

S.N. Dec 6, 81 P.M

"STAY ON THE JOB"

1 Timothy 1

These letters can (never lose) their interest because, they deal with the care, the organization of the church and the flock of God. They tell us how to behave within the household of God, what kind of leaders the church should have.

Both Seller telegraphed to Phil - For a copy of Beckers after God by Rev. Jernan received following reply No subscribers of the used in Phil's reply - Try Boston -

The church was threatened by heathen infections. Look at (I Tim. 3:16). This is the fragment of a creed.

God was made manifest in the flesh;

"Justified in the Spirit

Seen of angels;

Preached unto the Gentiles;

Believed on in the world;

Received into glory."

It is clear that Paul was in (prison) in Rome, and he did not regard release impossible, in fact he looks with expectation of freedom.

There never was a man who magnified his office as Paul did. Not in pride, but in wonder that God had chosen him for a task.

Timothy was not too happy in his church in Epheusus and Titus was in a difficult situation on the Island of Crete. To both of them Paul wrote:

"Be faithful! It's always too soon to quit!"

Paul would want you to hear this same message. Don't get the idea that I Timothy is only for Pastors. This is for every church member.

He uses the word "faithful" many times, be faithful to the word - your task.

Dr. Edman, Wheaton College, reminds Christians -- "It's always too soon to quit." He was right, and those of us who dared to follow this counsel discover that God gives staying power. If you and I are faithful to the tasks God has given us, then his work will prosper and His name glorify.

What kind of worker are you?

Arctic Explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton put an advertisement in a London newspaper, "men wanted for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success." (A 1,000 men responded.)

If Jesus Christ advertised for workers, the ad might read: ("Men and women, boys and girls, wanted for difficult task of helping to build my church. You will often be misunderstood, even by those working with you. You will face constant attack from an invisible enemy. You may not see the results of your labor, and your full reward will not come till after all your work is completed. It may cost you your home, your ambitions, and even your life.")

With these demands Christ still receives many applications.

His church is the greatest challenge to which a believer could give his life.

Timothy, a young man responded to help build His church. He was one of Paul's

assistants. Timothy was brought up in a religious (home) 2 Tim. 1:5.

He was born of mixed parentage. His father a Greek, his mother a Jewess.

Paul added him to his missionary staff. The last time they had been together, Timothy was encouraged to stay on at Ephesus and finish his work.

V. 3 - I besought Thee to abide still at Ephesus.

By way of introduction Timothy must have had some physical problems.

5:23 - Loving advice to care for his health and use some grape juice for his stomach ulcers.

We get the impression that Timothy had periods of discouragement.

Some of the church members were not giving their pastor the proper respect as God's servant. 4:12 - "Let no man despise Thy youth."

Ephesus would not be an easy place to pastor a church - really there are no easy places. The city was devoted to worship of Diana, the patroness of the sexual instinct. Her lascivious images helped promote sexual immorality of all kind. Acts. 19.

Paul had worked there three years. It was not easy for a man like Timothy to follow a man like Paul. Satan had his workers in the city, and he blocked spiritual opportunities.

Paul wrote not only to encourage Timothy but explain the responsibilities of the

people in the local church.

Among many things in chapter one. We bring these into the spotlight: First, Maintain Sound Doctrine - V. 1-11. Second, Proclaim The Gospel - V. 12-17. Third, Defend the Faith - V. 18-20.

I. MAINTAIN SOUND DOCTRINE

V. 1 - From the greeting of the letter Paul affirmed his authority as a servant of Jesus Christ.

Those who were giving Timothy trouble needed to remember that their pastor was there because God had put him there. Paul's authority was given by God. Paul was an "Apostle" - one whom God sent with a special commission.

This word means "royal commission".

Both Paul and Timothy were sent by the King of Kings!

Jesus is not only Lord but our Saviour, a title used 10 times by Paul.

'Our hope' was a real boost to Timothy.

One reason Christian workers must stay on the job is because false teachers are busy trying to capture Christians.

There were false teachers in Paul's day. With false doctrine seeking to lead astray and capture for their causes.

These false teachers have no good news for lost sinners.

V. (3) "Charge" - a military term. Timothy - you are not only a pastor of the church in a difficult city but a Christian soldier under orders from the King. Now pass these orders along to the soldiers in your church!

What was the order? Not to teach different doctrines from those taught by Paul!

In the early church believers were taught the basic Christian doctrines.

In (many) churches today, the pulpit and the choir loft are places for entertainment, not enlightenment and enrichment.

V. (4) Identified the false teachings as (fables and endless genealogies).

False teachers using Old Testament law especially the genealogies. Herod caused the public registers of genealogies kept in the Temple to be destroyed. No way to verify them now. Endless discussions brought strife. Fostered a spirit of controversy without any truth.

These new doctrines were leading people astray. False teachers were raising questions, not answering them. They were not promoting God's saving plan but leading people away from the truth.

Instead of producing love, purity, a good conscience, they were causing divisions, hypocrisy, and all sorts of problems.

Never waste your time on such, get down to the business of living.

Heresay has characteristics.

First he is driven by the (desire of novelty) He must be in fashion in the latest craze. He despises the old things for no better reason than they are old and desires new things for no better reason than that they are new. Truth never changes.

Second, he exalts the (mind at the expense of the heart). His concept of religion is speculation.

Third, he deals in (argument instead of action) He is more interested in the sake of argument than in effective administration of the household of faith. The Greeks loved argument, but interested in reaching conclusions. Jews liked to argue. Danger of words and forget the acid test of deeds.

Fourth, he moves with (arrogance) rather than by humility. He desires to teach rather than learn. He looks with contempt on others.

Fifth, he is guilty of (dogmatism) without knowledge. He does not really know what he is talking about. It is a strange thing about religious argument, everyone thinks he or she has a right to express a dogmatic opinion. Often a person has never tried to find out what the Bible has to say.

The descendants of the folks at Ephesus are still with us.

V. 5) The other side is stated here in five ways the true follower of Christ thinks.

First, his thinking is based on (faith). Faith simply means taking God at his word. The Christian begins with Jesus.

Second, his thinking is motivated by (love). To think in love will produce certain things for us. It will save us from arrogant contemptuous thinking. It will save us from condemning and speaking destructively.

Third, his thinking comes from a pure heart. That means a clean heart as opposed to a soiled or dirty one.

Fourth, his thinking comes from a (good) conscience. A real meaning of conscience is a knowing with oneself. A good conscience shares with others without shame.

Fifth, his thinking is without (hypocrisy). He has a sincere desire to find the truth and communicate the truth.

V. 6 - 7) Tragic when professed Christians get off course because they refuse healthy doctrine.

Unfortunate today we have so much "vain jangling",

worship of Satan increasing all over the world - false doctrine - led to demonic possession.

V. 6 - Meaningless talk in teaching, in preaching, in hymns. Far too many teach no doctrine and some even teach false doctrines.

"Swerved" turned aside - missed the mark - vain and empty.

V. 9-10 - Fourteen kinds of people who were condemned by the law. Other lists - Rom. 1:18-32, Mark 7:20-23, Gal. 5:19-21.

The law exposed, restrained, convicted the lawless.

Five of the Ten Commandments are used.

No. 5 - Honor Thy Father and Mother - Murderers of Fathers.

No. 6 - Thou shalt not kill - Murderers manslaughterers.

No. 7 - Thou shalt not commit adultery - Whoremongers.

No. 8 - Thou shalt not steal - Menstealers, Kidnappers.

No. 9 - Thou shalt not bear false witness - Liars - Perjured.

V. 11 - A glorious Gospel saves sinners. Paul had experiences this Gospel that shines. Rom. 1:16. Glorious news of forgiveness for past sins.

Not a discovery made by man, but good news revealed by God. Something God offers and supplies. It offers the power of God.

II. PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Stay on the job. At this point Paul is moved to share his own personal testimony.
The Gospel really works.

V. 12 - What Paul Became

Grace turned the persecutor into a preacher - the murderer into a missionary.

"Our Lord who hath enabled me . . . putting me into the ministry." Commissioned by the living Lord.

He entrusted the Gospel to him, also, enabled Paul as a minister.

God always equips someone who obeys.

V. 16 - He became an example for all sinners. pattern - type of all the lost.

V. 13 - What Paul Used To Be

He was a blasphemer, denied the deity of Jesus, and forced others to deny it.

He was a persecutor, used physical power to destroy the church. Acts. 9:1;

I Cor. 15:9; Acts 8:1-4.

He was injurious, proud, a bully, throwing his weight around.

V. 13B-15 - How Paul Was Saved

Grace gave Paul what he did not deserve. Paul was ignorant.

Clear that this salvation is not for him only.

If Jesus could save Saul of Tarsus, chief of sinners, then he can save anybody.
He never tried to conceal his record, nor the greatness of Christ.

F. W. Boreham tells of a letter by Thomas Goodwin. "When I was threatening to become cold in my ministry, and when I felt Sabbath morning coming and my heart not filled with amazement at the grace of God, as you know what I used to do? I used to take a turn up and down among the sins of my past life, and I always came down again with a broken and a contrite heart, ready to preach, as it was preached in the beginning - the forgiveness of sins."

When your heart is dry and cold from lack of prayer, when you think how you have hurt God and hurt those who love us in the church and hurt those in our family, that memory must awake the flame of gratitude.

III. DEFEND THE FAITH

Beside being responsible in the local church for sound doctrine and proclaiming the Gospel, there is a third thing.

V. 18. He uses military language to enforce the word "charge", "urgent command handed down from a superior officer".

Not easy to serve God in pagan Ephesus but, Timothy a man under orders and he had to obey. He was under divine appointment, and God had chosen him.

Stay with it - finish the work.

Be true to your (name) Timothy: means honour to God. Live up to your name Paul said.

We are called Christian, let's live up to that name. Safe keeping and honour of his church is in your hands. You must not fail.

V. 19 - Paul changed the illustration from Army to Navy.

Hold - "Faith and a good conscience."

Note the possibility - some make "shipwreck" of their faith.

Bad doctrine starts with bad conduct and usually secret sins.

V. 20 - Hymenaeus and Alexander rejected a good conscience in order to defend their ungodly lives. Paul did not tell us exactly what they did, except their sin involved blaspheming.

2 Tim. 2:16-18. Hymenaeus said the resurrection was already past.

Paul said discipline was applied. Evil practices, false teaching, delivered them to Satan.

Each church has a constant battle against the forces of evil. False prophets, teachers.

The church must expose lies and oppose doctrine of demons.

We need to get people saved.

We need to teach converted people the Christian life.

Timothy must have been greatly helped and encouraged when he read this section of Paul's letter.

He was not to run but take care of the church defending the faith.

If we could get our members doing the tasks God has called them to do. Many are involved in too many extra-curricular activities.

This chapter is a call for each of us to take spiritual inventory.

Kagawa - went to find men and women for Christ. Lived in the filthiest and most depraved slums in the world. His neighbors were prostitutes, thieves, and murderers who were proud of their record. All the people whether sick, feeble-minded, criminal - lived where rats crawled out of open sewers to die. An idiot girl had pictures printed on her back to decoy lustful men, lived next door.

Kagawa wanted people like that and so does Christ. He wants all men good and bad. A hostile church will not reach them, only men who stay on the job in love.