refer to those who take comfort in their godly heritage.

They place more emphasis on the traditions of men than they do to truth.

Paul's purpose in writing to Timothy was to tell him to keep away from these things.

Real vs. False

We must remember that the purpose of doctrine is to separate the real from the false.

Cf. Galatians 1:8-9

Acts 2:42-43 *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

2 John 10-11 *“If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.”*

Cf. 1 Tim. 4:11-16

Cf. 2 Tim. 4:3-4

Illustration: The Episcopalian problem started with a rejection of 1 Tim. 2:11-15 years ago.

The Episcopal Church's voted 62-45 to make Robinson the first openly homosexual bishop in history.

The Bible clearly teaches that this is wrong.

Homosexuality is a violation of Gen. 1:26-28

On that day, neither public opinion nor the opinions of the Episcopal bishops will be of any consequence.

That's the purpose of doctrine.

So, we have the purity of doctrine and the purpose of doctrine, now we have the third reason for the writing which is the...

Third, let's look at...

III. The Perversion of Doctrine

These false teachers were teaching a perverted doctrine.

vv.7-11 *Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. (8) But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; (9) Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, (10) For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; (11) According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.*

The false teachers who claimed to have some super knowledge affected some people.

In verse 6 he said, *"from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk,"*

The Devil loves to mix truth with lie.

Cf. Genesis 3

Illustration: Often, this is how a man poisons another man. Pretending to be his friend, he pours him some tea, laced with some small amount of poison. He knows if he makes the poison too strong, the man would detect something, but by making it 95% tea and 5% poison, the man will drink the poison without detecting it.

Illustration: Rat poison is 99.95% good!

The false teacher does the same thing. He will not stand up and say, "Throw your Bible away!"

Instead, he will take your Bible and show you things that you believe, but he also adds just a little bit of false teaching.

Illustration: Look how the Devil cleverly works through the Mormon Church. These people go on national television, and give away free Bibles to anyone who will call their toll free number.

Why do they do this?

To mingle truth with error just like their Father the Devil!

Just about every cult does the same thing.

Their purpose is to gradually get you to “stray” and “turn aside” into false doctrine, so you will not even realize that you are doing it.

Paul saw this happening to the church, and he wanted Timothy to remain, and preach God's word in Ephesus, to keep the church from going astray.

The Challenge

v.12 *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*

I still struggle with that verse today and yet it is the way God works.

Cf. Matthew 25:14-30 and the parable of the talents.

v.13 *Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*

Now Paul begins to share a little bit of his testimony.

Paul shared his testimony six times, and each time he shared it for the purpose of glorifying the Lord.

Blasphemer & Persecutor

He was a blasphemer and a persecutor of the church.

Proof Text: Acts 8:3, 9:1-2

While Paul was doing his deeds, God did His.

cf. Acts 9:3-6

God miraculously saved Paul!

He had been a blasphemer and persecutor, making havoc of the church like a wrecking crew with a wrecking ball.

How could Paul have done such evil things?

Cf. 1 Tim. 1:13, “...*I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*”

Illustration: Remember what Jesus said when he was being crucified? “*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*” Jesus was saying that those people were ignorant of what they were doing!

The devil wants to keep people in ignorance.

He knows what they are capable of if they remain in ignorance of sin.

Ignorance of Sin Today

We see the ignorance of sin today in America like we have never seen it before.

Illustration: This country saw abortion as murder for decades. If a woman had her baby killed in this fashion, she was incarcerated, and the community in which she lived was ashamed she lived there.

Then the Supreme Court reversed that law, and now those who oppose a woman’s right to kill her children are considered to be right wing bigots.

There is something terribly wrong with a people or nation who cannot see the sin in killing their own babies.

God so created women that they would be able to bear children.

He provided that the unborn child be fully protected with a special cushion as part of the mother’s womb.

The womb should be the safest place on earth and yet today it is the most dangerous.

Exodus 21:22-23 “*If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life,*”

One day God will bring judgment on the murdering mothers, legislators, and doctors who do this horrible thing in our nation every day.

How dare we as Christians put men in office who promote the killing of innocent children?

We better learn that we need to start voting Christian and not Democratic or Republican!

We better learn to start voting morality and not our pocket books!

Realistically, we’re not voting for a person, but a parties’ platform.

Illustration: Bill O'Reilly noted a writer of the 15th century who said that a democracy only last until the masses figure out who's going to give them the money.

So, Paul concludes that he sinned in ignorance.

Grace

v.14 *And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*

It is the grace of God that saves us.

Illustration: When Billy Graham was driving through a small southern town, he was stopped by a policeman and charged with speeding. Graham admitted his guilt, but was told by the officer that he would have to appear in court. The judge asked, "Guilty, or not guilty?" When Graham pleaded guilty, the judge replied, "That'll be ten dollars -- a dollar for every mile you went over the limit." Suddenly the judge recognized the famous minister. "You have violated the law," he said. "The fine must be paid--but I am going to pay it for you." He took a ten dollar bill from his own wallet, attached it to the ticket, and then took Graham out and bought him a steak dinner! "That," said Billy Graham, "is how God treats repentant sinners!"

v.15 *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

cf. John 3:16-17

v.16 *Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.*

The reason was because Paul was a repentant sinner.

Paul was the pattern to all of us as to how God shows mercy and saves.

v.17 *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

This is sort of a premature benediction.

It's almost like Paul had a shouting spell.

v.18 *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;*

Fight the fight Timothy!

vv.19-20 *Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: (20) Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.*

To reject the doctrines is to become shipwreck.

Illustration: AW Tozier once said, “We have gotten accustomed to the blurred puffs of gray fog that pass for doctrine in churches and expect nothing better. From some previously unimpeachable sources are now coming vague statements consisting of a milky admixture of Scripture, science, and human sentiment that is true to none of its ingredients because each one works to cancel the others out. Little by little Christians these days are being brainwashed. One evidence is that increasing numbers of them are becoming ashamed to be found unequivocally on the side of truth. They say they believe, but their beliefs have been so diluted as to be impossible of clear definition. Moral power has always accompanied definite beliefs. Great saints have always been dogmatic. We need a return to a gentle dogmatism that smiles while it stands stubborn and firm on the Word of God that lives and abides forever.”

Know what the Bible says and stand on it or shipwreck is in your future!

Hymenaeus & Alexander

What were these guys guilty of?

Cf. 2 Tim. 2:15-18; 2 Tim. 4:14

They were both obviously guilty of blaspheming.

Notice, “...whom I delivered to Satan...”

Cf. 1 Cor. 5:1-5

Sometimes it is necessary to simply turn people over to the devil for the churches good and their own good.

This can be tough to do, but necessary.

Cf. Matt. 18:15-17

Indifference

We are warned about indifference in 1 Cor. 5:2

When Paul says, “...*puffed up*...”; he is really saying that they think they know better than God on how to deal with this problem.

God has laid out the plan for church discipline and quite frankly, the modern church has done a horrible job at following it.

As a matter of fact, it is so rare today that when a church does it God’s way they look mean and uncaring.

Chapter 2

vv.1-2 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; (2) For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Our prayer should be for our leaders and their ability to lead whether we like them or not.

vv.3-4 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; (4) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

God desires us to pray for others.

Our ultimate end of prayer should be salvation and / or restoration.

vv.5-7 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (6) Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. (7) Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

Because there is only one way to be saved.

Eph 4:20-21 “*But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:*”

v.8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

God desires us to pray everywhere.

Cf. John 4:20-23

Notice, “...*holy hands*...”

This refers to hands that are not defiled by sin.

Matt 5:23-24 “*Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*”

Cf. Is. 1:15

Notice, “...*wrath and doubting*...”

This simply means that prayer is not to be offered up in anger or in the midst of contention.

Our heads must be cool when we approach God.

Matt 14:31 “*And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*”

Cf. James 1:5-8

vv.9-10 *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; (10) But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*

Notice “...*in like manner*...”. It means in the same regard.

The theme that Paul is about to go into is hypocrisy (4:2).

God wants everyone to be saved, but hypocrisy can be a hindrance to that.

Apparently, a hindrance he is concerned about the dress of women.

They must dress properly.

Of course, the question arises, "who is to say what is inappropriate, and what is proper?"

Is there going to be a dress code?

Who decides?

Paul answers that in the same sentence.

Modestly And Shamefaced

Proper clothing is modest and discreet.

What do these words mean?

"Modest" in Greek means to be orderly, harmonious, well-balanced.

It is where we get our words "cosmos" and "cosmetics."

Things that are an orderly arrangement.

This doesn't mean to make sure that your clothes match, but that they are in harmony with your testimony.

The word shamefaced is the word discreet.

"Discreetly" in Greek carries with it the negative of shame and disgrace.

When you dress discreetly, it means that you are dressing to avoid shame, it means that you have a sense of honor.

That you are dressing with regard to men and reverence toward God.

So Paul is saying, "Ladies, consider what you are wearing."

Is what you are wearing consistent with your testimony?

Do you consider God and men when you choose your clothes?

Men are Driven by Sight

Men are driven and stimulated by sight.

Matt. 5:28 *"but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart."*

Now I have heard women say, "Well, that's their problem. I'm going to wear what I like."

But that is not the attitude we are to have.

1Cor. 8:9 *“But take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.”*

1Cor. 8:13 *“Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble.”*

When you wear a low-cut shirt, a short skirt, a tight fitting sweater or pair of pants, it causes men to stumble.

Are you willing to give up your freedom to wear these things out of respect for your Christian brothers?

Women’s Liberation

Now, before we continue with versus 11-15, I want to clarify something in regards to Christianity and women.

Two thousand years ago, women were not considered to be citizens but property.

Plato wrote, "I thank the gods that I am a Greek and not a barbarian. I thank the gods that I am a freeman and not a slave. And I thank the gods that I am a man and not a woman."

In that day and age, men were forbidden to talk to women in public, including their own wives and daughters.

Reincarnation

In India, the teaching of reincarnation was that bad people became dogs, worse people became spiders, and really, really bad people became women!

Then Came Jesus

Jesus destroyed all of that.

He talked with women publicly,

I.e. The woman at the well, the woman caught in the act of adultery, the woman with the issue of blood.

As a matter of fact, He made women a key part of His ministry.

The very first people he appeared to after His resurrection were women in a time when a women’s eyewitness account in court meant nothing.

Christianity freed women and not the opposite.

Learn Quietly

v.11 *Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.*

Paul says that a woman should learn quietly with submissiveness.

That could sound very chauvinistic, until you understand two things.

First, Paul is saying that the women should be instructed in the church.

In their society women were discouraged from learning.

Most of the rabbis of the day refused to teach women.

The Greeks discouraged the women from appearing in public - and never alone.

They were not even allowed at public assemblies.

And so, the positive side of this is that women were welcome in the church, against the social trends of the day.

Secondly, it says that the women were to *"learn in silence with all submission."*

Cf. 1Cor. 14:34-35

Does Christianity teach that women are to be seen and not heard?

No!

1 Cor. 11:5 *"But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved."*

Obviously the women were allowed to pray and prophesy in church.

Gal. 3:28 *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."*

God sees men and women as equals.

What Gives?

In Paul's day men and women sat on different sides of the church and sometimes the women would yell out at their husbands to clarify something for them.

It was disruptive to say the least!

So they were to receive the instruction in church, and if they had questions, they should ask their husbands later, at home.

The Woman was Deceived

vv.12-14 *But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. (13) For Adam was first formed, then Eve. (14) And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*

The bottom line is that Women are forbidden to be the spiritual heads over men in the church.

They are not to teach men or have authority over men.

They are free to serve in many areas of ministry, but being elders is not allowed.

Why not? The answer is threefold and it goes back to the Garden of Eden.

1. Man was formed first (Gen. 2:18-25).

The man was given authority over the woman.

1 Cor 11:3 *"But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God."*

2. The woman was deceived and not the man (Gen. 3:1-6).

Eve's problem was not that she was tempted to sin, but that she was deceived into sin.

Cf. v.14

2 Cor. 11:3 *"But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."*

Adam was not deceived but ate of the fruit knowingly.

Illustration: If the women were pulled from the hyper charismatic movement and the cults, they would collapse over night!

Why? Women can be more easily deceived than men.

3. It was part of the curse (Gen. 3:16).

Part of the women's sinful nature will be to rebel against the authority and position of her husband.

The Bible repeated tells women to submit and never directly tells the man.

Why? They have problem in this area.

You show me a woman who calls herself an elder and I'll show you a woman who is in rebellion to God!

I'm sorry that I'm not being politically correct.

Woman has a twofold problem that came from the fall: they desire to be in charge and they are easily deceived.

That's a bad combination.

Can Women Serve?

Moses' sister was both a prophetess and a worship leader.

Phoebe was a deaconess of the church in Cenchrea (Rom. 16:1).

Women are to teach their children and younger ladies.

Cf. Titus 2:3-5

Note: This ban of women authority is in spiritual matters only.

Saved in Childbearing

v.15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

What does this mean?

It goes back to the curse of Genesis 3:16.

Apparently, childbirth would have been easy before the fall.

Now, it is painful and even life-threateningly dangerous.

God's promise here is that if they continue in faith, love, and holiness with self-control, He will preserve them through the pain of the curse that was placed upon them because of Eve.

It can also mean that through the raising of Godly children, the women can remove the stigma of the curse.

Chapter 3

v.1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

The word translated "desire" here means, "to stretch one's self out in order to touch or to grasp something, to reach after or desire something."

There is nothing wrong in desiring good things; especially to lead the church.

However, with this desire there are certain guidelines that must be met.

The Office of Overseer

The term "bishop" is synonymous with Elder and Overseer.

In Calvary Chapel we call them elders.

I think that overseer sounds too authoritarian and bishop sounds too religious.

Elders are in the church for specific reasons.

They are to:

Guard the flock (Acts 20);

Shepherd the church (Acts 20, 1Pet. 5);

Work hard to help the weak (Acts 20);

Be an example to the sheep (1Pet. 5);

and go to the sick and pray over them, anointing them with oil (James 5).

They are also to:

Be dedicated to God and to the Word of His grace (Acts 20);

Discuss and come to conclusions regarding church doctrine (Acts 15);

Preach and teach (1Tim. 5)

As well as:

Choose men for the work of missions and ministry (Acts 15);

Meet to hear the status of the church and ministries (Acts 15, 21);

Have stewardship over what to do with church finances (Acts 11:30, Titus 1);

Take care of the church (1Tim. 3); and Rule what goes on in the church (1Tim. 5:17).

Because of these responsibilities there are qualifications.

Qualifications

vv.2-7 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; (3) Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; (4) One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (5) (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) (6) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. (7) Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

The qualifications for an elder make up a good description of a godly Christian.

Blameless

The first thing listed is that the overseer must be above reproach.

There shouldn't be anything in his life that, if discovered, would cause people to reproach the man and the Lord Jesus Christ whom he serves.

Husband of One Wife

What does it mean to be the husband of one wife?

Is this simply a prohibition against having elders who were polygamists?

I don't believe so for two reasons. 1) Polygamy was not an issue in that day and 2) Had there been a polygamist, he would not have been allowed to be a church member, let alone a leader in the church.

Does it mean that they can never have been divorced?

That's where the disagreement comes in.

Some say that once a man is divorced, he can never serve in spiritual leadership again while others say that divorce can be forgiven just like all other sins.

Temperate, Sober-minded, Good Behavior

To be temperate and sober-minded means to be sober and free from self-indulgence.

I.e. that's anything from alcohol to a big mouth.

Hospitable

Most people think of hospitality as opening up your home to people for dinner or to spend the night.

But to be hospitable is to be friendly and showing care and concern for people.

Able To Teach

An elder must be able to teach the Word of God.

Now, that doesn't mean he'll have a special gift of teaching, or that he'll be a dynamic preacher.

It means that he knows the Word, and is able to tell others what it says.

Not Given to Wine

The word translated "given" is the Greek word "para" which means "with" or "near to."

In other words, the elder is not to be with it or near to it.

Not Violent, but Gentle, not quarrelsome

An elder is not to be someone that is always looking for a fight.

Not Greedy for Money

Heb. 13:5a says, *“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have.”*

The love of money will turn anybody into a Judas real fast.

Rules His Own House Well

The household of the elder should be ran well.

That doesn't mean that it's perfect.

Not a Novice

He needs to have a little bit of time in his walk with the Lord.

Cf. young actors, athletes, and celebrities

Good Testimony

That doesn't mean that he's popular.

Cf. Luke 6:26 *“Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for in the same way their fathers used to treat the false prophets.”*

It means that his reputation must be that of a good man.

Deacons

vv.8-13 *Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; (9) Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. (10) And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. (11) Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. (12) Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. (13) For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

As we saw, the elders in the church are responsible for spiritual ministry in the church.

Here we find that the next office in the church is responsible for the physical ministry in the church.

The word "deacon" comes from the Greek root "diakon."

Diakoneo is a verb meaning "to serve, to minister."

The first deacons were appointed in Acts 6:1-6.

Four things happened that caused the selection of these men.

- 1) There was a physical need.
- 2) The pastors/overseers couldn't meet the need.
- 3) Men were selected who met certain guidelines.
- 4) The apostles prayed and laid their hands on them.

Requirements

With that said, here are the requirements for a deacon.

Reverent (v.8)

The word "reverent" means "having a composed or serious manner."

This means that they are to be serious when it's time to be serious.

Rom. 12:15 *"Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."*

A servant of God is in tune with God and with the situation he is facing.

Telling jokes about the deceased at a funeral is usually not wise.

Not Double-Tongued (v.8)

cf. James 3:9-10

It is so incredibly hypocritical to speak spiritually at church and carnally at work.

To praise God around Christians, and curse around heathen.

Unfortunately, many Christians have great need to repent in this area.

Not Given to Much Wine (v.8)

The word translated "given" here means "holding on to."

Unlike pastors and elders, deacons are permitted to partake of alcohol, but not in quantity or to the point of dependency or need.

They are, of course, not allowed to get drunk, which is forbidden to all Christians.

Cf. Eph. 5:18

Not Greedy for Money (v.8)

A deacon is not to be greedy for money.

The dictionary definition of greedy is “Excessively desirous of acquiring or possessing, especially wishing to possess more than what one needs or deserves.”

In other words, they should not be greedily pursuing money.

This includes money won by gambling, taken by theft or deception, or even earned in a manner that isn't completely on the "up and up."

Many times we will deceive ourselves into thinking that we're doing it for God and yet, God knows better.

1 Tim 6:6 *“Now godliness with contentment is great gain.”*

The NAS uses the word “sordid” gain and that means filthy or dirty.

Holding the Mystery of the Faith with a Pure Conscience (v.9)

The word conscience comes from con and science: "with knowledge."

Again, knowledge is important.

Illustration: One survey said that once out of school 60% of all Americans will never read a book again.

The devil knows that knowledge is power.

However, it's not just knowledge for the sake of knowledge, but knowledge for the sake of God!

Let Them First Be Tested (v.10)

In other words, they must be given time to prove themselves.

Women (v.11)

Notice that in your NKJV that *“their”* is italicized.

It actually reads, “likewise wives...”

What it really says is, “likewise women...”

The NAS translates the verse, “*Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.*”

So, it’s up for debate even today as to whether Paul is speaking of the deacon’s wife or additional requirements for a deaconesses.

However, we do know that there were deaconesses in the first century church based on Romans 16:1

One Wife (v.12)

Just as elders were required to be, a deacon must be a one-woman man, esteeming marriage as highly as God does.

Ruling Their Children and House Well (v.12)

If a man can’t take care of his own home, how can he take care of the house of God.

If his wife and kids don’t respect him, how will anyone else.

This is the one that trips most men up.

It’s the one in combination with the curse on the women that causes most men to be disqualified from ministry.

The Pillar and Ground of Truth

vv.14-16 *These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: (15) But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. (16) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

Paul desire was to see them soon, but in the meantime this letter had to suffice.

Notice that the church is the, “*pillar and the ground of the truth.*”

The big question is whether Paul was trying to impress the previous to him or the latter in v.16 about the deity of Christ.

Chapter 4

This chapter begins with a warning.

The warning is that some will fall away from what was just said at the end of chapter 3; the manifestation of Jesus.

Cf. Mormonism and the rest of the cults of today

The Faith

vv.1-2 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (2) Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

The bottom line is that some are falling away from the faith.

To fall means to depart.

In other words, they were there once (or at least they appeared to be), but now they have left.

1 John 2:19 *“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”*

In other words, falling away is proof that you never arrived.

Cf. Heb. 3:12-15

Cf. 2 Tim. 4:3-4; 3:1-8

Luke 18:8 *“I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”*

Faith is not as common as you and I would like to think.

Why? Deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons!

Cf. 1 Kings 22:13-28

There are false prophets in the land today.

Cf. 1 Tim. 6:3-5

Deceitful Spirits

These demons cook up lies to lead people away from the church which is *“the pillar and the ground of the truth.”*

Gal. 1:8 *“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.”*

Cf. 2 Cor. 11:14

Holy Spirit Worship

Many in the charismatic movement of Christianity are seeking the gift more than the giver.

The proof is the fruit.

Theology gets pushed to the side for feelings.

Cf. female preachers, no mission activities, extra-biblical gifts, and talking tortillas!

1 Cor 10:19-20 *“What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.”*

Everybody in the church today wants to “experience” something.

Cf. James 3:15

Cf. Jude 19

It’s all about feelings today in the church and not obedience.

It’s like God has to conform to my wishes and wants.

Cf. the faith movement

It’s all satanic induced to lead the church away from the truth.

Cf. 2 Thess. 2:9

2 Thess 2:3 *“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,”*

Hypocrites

Paul says that those who are propagating the teachings of these “deceiving spirits” and “doctrines of demons” are hypocrites whose consciences have been seared.

The word "*seared*" is the Greek word which means "cauterized."

It means that their inner voice (conscience) that tells them right from wrong has been seared by their hypocrisy.

What is a Hypocrite?

The word hypocrite means "an actor, a pretender."

Jesus called people hypocrites for...

1. Claiming to be offering their money to God, when in reality they just wanted to be seen as giving.

Cf. Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5.

2. Claiming to be praying to God or fasting for God, when in reality they just wanted to be seen as spiritual.

Cf. Matt. 6:5-7

3. Claiming to help someone out of their sin, when in reality the sin that they had not repented of was much bigger.

Matt 7:3 *“And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?”*

4. Claiming to be righteous, when they were wicked on the inside.

Matt 23:27 *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.”*

5. Honoring God with their lips, when in reality, their hearts were far from Him.

Matt 15:8 *“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.”*

Have you ever been hypocritical in your Christianity?

Have you ever proclaimed one message while living another?

While we may fool some of the people around us, we can never fool God.

Hypocrisy causes cauterization of our conscience.

And instead of doing things because that's what we think God want us to, we do them out of false righteousness.

And like a frog that is slowly boiled to death, we don't even realize what is happening to us.

Day by day, our conscience is being burned alive by means of our hypocrisy.

Doctrines of Demons

v.3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

Too prime examples of doctrines of demons.

a. Forbidding to marry.

The Bible clearly teaches that marriage is ordained by God.

Cf. 1 Cor. 7:8-9

The Bible also teaches that Peter was married.

Cf. Mark 1:29-31

Where did the doctrine of celibacy come from?

It came from the Roman Catholic Church.

They say that it's because the priest is married to the church.

However, the truth is far from that.

They did not want the property of the married priest to go to his wife and family, but instead to the church upon his death.

What's the Fruit?

What has been the fruit of this doctrine of celibacy?

The Bible clearly teaches that a tree is to be judged by its fruit.

What has the Catholic doctrine of celibacy produced; Pedophilia and homosexuality?

b. Commanding to abstain from foods (meat).

Sounds like another doctrine propagated by the Catholic Church.

Self Righteousness

The sin with these kinds of teachings as well as others is that they promote "false spiritualism".

In other words, to do these things makes one closer to God.

In and of itself, it's not bad, but deep down it is because it seeks a form of self-righteousness.

Cf. Col. 2:16-18, 20-23

The KJV used "will worship" in v.23.

Dietary Laws (Abstaining from Meats)

Is the Church Subject to the Dietary Laws of the Old Testament?

Cf. Lev. 11

Cf. Mark 7:18-19

Cf. Acts 10:9-16

We are not to be placed under the yoke of Old Testament dietary laws.

And even if we keep them, it doesn't make us any more spiritual than the next guy.

Cf. Rom. 14

God has freed us from the taboos of asceticism.

It is a system of works salvation!

Other Doctrines of Demons

Are there other doctrines of demons out there today?

a. How much sin can I get away with and still go to Heaven?

“Hey, it’s all under the blood! Right?”

Cf. Heb. 10:26-27

b. Man made rules for holiness.

I.e. the two Paul mentioned in v.3 and others.

c. Prayers and incantations that will scare the demons away.

Luke 4:35 *“But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him.”*

All Jesus said was, “Be quiet and come out of him!”

d. Every good thing that happens is a reward for great faith, and every bad thing that happens is the result of not enough faith.

That flies in the face of what Jesus said in Mark 9:23-24 *“Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”*

e. Turning the church into a playground with outbursts of super natural gifts.

cf. 1 Cor. 14:30-32

These are just a few.

Anything that twists the Word of God is a doctrine of demons.

Sanctified by the Word

vv.4-5 *For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: (5) For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.*

Here is where we are encouraged to pray over our food.

Why; to thank God for it.

Cf. Mark 8:6; Acts 27:35; 1Cor. 10:30-31

If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks?

Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

A Good Minister

v.6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

Paul instructs Timothy to “instruct” these things in order to be good minister of Jesus Christ.

That’s easier than it sounds.

How do you deal with issues like abortion, homosexuality, false-religion, false teachers, confusion in the charismatic movement, etc...

Just teach the Book and it will deal with it for you!

Personally, I want to be a good minister.

Sometimes it can be difficult teaching the Word of God.

Cf. Sunday morning and the message on “the false prophet” from Rev. 13.

Unbiblical Things

v.7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

Don’t go with things that aren’t Biblical.

We have enough problems trying to keep what’s in the Bible without making up some more.

“We can’t keep the 10 Commandments and you want to give me more!”

Bodily Exercise

v.8a For bodily exercise profiteth little:

In other words, don’t be so concerned with the outside.

1 Sam 16:7 *"But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

Rom 2:28 *"For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh;"*

Cf. 2 Cor. 4:16; 10:7; 1 Pet. 3:3

Godliness Gives Life

v.8b *but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*

Notice that "godliness" gives life not only in the next but the current.

John 10:10 *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."*

Live godly and the Lord will reward you.

Cf. Heb. 10:26-27

v.9 *This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation.*

You can take what Paul is saying to the bank.

Godliness and Suffering

v.10 *For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.*

Our "godliness" causes us to suffer sometimes.

2 Tim 3:12 *"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."*

v.11 *These things command and teach.*

This is to be taught!

What? Live godly and God will bless.

However, live godly and you will be persecuted.

That side is not taught much today from the pulpits of the faith and prosperity guys.

v.12 *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

Timothy was young, but his age was not to be despised.

His exact age is not known, but he was to behave in such a way that his age would not be called into question.

It was and is a two way street.

v.13 *Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*

Timothy, as an elder was to give attention to these things as that it is through these that his ministry would grow.

v.14 *Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*

His gift was the gift of eldership that affirmed by the other elder who confirmed that gift in him.

v.15 *Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.*

What things?, reading, exhortation, and doctrine.

If he did, it would be obvious to others.

Cf. Sunday School lessons that are ill prepared etc...

v.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.*

One degree of error in doctrine can cost men their souls.

Chapter 5

v.1 *Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;*

In other words, any hard words should be done with respect toward the older brethren and gentleness toward the younger.

All people by nature resent rebuke coming from others; let along younger people and their peers.

Cf. Pro. 27:6

The Younger Ladies

v.2 *The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.*

There is some indication that Timothy was to be very careful with the young ladies of the church.

His motives were to always be pure

Widows

v.3 *Honour widows that are widows indeed.*

Of course, a widow is a woman whose husband died.

However, we'll see later on in the chapter that the definition gets narrower in regards to "widows indeed".

They are spoken of in Acts 6:1

v.4 *But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.*

Ultimately, it's the family's responsibility to take care of their parents.

Depend on God

v.5 *Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.*

Regardless, the widow must depend upon God and not others.

This also gives a bit of a job description for the widows who are taken in.

They were to have a ministry in the church.

v.6 *But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.*

In other words, widows who don't do the above.

I'm afraid that many older women in the church today have forfeited their responsibilities to God and other women.

Cf. Tit. 2:1-5

Retirement

Retirement today should be a time to serve the Lord not ourselves.

I'm afraid that there are too many RV's at Fun & Sun that should have never been bought!

What better time to serve the Lord than in the golden years.

v.7 *And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless.*

Not suggest, but demand.

v.8 *But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*

Here's a solid warning for those who don't take care of their own family.

Over Sixty and Widowed

v.9 *Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man,*

The widow must be over 60.

Now during this time very few people lived into their sixties.

That's why retirement was set at 62!

Now the rest of the verse is controversial.

Does it mean that she was to have been married only once and if remarried she is disqualified from being taken in?

Was this a special reward for their faithful to God first by choosing not to remarry?

The Bible seems to speak well of those who choose not to marry or remarry.

Cf. 1 Cor. 7:7-9

Cf. Luke 2:36-37

Or does it mean that she must have been faithful to each of her husbands?

Because in v.14 they are told to remarry if they are under 60 years of age.

I feel that we must be true to the text just as we were in 3:2 and 3:12.

Well Reported

v.10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

Now this is not what she promises to do but what she has been doing.

God does not reward us based on what we promise to do, but what we do.

Cf. Rev. 20:12

v.11 But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry;

They can remarry and probably will.

Younger Widows

v.12 Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.

By taking in the younger widows you will just cause them to turn their backs on their commitment to God and the church as that they still will have a desire to marry.

Busybodies

v.13 *And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.*

Besides that, they will commit sin in the following.

In other words, let them remarry and stay busy so that they will not be engaged in these things.

Gossip

People who gossip and continuously look into the affairs of others don't have enough to do.

If they did they wouldn't be in someone else's business.

Illustration: I told a young man one time that most people's problem would go away if they would get off their back sides and go to work for the Lord.

This application can be made for anyone who "*cast off their first faith.*"

Lev 19:16 "*You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people;*"

Prov 16:28 "*A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends.*"

Illustration: Have you heard of the terrible family They,
And the dreadful venomous things They say?
Why, half the gossip under the sun,
If you trace it back, you will find begun
In that wretched House of They.

Illustration: Here are a few rules before sharing something with someone else. The acronym is THINK.

T--Is it true?

H--Is it helpful?

I--Is it inspiring?

N--Is it necessary?

K--Is it kind?

v.14 *I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.*

The younger widows need to remarry.

It also relieves the church of the responsibility.

v.15 *For some are already turned aside after Satan.*

Speaking of younger widows who have already done the aforementioned.

v.16 *If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.*

Widows should not be the responsibility or burden of the church, but their family; if possible.

Double Honor

v.17 *Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.*

This means that the elders that rule well and especially those who teach the Word should be treated with double honor.

This verse is very easy to teach at another man's church, but can be very difficult to teach in your own.

This honor speaks of respect.

It could be said, "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double respect."

This is the set up verse for v.19.

Also notice that there is a differentiation of the elders; some who rule and others who teach.

I am the teaching elder of this church.

Those who teach are to "especially" be given "double respect."

Sometimes the old adage can be true that "familiarity breeds contempt."

We must be careful that this doesn't happen.

Yes, we are equal's before God, but there are still privates and generals in God's army.

God made the chain of command and therefore it should be respected.

I.e. it is respected in the workplace and it is to be respected in God's house.

Muzzling the Ox

v.18 *For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.*

The deduction here is that if the ox is allowed to eat of the grain that it treads, how much more should the “teaching elder” receive wages for his work.

It’s amazing that in so many churches...

- they’ll pay the plumber to fix the pipes
- they’ll pay the mechanic to fix the cars
- but when it comes to paying the preacher to fix the spirit they hesitate.

This should not be.

Cf. 1 Cor. 9:8-11

Accusations

v.19 *Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.*

This comes straight from the Law of Moses.

Cf. Deut. 19:15-21

Cf. Matt. 18:16

2 Cor 13:1 *“This will be the third time I am coming to you. “By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.”*

John 8:17 *“It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true.”*

v.20 *Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.*

If the elder is found to be in sin, he is to be rebuked before the entire congregation.

This is to promote a fear of sin to the entire church.

This can also be said of church discipline that is laid for us in Matthew. 18

Titus 3:10-11 *“A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.”*

The word “heretick” means one who is a schismatic.

No Partiality

v.21 I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

Show no partiality in regards to these things aforementioned.

Cf. James 2:1-4

v.22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

Be careful when ordaining others because those who ordain share in the fruit of those ordained; good or bad.

I've found that the best way to spiritual shipwreck a man is to ordain him!

v.23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

Now, this is on a personal note for young Timothy.

This has brought about much speculation.

Water in the ancient world was often impure and his advice to Timothy was what I would tell any traveling person; "Don't drink the water!"

Healing

This brings about another point in that Paul's ability to heal was not at his beck and call, but at the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Natural remedies are sometimes God's will just as divine.

They are both God's way.

Cf. Phil. 2:26-27

Cf. 2 Tim. 4:19-20

Character

vv.24-25 Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. (25) Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.

Paul reminds Timothy that in looking at the character of those in his congregation, it is hard to always tell where they really are.

However, good works will be revealed, but sins are sometimes hidden and will be evident only at the judgment.

When in doubt, all we can do is examine their fruit.

Cf. Matt. 7:15-20

Chapter 6

Under a Yoke

v.1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.

Those who are under the “yoke” or authority should count the master’s worthy of honor.

Christians should be the best workers in the work place.

Why, so that the name of God and His doctrine is not blasphemed.

The world is looking at us!

As a matter of fact, the world is looking for reasons not to believe.

Don’t give them one!

Special Treatment

v.2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

If you’re fortunate enough to work for a Christian don’t take it for granted.

Don’t hold it against him by expecting special treatment.

We are to never manipulate or exploit the relationship.

The Prosperity Message

vv.3-5 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; (4) He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, (5) Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

Paul is talking about the importance of being faithful at work.

However, there must have been some that taught the opposite or he wouldn't have been addressing it.

Verse 5 gives us a little clue as to who they were and what they were teaching.

They were teaching the prosperity message.

Name and claim it, brother!

Blab it and grab it!

Instead of teaching them to work faithfully, they were teaching them to not work and they would get it also.

This is still being taught today.

Watch Christian TV for five minutes and you'll see.

It's all about money and how much God wants you to have it.

Paul said in v.3 that working hard and being faithful is godly.

They are saying that gain is godly.

What gives?

God is not behind the prosperity movement.

Matt 8:20 *"And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."*

Luke 18:22 *“So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”*

Jesus taught denial, not indulgence.

Godliness with Contentment

v.6 *But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

This is not taught by the faith teachers of Paul’s day nor ours.

Cf. Luke 16:13-14

It’s also not practiced by the American Church either.

Illustration: “The wealthy man is not the one who gets what he wants but the one who wants what he gets.”

Work hard, but be happy with what the Lord gives you.

Our motto in life should not be, “Get all you can, can all you get and sit on the can!”

Ps. 84:11 *“For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”*

God knows what we need better than we do.

Cf. Matt. 6:7-8

Not Taking It

v.7 *For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*

It isn’t going with us.

Illustration: When the rich man died they asked, “How much did he leave?” “All of it!”

Be Content

v.8 *And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*

How many of us have these things? Be content!

The Warning

vv.9-10 *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. (10) For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

Here is a warning.

The desire for money can lead you into dumb pursuits.

Did you know that many could not handle money if we had it.

It would be our down fall.

Illustration: Lottery winners and how most of them end up.

If you don't know how to make it, then you probably don't know how to spend it!

The Kingdom of God

v.11 *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*

This is what we should be seeking after.

Matt 6:33 *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”*

Public Profession of Faith

v.12 *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

I believe that this verse is speaking of your baptism.

The Good Profession

v.13 *I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;*

When did Jesus make this?

cf. John 18:37; Luke 23:1-3

v.14 *That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

The commandment is in v.12.

vv.15-16 *Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; (16) Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.*

Notice two things in this verse.

Notice, "...immortality...".

Cf. Rev. 1:18

Notice, "...no man has seen or can see...".

Ex. 33:17-23

Don't Trust in Riches

vv.17-19 *Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; (18) That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; (19) Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

If God has blessed you with money, don't be haughty and don't place your trust in your riches.

Luke 12:15 *"And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."*

Illustration: Remember musical chairs and when the music stopped the game was over. One day the music is going to stop. Where are you going to be standing when it does? You will only be rewarded for what you have done with what God has given to you.

Cf. Matt. 6:1-21

Cf. Matt. 19:16-21

There is nothing wrong with being rich, however many people are rich in money and yet poor in good works.

I.e. Lottery Tickets

vv.20-21 *O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: (21) Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.*

Stay in the Word and stay away from false knowledge as that it leads many astray.

Paul charge here is that Timothy holdfast to that which comes from God and avoid that which comes from man.

Man is a fallen creature and thus not to be trusted!

II Timothy

This is the last epistle that Paul wrote. Shortly after its writing he was beheaded.

Chapter 1

Looking Forward

v.1 *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,*

He is facing the sentence of death and yet he looks forward to “*the promise of life*” in Christ Jesus

It reminds me of what Jesus said in Matt 10:28, “...*do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*”

Cf. 1 John 5:11-13

That’s some pretty motivational stuff. That’s what it is all about!

Much Emotion

v.2 *To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Paul thought the world of Timothy.

We see a lot of emotion here as that the hour was at hand.

Man of Prayer

v.3 *I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;*

The men that God uses are men of prayer.

1 Thess 5:17 *“pray without ceasing,”*

Paul was indeed a man of true prayer.

It is the case with all men that God uses.

Night and Day

Notice, *“...night and day...”*

Paul knew that after his departing Timothy would be alone.

He didn't have the experience and back ground, but Paul trusted him.

Cf. Phil. 2:19-23

A Pure Conscience

Notice, *“God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure a conscience.”*

The apostle Paul often spoke of having a good conscience toward God...

I.e. in his defense before the council in Acts 23:1 and in his defense before Felix in Acts 24:15-16.

The Role of Our Conscience

The role our conscience plays is often misunderstood...

Some assume it is to be the final authority for what you do.

I.e. "Let your conscience be your guide"

However, your conscience can not always be trusted!

In the end, our conscience was placed there by God, but not always a good standard of measure.

The Conscience by definition is "that process of thought which distinguishes what it considers morally good or bad, commending the good, condemning the bad, and so prompting to do the former, and to avoid the latter."

In other words, the conscience is a process of thought that distinguishes.

I.e. makes moral judgments.

The role of the conscience is to distinguish what one "considers" to be morally good or bad.

However, it only works if it "considers" something to be good or bad.

What if it's wrong?

It's Like a Watch

The conscience is like a watch.

It can serve a useful purpose, but only if properly set

If it is set incorrectly (i.e., if misinformed about what is good or bad), then the conscience will lead us astray!

It's Not Always Reliable

Our conscience may not always be reliable.

For example, Paul had served God with a good conscience throughout his life.

He said that he had a good conscience even when he was persecuting Christians in Acts 23:1.

Cf. Acts 26:9-11

Paul, being led by his conscience, felt that he must oppose Christianity.

His conscience worked properly, but it had been incorrectly!

The Important Questions

Thus it is imperative that we ask ourselves three questions.

1. "Is what we 'consider' morally good or bad 'actually' good or bad?"\

2. "Are our moral judgments based upon God's absolute truths, or our own 'think so'?"
3. "Has our conscience been properly 'set'?"

God does want us to have a good conscience in regards to our faith (1 Ti 1:5; 3:9).

Conclusion

A good conscience only comes about through a proper relationship with God.

Much harm can be done when we violate our conscience, which is sinful (Romans 14:22-23); when we defile our conscience, leading to unbelief (Tit. 1:15); and we can sear our conscience, leading to apostasy (1 Tim. 4:1-2).

We must be able to say as the writer of the Hebrews in 13:18, "...for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably" and the apostle Paul in 2 Tim. 1:3, "I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience..."

Mindful of Your Tears

v.4 *Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;*

Notice, "...being mindful of your tears..."

No doubt, this is referring to the last time that they said goodbye when Paul left him in Ephesus.

Timothy may have also realized that Paul's departure was at hand.

Godly Heritage

v.5 *When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*

What a compliment?

He came from a good godly heritage.

What a blessing!

It all starts in the home.

If mom and dad love God, the children will love God.

If mom and dad go to church, the children will go to church.

Prov 22:6 *“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

Cf. my Grandmother and how she raised three grandchildren by faith

Can this be said of our children’s heritage? That depends upon you.

Timothy’s Calling

v.6 *Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.*

This speaks of his ordination to the ministry.

Yes, it is possible to neglect the gifts that God has given to us.

Most Christians do.

I.e. teaching, exhorting, encouraging, administration, etc...

Cf. 1 Cor. 12:1-14

When one does not use his gifts, the whole body suffers.

I.e. the nursery, children’s ministries, outreach, etc...

Fearfulness

v.7 *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

Timothy was apparently a little fearful.

I mean think about: He served a crucified Savior and an imprisoned apostle.

But, fear should not stop us from serving God with the gifts that He has given to us.

1 John 4:18 *“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”*

I think that many times the Devils tells us to keep our mouths shut when they should really be open!

Suffering

v.8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

Paul invites Timothy to participate in the suffering that comes from preaching the gospel just like him.

2 Tim 3:12 *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”*

Our Calling & Legalism

v.9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Our calling was not because of something that we have done, but simply through His grace.

Of course, Paul was still continually battling against the legalists just as we do today.

Illustration: The complaint about changing the offering times, moving Sunday School to Wednesday nights, name change, affiliation, etc...

Jesus is not nearly as interested in our little rules and traditions as we are.

Jesus doesn't want a legal relationship with us but one of love.

Cf. The Church of Ephesus in Rev. 2.

Salvation Through the Gospel

v.10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Salvation is through the preaching of the gospel and not works.

Death (law) has been abolished and life (grace) has come.

Preaching vs. Teaching

v.11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Paul was called to be a preacher and a teacher.

Preaching is for the lost.

Teaching is for the found.

Cf. Eph. 4:11

His Preaching Brought Suffering

v.12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

The message that Paul preached is what brought his sufferings upon him.

There are a lot easier ways to make a living!

But, we've committed our lives to Him!

Cf. 1 Tim. 1:12-13

v.13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Hold on to what you have learned from me, Timothy.

v.14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

This speaks of his ministry and calling.

Betrayal

vv.15-18 This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes. (16) The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain: (17) But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me. (18) The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.

Oh, the pain when a brother or sister turns on you.

As with Paul, some of my deepest scars came from brothers and sisters.

Ps 41:9 *“Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.”*

Cf. John 13:18

Pastor's Pen: *"Yes, our human nature goes totally against this concept. Our human nature wants to strike out, pay evil for evil, and protect ourselves from the possibility of it happening again. And yet, to totally eliminate the possibility of being hurt again is to deny ourselves the ability to love just as Jesus loves."*

Chapter 2

Again, this is the final epistle that Paul penned before he was beheaded by Nero.

He knows that his days are short and decides to open his heart to this young pastor.

Showing Grace

v.1 *Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

In other words, show grace to the ones just mentioned above.

A minister must be strong in grace.

Grace is God's Righteousness at Christ's Expense.

Many times we must sit down and remember the amount of grace that God has given to us.

Therefore, we must give grace to others.

We nailed him to a cross!

Anyone nailed you to a cross lately?

Luke 23:34 *"Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."*

The Method

v.2 *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

This is the method by which the Gospel is to be communicated.

It's communicated one person at a time.

I spend a lot of time ministering to people in groups and one on one.

Communicate What is Learned

Also, another aspect of this verse is that Timothy is to communicate what he had learned from Paul and share it with others.

I.e. I'm reminded sometimes of when I listen to some of you quote me verbatim in a conversation.

Don't Become Entangled

vv.3-4 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. (4) No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

If we become entangled or ensnared with the affairs of daily life, the things of God will be choked out.

Cf. Mark 4:18-19

Eyes Upward

We must keep our eyes upward.

I believe that he is still reflecting on his being hurt by others.

If we allow the hurts that others inflict upon us to consume us, we will be of no value to the Lord.

We must concentrate on serving the one who called us.

It is Him that we serve.

It is Him from whom we must seek approval and no one else.

Illustration: cf. Omaha Beach in WWII. What would cause a man to charge out of a landing craft into a barrage of gun fire knowing that he was going to die? Leadership & Camaraderie

We must keep our eyes on Jesus.

God's Rules

v.5 *And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.*

This is Paul's way of saying that things must be done by God's rules and not our own.

From the Overflow

v.6 *The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.*

We cannot minister if we haven't first received from God ourselves.

Illustration: "One cannot give what one does not have."

Eph 5:18 *"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,"*

Gal 5:25 *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

We have a responsibility to stay filled with the spirit.

Cf. the Baptism of the Spirit and the filling of the Spirit.

Ps 23:5 *"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over."*

It's only out of the overflow that we give to others.

Meditation = Understanding

v.7 *Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.*

There is a considerable difference between "considering" and "understanding."

Consideration must come before understanding.

Consideration means to meditate.

Ps 1:2-3 *"But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper."*

To meditate comes from the word "to chew on".

The Resurrection

v.8 *Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:*

This statement is to encourage Timothy in the above verse about consideration and meditation.

It's worth it!

The Resurrection is central to the message of the Gospel.

cf. 1 Cor. 15:3-4

The resurrection is what makes Christianity vital.

The incarnation is great.

The crucifixion and burial is great, but without the resurrection it would be of no value at all.

Cf. 1 Cor. 15:12-19

Suffering

v.9 *Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.*

Again, Paul suffered because he preached the gospel to the gentiles.

Cf. 1:11-12

The Word Not Chained

But notice he says, "*...but the word of God is not bound.*"

God actually used Paul's chains to allow him to write.

If Paul had not been imprisoned, he probably would have not written anything.

For the Elect

v.10 *Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

But, he endured all things for the sake of the elect.

The prize is worth it; the salvation of men.

I endure; we endure all things for the salvation of men.

Faithful Sayings

vv.11-13 *It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: (12) If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: (13) If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.*

Paul gives four "*faithful sayings*":

1. If we're dead with Christ, we'll also live with Him.

Our physical bodies may die, but our spirits will go to our new heavenly bodies.

Cf. John 11:26

2. If we suffer, we'll also reign with Him.

Paul was suffering for Christ at the time he wrote this letter.

Cf. Romans 8:18; Hebrews 11:25-26

3. If we deny Him, He'll deny us.

Cf. Luke 12:8-9

4. We might not believe in Christ, but He is still who He is, and He'll faithfully perform what He's said He will.

Our unbelief does not stop Him from being who He is.

Rom 3:3 *"For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?"*

It may very well limit what He can do in our lives, but not who He is.

Matt 13:58 *"Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief."*

Remind Christians

v.14 *Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.*

Paul told Timothy to remind the Christians of these faithful sayings, so they wouldn't get involved in disputes things that were of no profit.

Cf. Titus 3:9

Diligence Requires Work

v.15 *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

To be diligent means to work at it.

It takes work to study the Bible.

If it were easy, everyone would be doing it.

Illustration: Martin Luther said, "I study my Bible like I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest may fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf. I search the Bible as a whole like shaking the whole tree. Then I shake every limb--study book after book. Then I shake every branch, giving attention to the chapters. Then I shake every twig, or a careful study of the paragraphs and sentences and words and their meanings."

Illustration: According to James Hamilton, there are two kinds of Bible readers--those who skim the surface and those who dig deep. He describes them by comparing them to two common insects. He writes, "One is remarkable for its imposing plumage, which shows in the sunbeams like the dust of gems; as you watch its jaunty gyrations over the fields and its minuet dance from flower to flower, you cannot help admiring its graceful activity, for it is plainly getting over a great deal of ground.

"But in the same field there is another worker, whose brown vest and businesslike, straightforward flight may not have arrested your eye. His fluttering neighbor darts down here and there, and sips elegantly wherever he can find a drop of ready nectar; but this dingy plodder makes a point of alighting everywhere, and wherever he alights he either finds honey or makes it. If the flower-cup be deep, he goes down to the bottom; if its dragon- mouth be shut, he thrusts its lips asunder; and if the nectar be peculiar, he explores all about till he discovers it. . . His rival of the painted velvet wing has no patience for such dull and long-winded details. . . The one died last October. The other is warm in his hive, amidst the fragrant stores he has gathered." Which type of Bible reader are you? Butterfly or bee?

Profane Babblings

v.16 *But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.*

In other words, stay away from things that are not clearly in the Bible.

If you study your Bible, you'll know what's really in it and you want have to get into "*profane and idle babblings.*"

Turned Over to Satan

vv.17-18 *And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; (18) Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.*

Paul also mentioned Hymenaeus earlier as a man he had turned over to Satan.

cf. 1 Timothy 1:20

There are ways of dealing with unruly brethren and the Bible is replete with them.

Cf. Matt. 18:5-17; Rom. 16:17; 2 Cor. 7:8-10; 1 Th. 5:14; 2 Th. 3:6

Also, notice what false teaching causes in the church; it overthrows the faith of some.

Depart from Sin

v.19 *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

If you're a Christian, depart from sin.

Yes, it's really that simple.

The only reason we sin is because we are moving in the flesh.

Cf. Rom. 6:7, 18, 22

And there is no excuse for our sin.

Cf. 1 Cor. 10:13

v.20 *But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.*

Those who chose to remain in sin are vessels of dishonor while those who chose to refrain from sin are vessels of honor.

Set Apart

v.21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

Sanctified means "set apart."

We want to be set apart for our Master's use.

Only when we are set apart can He use us as that He will not use a vessel of dishonor.

v.22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Stay away from the lusts of your youth.

This could be physical as well as spiritual.

v.23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

Here is another warning about arguing over foolish and ignorant things.

Stay in the Word and defend that only.

vv.24-25 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, (25) In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

We're not to be contentious, but gentle and patient with others who are off base.

Who knows, they may come to the truth.

v.26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Many people don't see the truth of the Gospel, because they're captives of Satan who has blinded their eyes.

Illustration: The captain of the Titanic refused to believe the ship was in trouble till water was ankle deep in the mail room. Only then was it apparent the multi-layered hull had been pierced and the unsinkable ship was going to sink. Ships that could have arrived before the great ocean liner went down weren't summoned until it was too late.

Chapter 3

v.1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

Although we as Christians tend to think of the last days as referring to only the short time leading up to the Great Tribulation, the term actually refers to the days since the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1: 1-2 *“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;”*

However, we are living in the last of the last days!

So the church has always been in the last days.

It’s just that now we are nearing the end of those days.

Cf. John 12:48

We are waiting for the last day and that’s good.

Cf. Matt. 16:1-3

Perilous Times

Notice that perilous times will come.

Who will it be perilous for? - The righteous.

Why? - The last days of mankind is going to become increasingly more evil.

Why? - The unrighteous will not only want to practice their wickedness, but they will also desire to force the righteous to accept it.

And when they don’t; it will get perilous!

Take Sodom for Example

Cf. Gen. 19:1-9

Notice a progression...

1. At first, the wicked people in the city were accepting of their coexistence with Lot.

2. But eventually, when he would not accept their sin as normal or righteous, they turned violent against him and his household.

How do we know this? Cf. v.9

This is exactly what is happening today in the United States.

Our world is turning more and more wicked and we are less and less tolerated.

They no longer are content to practice their wickedness in private, but now they parade in the streets and try to force their lifestyle down the righteous' throat.

And the righteous are accused of being judgmental and intolerant.

Lovers of Pleasure

vv.2-4 *For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, (4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*

Now Paul lists the evil activities that will take place in the last of the last days before the Day.

Let's look at some of them.

1. Lovers of themselves

Yes, that hard to believe, but people think more of themselves today than they did yesterday.

Cf. the War in Iraq and the shortsightedness of many Americans.

2. Lovers of money

Mankind has always loved money.

If you really bottom line it, it's what makes America what it is.

But this is referring to greed.

Right after "momma", a child's next words are "mine!"

We have become a society that is obsessed with money and how to make more of it.

James 5:1-3 *“Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.”*

3. Boasters – braggart

This means that they will be Braggarts.

James 4:16 *“But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.”*

Cf. Rom. 1:28-30

4. Proud – a feeling of self-respect or personal worth

Prov 16:18 *“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.”*

Rom 12:3 *“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”*

5. Blasphemers – irreverent

To blaspheme is to speak of God in an irreverent, impious manner.

6. Disobedient to Parents – unwilling to submit to authority

Isa 3:4 *“I will give children to be their princes, And babes shall rule over them.”*

Why? - Discipline is non-existent, and the authority of mothers and fathers is quickly being legislated away under the guise of protecting children from abuse.

Children are being taught in our schools to threaten their parents, saying, "If you spank me, I'll report you for child abuse."

Cf. Prov. 13:24; 19:18; 23:13-14

Without firm discipline, your child will rebel against you, against the Lord, and against righteousness.

7. Unthankful – not feeling or showing gratitude
8. Unholy – not hallowed or consecrated
9. Unloving – not giving or reciprocating affection
10. Unforgiving – unwilling or unable to forgive or show mercy
11. Slanderers – someone who speaks ill of another person
12. Without self-control – unable to control oneself or impulses

Gal 5:22-23 *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”*

13. Brutal – barbarous; able or disposed to inflict pain or suffering; cruel

15. Despisers of Good – to look down on with disdain

Because men love the darkness, they hate the light.

When you live righteously, and love goodness, the unrighteous will hate you.

Take comfort though, Jesus knows this.

Cf. John 15:18-19

16. Traitors – someone who betrays or commits treason

Just look at Sean Penn, Barbara Streisand, George Clooney, and Michael Moore.

And yet their more successful than they've ever been.

It's because either no one cares or they agree with them.

Either is dangerous and destructive to our nation.

17. Headstrong – habitually disposed to disobedience and opposition

18. Haughty – having or showing arrogant superiority to and disdain

19. Lovers of Pleasure rather than God

Embracing Wickedness

v.5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Meanwhile, the church itself has embraced wickedness and evildoers.

We have brought homosexuals, psychologists, and atheists into our pulpits.

Application: The big headline has been that the next pope will embrace homosexuals, allow female priests, and allow male priests to marry.

They Are In Your Home

vv.6-7 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, (7) Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

These false teachers now have the ability to enter into women's households.

They don't come in through the door, but through the television set.

These poor people are held captive by these eloquent, well-dressed teachers, but they are teachers of heresy!

Just buy some tapes that you know are sound and read your Bible and you can't go wrong.

Jannes and Jambres

vv.8-9 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. (9) But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

Jannes and Jambres were the magicians that opposed Moses in Exodus 7.

They were religious men, and proved their power by duplicating the miracles that Moses brought.

In the last days, false teachers will also demonstrate their power with signs and wonders.

Cf. Matt. 24:24-25

So just because someone is getting up out of their wheelchair doesn't mean that the preacher is of God, nor does it mean that God did it!

The antichrist will also be doing signs and wonders.

Cf. 2 Th. 2:9-10

The false prophet will also be doing signs and wonder.

Cf. Rev. 13:11-14

Don't be deceived by miracles. Listen to the messengers' message instead.

Paul's Suffering

vv.10-12 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, (11) Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. (12) Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Here we see that Paul suffered greatly for his faith and calling.

But, notice that God delivered him out of all of them.

Application: We need to be living our lives in the same way.

We should be teaching the same gospel, having the same faith, and living the same righteous life.

But be warned, if you live a godly life, you will suffer persecution for it in these last days.

Don't Be Swayed

vv.13-15 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. (14) But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; (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.

He is encouraging them not to be swayed away from the teachings that they had received from him since their new birth.

Application: I get so flustered as a pastor when I see people come in our doors, except the teachings of Christ, get saved, grow a little bit, and then leave for something false.

But, what can I do but watch and pray for them.

You know that there in a bad church, but even if you told them, they'd think you are just jealous.

All Scripture

vv.16-17 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

Notice what the Bible is for.

First, it is inspired. That means that it is God-breathed.

The word "inspiration" literally means "God breathed".

That means that every word in the Bible was placed there by God through the use of human writers.

Cf. II Peter 1:21

In other words, God "*moved*" these men to write His words for all the world to see and yet in their own unique styles.

This type of inspiration is very different from what the world would call inspiration or natural inspiration like that of Shakespeare or some other great artist.

There is nothing natural about the Bible. It is all supernatural!

Second, it is profitable for doctrine.

As a matter of fact, there is no doctrine outside of the Bible.

How is doctrine established?

For a doctrine to be established it must be taught by Christ in the Gospels, acted out in the Acts of the Apostles, and expounded upon in the Epistles.

I.e. Blood Atonement (Matt. 20:28; Acts 20:28; Gal. 3:13)

Deity of Christ (John 14:9; Acts 2:33; 2 Cor. 4:4)

To be a true doctrine, it can never clash with another.

I.e. The condition of Judas. If he did go to hell, then he was never saved to begin with.

To say that he was ever saved clashes with the doctrine of eternal security.

If they do not pass this test, it cannot be made doctrine.

I.e. tongues

It's never mentioned by Jesus in the Gospels.

Third, it's profitable for reproof.

This speaks of rebuke.

The dictionary says that it is "an act or expression of criticism and censure."

This is done to those who done wrong knowingly.

Fourth, it's profitable for correction.

This speaks of gentle guidance when wrong unknowingly.

Fifth, it's profitable for instruction in righteous.

This speaks of guidance on how to be righteous.

God wants each of us to be mature and equipped for all that He has for us.

Chapter 4

v.1 *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;*

cf. Rev. 20:12

v.2 *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

We should always be ready to preach the Word of God.

In season and out.

When it's convenient and when it's not.

Cf. Acts 1:4-9

The entire purpose of the filling was to share the gospel!

Yet, many today in the church think that it was to speak in tongues and other manifestations of the Spirit.

The Bible doesn't say or bear that out anywhere.

vv.3-4 *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; (4) And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

This means that the day will come when they don't want to hear the truth anymore, but what they want to hear.

As a matter of fact, they'll go so far as to select only teachers that will tell them what they want to hear.

Thus, they will begin to believe their own fiction.

I.e. selection of Supreme Court judges

v.5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Do what God has called you to do.

That's all that He asks any of us for.

He is not going to hold me accountable for your calling; only for mine.

I think we covered this in detail Sunday morning.

Cf. Eph. 4:11

v.6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

Paul life was almost over

Shortly after the letter he was beheaded.

v.7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Can we say this?

I'll be honest; most Christians get discouraged and just quit.

Oh, they might be church every Sunday, but they've resigned.

v.8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

This crown is for those who look for and long for the Second Coming.

To look for and to long for means to LIVE for!

True Companionship

vv.9-11 Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: (10) For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. (11) Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Notice that he desired true companionship.

You know, there are very few friends in the this world.

We throw the term around loosely, but there are very few.

Illustration: Two men were out hunting in the northern U.S. Suddenly one yelled and the other looked up to see a grizzly charging them. The first started to frantically put on his tennis shoes and his friend anxiously asked, "What are you doing? Don't you know you can't outrun a grizzly bear?" "I don't have to outrun a grizzly. I just have to outrun you!"

Illustration: What is a friend? Friends are people with whom you dare to be yourself. Your soul can be naked with them. They ask you to put on nothing, only to be what you are. They do not want you to be better or worse. When you are with them, you feel as a prisoner feels who has been declared innocent. You do not have to be on your guard. You can say what you think, as long as it is genuinely you. Friends understand those contradictions in your nature that lead others to misjudge you. With them you breathe freely. You can avow your little vanities and envies and hates and vicious sparks, your meannesses and absurdities, and in opening them up to friends, they are lost, dissolved on the white ocean of their loyalty. They understand. You do not have to be careful. You can abuse them, neglect them, tolerate them. Best of all, you can keep still with them. It makes no matter. They like you. They are like fire that purges to the bone. They understand. You can weep with them, sing with them, laugh with them, pray with them. Through it all--and underneath--they see, know, and love you. A friend? What is a friend? Just one, I repeat, with whom you dare to be yourself.

vv.12-16 *And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus. (13) The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments. (14) Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: (15) Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words. (16) At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.*

Notice Paul's forgiving heart. Oh, may we have that same heart for those who do us harm.

vv.17-18 *Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. (18) And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

There's the answer!

Salutations

vv.19-22 *Salute Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. (20) Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick. (21) Do thy diligence to come before winter.*

Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren. (22) The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

Salutations and Benediction.

Biographical Data

Dwayne was saved at the age of nine at the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Greenville, South Carolina and baptized by the late Dr. Harold B. Sightler who to this day is one of Dwayne's great heroes of the faith. Much of his vision and expository style of teaching were shaped while sitting under this man's ministry as a young boy and later as a student in Bible College.

Like many young people who struggled through the teenage years, Dwayne was no exception. After graduating from high school in New Orleans, Louisiana, he joined the Marine Corps. It was during this time while stationed at Camp Pendleton in California that he had the opportunity to attend Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, rededicated his life to the Lord and answered God's call to the ministry. Pastor Chuck Smith of Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa has also greatly influenced his ministry.

He was licensed to the ministry in 1991 by Iglesia Bautista Hispana in Greenville, South Carolina and ordained in 1995 by Calvary Chapel in Greenville, South Carolina and again by the First Baptist Church in San Benito, Texas in 2001.

He holds several degrees including a Bible Diploma from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia; a Th.B. in Bible from Tabernacle Baptist College in Greenville, South Carolina and a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Louisiana Baptist University in Shreveport, Louisiana. He is currently doing additional studies at Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Virginia.

He is married to the former Jannett Perez of New Orleans, Louisiana. She holds a degree in Computer Electronics Engineering and both a Bachelor and a Master of Religious Education. They have two sons; Dane and Brandon.

He has served as Assistant Pastor and Worship Leader at Calvary Chapel in Greenville, South Carolina (1991-1997); Missionary to Zacapa, Guatemala (1997-1998); Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church in San Benito, Texas (1998-2005); Senior Pastor of Borderland Calvary Chapel in San Benito, Texas (2005-2008); Missions Pastor and High School History Teacher at First Baptist Church and School in Brownsville, Texas (2008-2009). He currently teaches and serves as Campus Pastor at the Calvary Chapel Bible College in Lima, Peru.

He is also the founder of Dwayne Spearman.org through which he shares his love for the Word of God. You may contact him and keep up with his ministry at www.dwaynespearman.org.