

A
STUDY
IN
PAULS
SECOND
LETTER
TO
TIMOTHY

By Pastor W. Jack Casey

How to Study Your Bible

1. Begin in Prayer 1 Cor 2: 9-14
2. Read the Bible Neh. 8: 1-3
3. Study the Bible Neh. 8:8
4. Meditate upon it Deut. 6:6-9; Ps. 1
5. Pass the Bible on to others Heb. 5: 12

How to Study Each Chapter

1. The Theme
2. The most important verse
3. The most prominent word
4. The teaching about Christ
5. The command to obey
6. The promise to claim
7. The new truth learned Psalm 119:18

Also every verse or passage has at least 3 applications

1. Past: this is the historical application
2. Present: This is a devotional or spiritual application
3. Future: This is a doctrinal or prophetic application

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Introduction

This is Paul's second letter to his son in the faith Timothy. I must say right here that one should have a father or mother in the faith. As to who it might be well it could be the person who brought you to Jesus or here like Timothy it could well be that person who takes you and leads you to a mature walk in Christ. For instance, for me it was the man who turned out to be my father in law. What he taught me about studying the Word of God and his help with providing the right Bible teachers has proven to be invaluable. Not only that but his confidence in me helped me start teaching and keep growing and exploring every opportunity to serve the Lord until his being called to glory in 2003.

Timothy was led to the Lord by his mother and grandmother who taught him the scriptures (Old Testament) from his youth. Then Paul took him and matured him into a soldier of the cross.

This letter was written very near the end of Paul's life sometime between the years A.D. 65-68 as he is a prisoner in Rome awaiting execution under the hand of Emperor Nero. This is the setting for writing this letter to Timothy it is a perilous time for Christians and Paul wants to encourage his young protégé.

The two letters to Timothy and one to Titus are called Pastoral letters in that they deal with personal matters and not to church wide issues. This term Pastoral only became widely used after two men D. N. Berdot in 1703 and Paul Anton in 1726 made it more popular.

There are at least 4 purposes for this letter

1. Paul wanted Timothy with him in his closing days
2. He wanted to share final matters with his successor
3. He wanted Timothy fully equipped for the task ahead
4. He wanted to personally fortify Timothy's courage

This letter has four different perspectives

1. It is Pastoral as mentioned above because it deals with Pastoral care, oversight, and organization. This term was first used by Thomas Aquinas in 1274 as he called First Timothy "a letter of Pastoral rule" and Second Timothy "a letter of Pastoral care."
2. This is a "personal epistle" a letter written to a beloved son on whom Paul bestowed great affection.
3. This is an "Ecclesiastical Epistle" as it contains instruction on church organization, doctrinal purity personal behavior.

4. This is an “Apologetic Epistle” as it defends the faith against the first rumblings of false teaching of the Judaizers and the Gnostic’s.

Chapter One

In this opening chapter Paul after greeting Timothy will deal with upcoming affliction and how to handle it. He will also remind him of what the Lord gave him and to use it fearlessly even in the face of enemies of whom he names 3 who were leaders in Timothy's church.

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, Paul an Apostle of Jesus Christ, now an Apostle is one that has met the requirements to be one of which there are three. The most important one and the one that cannot be fulfilled today is physically walking with Jesus. Just for clarity sake Paul spent three years in the desert with Jesus as we read in Galatians 1:17b -18 "but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus." Here Paul says he went into Arabia which in that day was the desert area east of the Jordan River. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days" here he gives the time frame of three years and then he goes to Jerusalem to meet with the others to inform them of all that had happened. Paul in First Timothy one verse one says he is an Apostle by the command of God and here he says it is also by the will of God. Paul was one who knew what God's plan for his life was. May I say here that each believer should strive to learn God's will or desire for their life.

Paul was sent with a message, and not just any message, but the greatest message of all time. It is the message of "life in Christ Jesus" this is our message today for all preachers and all Christians to deliver to all who they can give it to.

2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. Paul the aging preacher speaks with great love in his words for the young preacher he had taken under his wings. Paul was Timothy's father in the faith. I can tell you it is a great encouragement to have someone to call your father in the faith. Mine was a powerful source of wisdom and

encouragement for the most part of my time in the ministry. He is at home with the Lord now and there are so many times I would like to have his wisdom again but that is not possible.

Paul prays for the Lord to continue showering Timothy with a bountiful supply of grace (receiving what one does not deserve) and mercy (not receiving what one does deserve) and peace (the peace of God).

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;

Paul was always thankful he stayed in that mindset of giving thanks for every situation no matter what was going on and he has encouraged all Christians to maintain the same in 1 Thess. 5:18 'In every thing give thanks:for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.'

This is to be one of the traits that is to set us apart from the world as we will see in chapter 3 verse 2. Paul counted it a great reward to serve God as we read his words in Acts 26:23 and the following verses. Paul served with a clear conscience; this word is used 5 times in 1st and 2nd Tim and is important you see Paul kept his conscience clean of all sin toward God. it is an essential for all born again believers to do the same to keep our conscience clean before God.

Paul tells Timothy and each of us that the way to maintain this state is to pray without ceasing as he did for Timothy and each of us should maintain a mindset of prayerfulness as we are told to do in 1 Thess. 5:17 Pray without ceasing. Paul prayed for his young preacher son timothy daily and no doubt this is the reason for his success.

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

Paul again shows his love for this son in the faith as he longs to see him one more time before his execution. Timothy had been praying with weeping for Paul's release so Paul could come by Ephesus to visit the Church there. What honest love they have for each other. There is such a lack of this in our churches today!

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.

Paul had some precious memories of working with Timothy and he would call these up and certainly he could remember the honest true faith exhibited by Timothy. Timothy's mother and grandmother must have felt satisfaction at how Timothy had impacted the world around them.

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.

Paul now starts his message to Timothy and from here to the end of this chapter he will give some words of encouragement to young Timothy. Paul starts by encouraging Timothy to remember or to call back to his mind that he needs to keep stirring up; this word "stirring up" has the idea of "to fan a fire to flame again" the gift that had been given to him by God.

Paul in Romans 11:29 "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance" his gifts are not to be changed instead they are to be used and exercised as Paul says in 1 Tim. 4:14 "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."

Paul at some point publicly recognized Timothy's gift by symbolically putting his hands on Timothy. Now nothing miraculously happened with this as the gift was in Timothy by God's giving with the Holy Spirit. All Paul did with his hands was to agree with God to that evident fact! This gift is in regard to Timothy ministry of teaching in verses 6-8 and 1 Tim 4:13-16 "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. 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."

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

Paul encourages timothy not to be fearful of those who will hate him for his stand for the Lord and truth. Timothy had begun to succumb to timidity in his teaching and was no longer using holy boldness.

Paul reminds timothy that the Lord does not give fear as He cannot use “fearful servants” as in Judges 7:3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. Here 22,000 men leave because of fear from Gideon’s army. The Lord told Jeremiah in Jer. 1:8 to “be not afraid of their faces” as He gives power to overcome fear in 2 Cor. 12:9-10 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong and Col. 1:28-29 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Second god had given Timothy through the Spirit God’s love for people. Unless one is motivated by this love Paul says in 1 Cor. 13:1-3 that they are just noise makers and unprofitable to the Lord. The ideal attitude is here in Eph. 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Third God gave Timothy a mind capable of “sound thinking” this is “safe , sane or right thinking” as we can read in Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, ,according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith Timothy’s and anyone’s teaching ministry should be characterized by these 3 components they should have a “powerful, loving and sound thinking teaching ministry!

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;

Because of what the Lord has given to Timothy in verse 7 he is to not be “ashamed” of teaching the gospel of Jesus which the world has continuously hated (Acts 18:6; Titus 3:3; 1 John 3:13). Paul wasn’t and timothy should not be ashamed of Paul either. Many in the churches Paul had started were now becoming ashamed of Paul being in prison in Rome for the gospels sake. This shows how quickly people can and will turn on a teacher or preacher of the gospel!

What was timothy not to be ashamed of; first “the Lord’s testimony” and second the apostle Paul.

Timothy was to “suffer evil as it came in affliction and persecution. The implication and fact is that anyone who faithfully teaches the truth will suffer evil and persecution! All one can do is rely on the power of God.

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,

God is the one who saves us and calls us to ministry and did it without anything from us as we read in the following verses Eph. 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and Romans 3:21-22 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: also in 1 cor. 1:2 to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, and lastly 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. He did it for His purpose through His abounding grace which stands in contrast to our works. God retains the “sole prerogative” of calling whom He wills to salvation as we read in

Eph. 1:5, 8-9 “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself”

Gods grace was given to us “in” Christ in eternity past. The word “purpose” means to “place” or “set” before in time. God purposed or set in a prior time the means and calling of salvation.

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:

The grace and calling to salvation was prepared in eternity past, but now in the present it is manifested in Jesus Christ. This goes over to Galatians 4:4 where it says “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law’. Jesus is “our Saviour” all others who profess to be saviors are false (Acts 4:12 & 2 Cor. 11:4).

Jesus through His death destroyed Satan’s power to hold believers in Christ under sentence of spiritual death. With Christ coming he brought “light” (of God) and “life” (spiritual) through the gospel.

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

Paul states again that He was “appointed” (by God) to preach or proclaim this good news in 9 & 10. He also here points out that he is the “apostle” sent particularly to the gentiles. Paul was also an appointed “teacher” or discipler or the great truths of the gospel and the person of Jesus Christ.

There was a time when men wanted to be known as gospel preachers as they are to be as in Acts 6:4; 1 Cor. 1:18-21 and a teacher as in 1 Tim. 3:2 where it says ‘apt to teach’.

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.

Because of Paul's preaching and teaching Paul had suffered (Phil. 1:29; 1 Pet. 4:12). Notice the next phrase "never the less I am not ashamed". Paul felt neither shame nor disgrace at suffering for the gospel's sake Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek".

Paul is using his condition circumstances to stir up young timothy who was leaning to ward being fearful and somewhat ashamed of what he was doing he needed stirred up.

Paul says this because he knew with a divinely revealed knowledge who he has believed and this knowledge caused him to "deposit", or commit his salvation and service to Jesus Christ until the day of the "judgment seat" of Christ. Paul started out believing this on the Damascus road and year after year this commitment had kept growing.

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

Paul now reminds Timothy to "hold fast," Paul uses this as he knows he is now at the end of his ministry and Timothy will take his place. Paul wants him to hold continuously to the "sound words" of Paul.

The word "form" is important as it talks of the "imprint" or formula" of sound words. He is to do this with the faith and love found in Christ Jesus as Paul had.

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

The "good thing" is the sound words that had been deposited to Paul and he had taught to Timothy was now Timothy's depository of good words and they were all good and he was to pass them along to others.

Paul tells him to "keep" this is a military word and refers to a watch tower or guard house. Paul is telling all preachers and teachers that we need to guard the good words of God that they be not stolen from us. We need to pass it on to faithful

men as we are instructed in chapter 2:2. He can do this through the Holy Spirit with confidence (John 2:27).

15 This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

Paul in these last 3 verses moves to the experience of courage.

This is sad account not of a single church or group of churches in a town no it was the entire Roman province of Asia, Ephesus being the capital city. Now Turkey covers most of this area today. The sadness deepens when you turn over and read all the strong, deep truths in the letter to the Ephesians and all the time Paul had spent there as recorded in the book of Acts.

The turn was positional they were becoming apostate in their teaching and the ring leaders of this move against Paul and his sound words were these two mentioned here. They had been leaders at Ephesus and the whole area and now they were sowing apostasy and discord among the brethren.

16-17 The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain: But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.

Here is the greatest of heartaches of any Pastor covered by loving memories. This man Onesiphorus was from reading 4:19 acquainted with Priscilla and Aquilla who had come with Paul to Ephesus and stayed behind to labor there. This man had a long prominent ministry that Timothy was well aware of. He was wealthy enough to travel as he visited Paul on several occasions. This man had at one time taken care of Paul and his needs and that often. Here's a question "who encourages a pastor"? Who is his pastor? It is these like Onesiphorus. So his turning on Paul made this so much harder yet Paul asks the Lord to me merciful to this family because of his past efforts not his present sin!

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.

At the judgment seat Paul is praying he finds mercy because of all he had done for Paul. Few ever realize the pressure and problems a pastor faces daily in the “care of the churches”. What a reward will there be for those who minister to their pastor in that day!

Chapter Two

We will find in this chapter that Paul uses 7 different figures of speech to describe a Christians duty and activities and our need to know them more now as we see the end of this age approaching. Paul is following the same pattern of our Lord in using word pictures of that which was well known to teach great truths to those around him. So let's see these 7 figures and how they relate to us.

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

Here is Paul's first figure of speech "thou therefore my son" Paul knowing others may fail this is a reference to the 3 men listed above he expects more from his son in the faith.

Paul says of his son to "be strong in grace" or keep growing stronger in grace. It is only through this method will timothy be able to remain faithful to his ministry.

When you hear a Christian going about using phrases like "I don't do this or I don't do that or I follow some rules" you can be sure they are living with gritted teeth on their own strength and know little or nothing about "being strong in grace".

The word "be strong" means to have power in or an inner power. Luke uses it of Paul in Acts 9:22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ and Paul uses it in 1st Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry

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.

Paul here commands timothy to take all of Paul's instructions and then pass all of that knowledge on to other men. Not because of Paul but because of the words themselves. Notice it is not just any men no it is "faithful men." Those men who have proven they can and will stand up under any circumstances.

As one nears the end of their ministry they become concerned if there will be any to carry on after they are gone because the truth must never stop!

3-4 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 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.

Paul had seen soldiers and maybe even going or while combat was going on so he was a witness to the cruelty, suffering, and hardships of war. The enemy fights with the fierceness of life or death because it was. Having seen this Paul could see he and Timothy in a similar situation only not with physical weapons but war with Satan and his forces.

Paul had been on the frontlines and now age and circumstances had changed it now Timothy would move to the frontline. Paul had no word for retreat or for just holding out, he was always on the attack. He had words for “advance” and for “stand” in Phil. 1:27 that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel and Eph. 6:13-14 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Soldiers once enlisted remove themselves from those things that hinder them from being the best soldier possible.

Christian the moment you accept Christ you become a soldier in the greatest army in the world as such we need to remove any thing that will keep us from doing all we can for the Lord.

We do have to take care of the necessities of life but there are many things we do that are not necessary and take away from our ability to serve Jesus.

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

Paul now changes to his 3rd figure that of an athlete. The word “strive” is to engage in contests.

Paul is moving from the hardship of war to the striving and struggle to win the prize in an athletic contest. To gain the winners crown you would have to follow the rules for that contest, train by them, and compete by them to win. To win the contest of life the Bible is the rule book to train by and to compete by not man's humanistic philosophy.

Paul is letting 'timothy know that as a minister of the gospel one of his governing rules is to be satisfied and thankful with what the Lord has provided!

All of us must come to realize that the Lord God is the umpire and he calls fouls very closely!

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

Paul's 4th figure is here and it is a farmer, not any farmer but one who sweats and toils for what he raises. The athlete receives his crown at the end of the contests. The farmer partakes of his harvest with the first fruits.

For the servants' of the Lord this is a great promise in that one will receive reward here and at the judgment seat for faithfully working hard and enduring evil for the gospel sake.

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

Paul stops and asks that Timothy let what he has said up this point sink in. Paul has already said a great deal that needs to be meditated on such as being strong, committing paul's words to faithful men, suffering with him in the fight of faith and to untangle himself from worldly affairs. Paul says to mentally exercise the mind about these for comparison read these Josh. 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success and Matt.13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Paul wants timothy to use the above example of soldiers, athletes and farmers to relate with his ministry and the Lord will give the understanding of all these to him.

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

Paul encourages Timothy in enduring hardness by having him remember Jesus who was born of the seed of David giving him right to David's throne.

He was despised, rejected, abused, crucified and raised from the dead according to the preaching of Paul by the revelation given him from Jesus himself as stated in Gal. 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ and 1st Thess 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe

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

God does not protect his servants from trouble no he preserves or carries them through the trouble. Paul had because of his boldness in preaching the gospel. Individuals, religionist of all types and political types were always against him. Had he operated in Timothy he would have lived comfortably until old age however God does not care for these type of people he wants soldiers brave and fierce. Read these passages for reference on how these wanted him dead Acts 21:31 And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar and 23:12-14 And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy. And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a

great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul

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.

Because Paul kept preaching he became a criminal. When he persecuted and condemned Christians he was well received but now these same people had him in chains in Rome as we read here in Acts 20:23-24 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Nothing changes when a sinner gets saved and starts living like it they often receive abuse from family and friends for it.

Paul suffered not for self but for the elects or chosen ones, the believer's sake. You see as they watched him patiently suffer for the gospels furtherance then they would be encouraged and others would come to Christ.

11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

What Paul is about to say can be counted on to be trustworthy? The word "for" connects back to verse 10 and Christ great substitutionary death and our identifying with it see here Romans 6:8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

Once we accept Christ then this trust in his death burial and resurrection becomes the basis of our eternal life. because we are going to live with him then we should gladly suffer and endure hardness for Him.

12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

Paul makes here a definitive statement about suffering. To fully follow Christ will bring persecution and hatred that is what Jesus said. It is not wanted much today.

Paul says if we suffer for the gospel's sake then we will reign with Christ. This was meant as an encouraging word to timothy and to us. In Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; here Paul says endure affliction patiently. In 1 Cor. 13 Paul affirms that true Godly love "endures all things".

This is one test to see where a believer is with the Lord watch to see if they "endure." Paul's reference to endurance is not about some work toward heaven no it is about being empowered by grace Romans 6: 15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid and verse 22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. Living in grace does not mean freedom to sin but freedom from the power of sin and to live instead unto holiness. It is a test for reigning with Christ!

Now Paul adds a conditional future that of denying Jesus then one needs to expect certain results. The word "deny" means to "disclaim" or "renounce." Paul here in and in Titus 1:16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" gives evidence of this in the Cretans lifestyles. They were contradictory between their words. They professed love for the Lord and their actions instead were extremely carnal. The Apostle John adds to this in 1st John 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son

Paul uses the word "we" indicating not a particular individual but a wide warning to all who would profess Christ but not possess Christ. here are several passages of people who appeared to be genuine but fell away proving otherwise Acts 20:29-30; Galatians 3:1-5, 4:9-11; 1 John 2:18-19.

13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Paul adds to his words in verse 12 here by making a play on words. Anyone can put up a pretense of religion or Christianity and fool those around them however they cannot

fool Jesus. For Jesus to accept that person would mean He would have to deny his own word and he cannot do that.

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 now uses his 5th figure that of a workman from here through verse 19.

Paul tells Timothy that what he has said he needs to remind those teachers of the same and then to return to the subjects that are profitable for the spread of the gospel and souls being saved.

Paul tells Timothy to “charge” his people that are to “thoroughly witness” to them of the gospel knowing that his teaching ministry was open before God. This is why pastors and any one claiming to be a teacher should handle the word of God very carefully.

Since man’s fall in Genesis there has been a strong propensity to argue and fight. Even in the church there at Ephesus there were false teachers bringing in heresy and other false teachings.

Paul tells Timothy to not get involved in fruitless battles (strivings) over words that will not bring growth in the Lord or glory to Him. Striving brings an “over throwing of the hearers” that is the perverting and destroying of the hearers of those things to be argued over.

Teachers are to establish and build up believers in the word notice carefully Paul’s words in the following verses Romans 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began also 2nd cor. 13:10 Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction and 1st Timothy 1:10-11 and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust. 6:3 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

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

Paul gives the answer to those who would ‘strive’ with their words; “study” this is a workers word and means to ‘endeavor or exert oneself’ with “diligence” or continued effort. Why to be “approved’ or accepted in the sight of God passing His test or being examined by Him.

Diligent study that is approved of by God will make a skillful worker who is capable of “rightly dividing” or as the phrase can mean to cut straight or to correctly interpret the word. The word has no contradictions when rightly divided.

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

Paul now inserts a sharp “but” to draw a contrast from above to these words. We are to labor to rightly divide the word while at the same time we are to “shun” that is circumvent or stay away from, avoid the following.

1st The “profane” that is those things unholy, common or secular. Secular is a good word for profane especially in this time of atheism in every area of life which draws away from a believers spiritual strength.

2nd The “empty” or useless babblings” that is the vain or empty words that are just fruitless chatter or talk. Every believer and especially teachers and Pastor’s need to stay away from these as they only lead to advancing ungodly ideas and actions. Paul tells Titus the same in Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain also in 1st Timothy 4:7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness and 5:13 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

17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

Notice as Paul continues his words on this he adds that these empty profane word's is that they will eat up others around them like gangrene eats up flesh. These words would spread through the congregation at Ephesus and eat up the sound words being rightly divided.

Paul goes so far as to mention two men who were doing some of this profane babbling. The first is also mentioned in 1st Timothy 1:20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme notice here Paul says that Hymenaeus had a helper Alexander who he had already turned from the truth. Paul is blunt as he says he turned them over to Satan for judging so they could learn not to blaspheme!

18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

These two had "erred" or missed the mark of the truth of god's word and instead were putting out empty babbling. To argue with these types only pollutes and harms, paul says here in 1st Cor. 14:38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant those who would be ignorant are not to be debated but avoided as they wreck weak Christians faith.

Here Paul states one area of vain talk saying that the resurrection was over. The same had been told the Thessalonian churches having them believe they had missed it and now had to go through persecution.

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.

Despite mans empty talk and all of their other failings the word of God is sure and the foundation of our faith is Jesus Christ We are to build on Him and if so there will be no defection, no apostasy. Remember John said in 1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with

us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us this shows they left because they were not true believers.

Paul reminds us to have a real “know” or experienced knowledge that the Lord knows those who are His. Jesus said so in John 10:27-28 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. And to the lost He said in Matt. 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity these are strong words and includes those who profess to be Christians and are not.

Since we are his Paul says we are to “depart” get away from anything that even appears to be evil in society. Why because we are to be holy and set apart from what the unrighteous do. To many today want to hold hands with the unrighteous evil world even to dressing it in some kind of church words or dressing yet Christ word does not change!

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.

Here now is the shift to the 6th figure that of a vessel. Paul says here we are as believers all part of the great house of family of God. the term “house” here is a reference brought up from royal families and their lineage. We are all royal priests and descendants of that great high priest Jesus Christ

Now in a home there are the good china and the everyday dishes. Some of gold and some of wood this is a reference to the outside and the Lord is not that concerned with the outside.

The Pharisees and Sanhedrin were concerned with the outward appearance. Jesus to their faces called them whited sepulchers he also said they cleaned the outside of the cup but left the inside dirty. Jesus as we sill see has another view of the vessels of service.

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.

The phrase “from these” is a reference that goes all the way back to verse 14 and up to here. Paul is encouraging all of us to purge ourselves from these. It would be like cleaning the inside of a drinking cup. Doing this will make one a useful vessel for the Lord; one who has been sanctified. Being separated from the unclean things is evidence that one is being separated unto God’s sovereign will.

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

Paul turns his focus towards Timothy and tells him to flee from those things a young minister, teacher, or believer might be seduced by such things as fame, fortune and those that please the flesh.

On the other hand Paul encourages all of us to chase after 4 qualities that come from a purged heart.

1. Righteousness—not ours but Christ’s, notice his words in 1st Tim. 6:11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness and Romans 6:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. Also Phil. 1:11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God along with Eph. 5:9 For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth. We are to go after what God considers right, equitable, and just.

2. Faithfulness- this is what our lives should be marked by (Gal. 5:22; 1st Tim. 2:15; 4:12, 6:11; Philemon 1:5). The person with genuine faith in Jesus will to the extent they are controlled by the Holy Spirit be faithful, reliable, and trustworthy.

3. Love- this is to be unselfishly devoted to a person or persons (1st Cor. 14:1). This love is to go toward God first (Rom. 13:8; Gal. 5:13-14; Eph. 4:2)

4. Peace- this is a mental and physical rest a frictionless relationship with others (Hebrews 12:14). Believers already have peace with god what they need here is the peace of god.

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

Paul here is giving advice on a teacher's mental aspect in teaching when it comes to these two subjects.

The word "questions" refers to "seeking, inquiries, or looking." Paul then says that questions or inquiries that are of a foolish or senseless, illogical, unintelligent. Timothy the teacher is to avoid, circumvent, and steer clear of these.

Second he needs to avoid "ignorant questions" this word means "uninstructed, untrained, and uneducated" in the scriptures. Therefore these questions come from a lack of learning and are not asked in such a way as to want to learn. No Paul says they are asked to cause an argument. The word "avoid" here is "to beg off from" in Titus Paul commands him to go around them.

Why is he to avoid them because these types of questions do not do anything but cause problems in the church.

24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

Paul says that a Pastor, minister, teacher, or well learned believer is not to become involved in such things. It would seem that with Paul's words Timothy being young might well have been getting involved in such questions.

The phrase "must not" is a command requiring the Pastor/teacher not to strive (battle, conflict, quarrel) or argue. 1st Tim 3:3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; and Titus 1:7 not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

In contrast a servant teacher is to be "gentle" Paul in 1st Thess. 2:7 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse

cherisheth her children: this was the slave who took care of her masters children. Paul is saying that teachers are to be as gentle as a nurse looking after children.

Not only is this servant teacher to be gentle as a nurse he is to be qualified to teach. Now the word “qualified” means “competent, able, and apt” to teach. Teachers are God’s main method of making the truth of God’s word known to the church. To be a qualified teacher one must be given a gift and disciplined through rigorous training as we see in Eph. 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 1 Tim. 4:11-16; 2Tim. 1:6-8. a teacher must be willing to patiently bare up under evil by those in the next verse.

25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves;
if God peradventure will give them repentance to the
acknowledging of the truth;

In verse 24 Paul says to us what a teacher is to be. Here now he sets out things a teacher should do.

1st teachers are to be meek that is they should have power under control or to be mild mannered.

2nd they are to instruct those that are against him with the best methods he knows!

3rd teachers are to keep teaching even those who oppose him so that maybe in time they will repent of opposing the truth and come to know the perfect truth of God!

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

After these that have been opposed to Paul have repented of their deeds and come to the knowledge of the truth they will become “sober” or serious in their thinking.

So serious that they will see the trap that the devil had them in and escape it. They then can comprehend the truth of God’s word now that they are no longer captive of the devil.

Chapter Three

Paul is going to give an order “to know” what an apostate society was going to look like after Paul’s death. Paul could see it coming just as Elijah saw the storm cloud on the horizon and told Ahab to run to the palace for protection.

Paul in these opening verses is describing the godless marks of society. There are 3, a godless world system, second a godless and powerless religion and third corrupt ministries.

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

Paul opens this chapter by giving timothy a command to “know” or to “understand and grasp what is going to be thinking place in the “last days.” To know what society is going to become will prepare Christians to endure mental, spiritual and physical hardship.

Now what are these “last days” these are the days at the end or the final days. These are the last days of the church age those days prior to the Lord coming for His church as we read about here in 1 Thess. 4:14-17 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Now Paul taught that Christ’s return was imminent even in his day and could occur at any moment Rom. 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. So these “last days” are a time from Paul’s day until the Lord comes for the church.

Paul describes these last days as going to be hard, difficult and fierce times to live in. these will be the most evident in the days leading up to Christ’s return. If one looks through history you will find these occurring to some degree. However as the days grow close to his return they will increase exponentially.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Paul starts here and goes through verse 9 and points out the characteristics of the people in these last days so we can be on guard. Let's take a close look at each of these and see if they are present today.

1. Self Lovers: in the last day's men and women will be self lovers these love themselves and are not concerned about others. They are the opposite of those who love God. One word describes these people "conceited."

2. Covetous: in the last days their will be those that love money more than anything else in life. Jesus says this of the Pharisees that they were money lovers in Luke 16:15 Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. Paul in 1st Tim. 6:10 says that "the root of all evil is the love of money." The self lovers need money to satiate their selfish desires.

3. Boasters: Men in the last days will be "boastful" that is they are "arrogant" they flaunt a false front by empty boasting.

4. Proud: In the last days men will be proud or "haughty" or showing off above others." James in James 4:6 Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Notice he says that God stands against the haughty or proud. Men will become more snobbish and lifted up; modern "elitist" are this way as they look down on the middle class people.

5. Blasphemers: in the last days men will become "blasphemers" this is a transliteration and not a translation. This allows it's meaning to be strong and clear. The word means "cursers or that which is holy." Paul in 1st Tim 1:13 Who was before a blasphemer here he says he was a former blasphemer where he persecuted Christ's followers.

6. Disobedient: men and women in the last days will be disobedient to parents these people are "un compliant" or un persuaded. So Paul now adds to the list how children are going to behave toward their parents. Paul in Romans 1:30 disobedient to parents here he says this is part of a corrupt gentile world system one also needs to read the following

verses Eph. 2:2, 5:6; 1Pet.4:17. This is in direct conflict with the word and will of God as we see in Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Also read Eph. 6:1; col. 3:20 this is so very prevalent in today's society.

7. Unthankful: during the last days men will be "ungrateful" or to be without or void of gratitude. Men will be unthankful.

This sin is so pervasive today even in the church where Christians take advantage and are not the least grateful for what they are given.

8. Unholy: Men in the last days will become increasingly unholy or without holiness without piety. Christians are commanded to be holy and to serve the Lord. One can read the headlines and see this growing sin. There are two groups in this verse the first group of men are the self lovers, they are totally wrapped up in themselves. The second group is those with bad relationships with one another.

3-4 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

9. Without natural affection: In the last days men and women will be devoid of the natural love God placed in us. In Romans 1:31 "Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful". Paul here uses this phrase to describe the low moral life of the Gentile world of his day. He also in Romans 1:24 will use it to describe Homosexuality.

10. Trucebreakers: In the last days men will be implacable or the inability to live in peace and or a lack of desire for peace. They will be irreconcilable such as the leaders of Israel and Iran are today.

11. False Accusers: These are slanderers inside and outside of the church. These people are devilish in their use of the tongue to destroy others lives. Paul uses this also in 1st Timothy 3:11 "Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers" here Paul is using it as a warning to the wives of men who would want to be Bishops. He also uses it in Titus 2:3 "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers" here it is a warning to mature women of the faith to watch since they are the ones to teach the younger ones and that their words would be impressed on those young minds. Now Jesus uses it

in John 8:44 to describe the Devil as a liar and a character assassin which is what he does best.

12. Incontinent: This means that as we move deeper into the last days men and women will lose their self control. That is they will have no control over their passions.

13. Fierce: This is the ones who have no gentleness about them at all. They behave like wild animals.

14. Despisers of Good: In the last days there will be a growing hatred toward those who live and practice doing good. We can certainly see this everywhere. The hatred toward real Christians is mounting everyday.

15. Traitors: Men and women will become less trust worthy and ever quicker to turn on someone. Jesus here in Luke 6:16 and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor" says it of Judas who was his friend and Stephen in Acts 7:52 "of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers" here says it of the Sanhedrin who killed the prophets and the priests who betrayed Jesus. It is astounding how people you have trusted suddenly just betray you for no apparent reason.

16. Heady: In the last days men will become "reckless" in their lives, their families, in Government and in church. Paul said to be patient and pray about every thing. Now in these last days men will rush into situations recklessly having little or no regard for how their actions will affect those around them.

17. High-minded: this is one who is full of conceit, pride, men will be blinded by these in the last days. Paul in 1st Tim 3:6 tells timothy to not grab a novice and place him in a position of authority the reason is he can become overcome with pride. Paul in Chapter 6 verses 3-4 of 1st Timothy says of a teacher who teaches words other than the sound ones given by Paul is conceited. This conceit is brought on by an outside source namely Satan who was full of pride.

18. Lovers of Pleasure: In the last days men will "focus" their love on pleasure in stead of "loving God". Jesus in Luke 8:14 says "are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection." This is a reference to the pleasures choking out the word of God. Paul said we served various lusts and pleasures before we were saved. James in James 4:1 says that war and fighting comes out of our "pleasure" or lust. In the last days men will love pleasures of all kind to a greater degree or greater extent than God. It is impossible to love both s we read in Matthew 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" also Paul in Philippians 3:7-8. John in 1st John 2:15 sums it up with these words "If anyone loves the world; the love of the Father is not in him.

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

19. Having a form of Godliness: In the last days men will hold the shape or external form of Godliness even to going through rituals, etc. thinking this is Godliness. Paul in 1st Timothy 6:5 “Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself” notice here he says that some use this façade as a means to make money and we see this every day.

This verse makes it clear that in the last days people will profess religion but it will only be an empty shell as they will not have true Holy Spirit power. It is clear that they were Godly and at a definite point were blinded by Satan as Paul says here in 2 Cor. 4:4 “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them”

6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

Minister's and Teacher's from the above verse are those that disguise themselves in religiousousity to creep, sneak, or slip into homes of silly women.

They come in to “take captive” that is the same term used to capture or ensnare someone in war. Jesus uses it in Luke 21:24 and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. It has the meaning of some type of force to make one captive.

The objects of these ministries who sneak in, in deceptive religious clothes are women who are silly or little in the sense of being weak or immature spiritually now men are just as gullible, just as weak, and immature. Women are mentioned here in particular because of the situation in Ephesus where some women were following these corrupt ministries. The warning is good for all of us as we must guard against corrupt ministers. Look at what the corrupt minister's do they seek people first who are laden or burdened down with sins and guilt. Second those who are easily swayed and led away with desire and lust of the flesh.

7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Third we see where those who are seeking after truth, those who listen but never learn. These are the types that the corrupt minister or teacher

goes after because they are looking to fill a need in their lives so the corrupt ones step in and lead them astray. Keeping the learner from ever coming to the knowledge of the truth.

8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

These corrupt minister's and teachers always resist or stand against the real truth of God's word. Why? Simple their minds contain false and corrupt information that has twisted and distorted their spirits.

Paul mentions by name the two chief magicians of Pharaoh that stepped out against Moses and could for a time stand toe to toe and match miracles. However in the end they were destroyed as we can read in Exodus 7:1, 8:7, 9:11.

9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

Paul lets Timothy know that they may stand up against him and even draw off some who are weak. In the end though they will be exposed by God for who and what they are false teachers and ministers only having a form of Godliness as we read these words of Paul in 2 Thess. 1:7-10 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

From here through verse 12 Paul will give timothy some marks to look for in the truly Godly believers! In doing so Paul will use his life experiences in contrast to the godless marks from these earlier verses.

Paul says of Timothy that he had "fully known" or closely observed" Paul and his life. the word "know" here means to follow one so closely that they are always by that persons side.

Paul will now give timothy 8 marks to look for in others.

1st There is Paul's doctrine or teaching. Paul had taught the very word of God to Timothy. Teachings such as Rom. 1:1-4; 1 Cor. 15:1-4 and Titus 1:9. The point is the godly person or one wants to live godly follows the teaching of Godly teachers, they follow very closely.

2nd There is godly behavior and conduct. Paul endeavors to live what he preaches. He did not profess one thing and do another, neither did he compromise. Timothy and all of us should do the same. The believer is not to lower the standard of their teaching by a less godly life, here are some references on this Acts 20:35 I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive also 1st Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17, 4:9..

3rd there is the "purpose" or one's chief aim in life, which is to live out and take out the great commission.

4th There is our "faith", we are to live a life of faith not sight.

5th There is one's "longsuffering" or the patience, bearing and suffering, being constant, steadfast this is not broken. Longsuffering does not strike back like the ungodly.

6th There is "love" this is the selfless love that Christ had toward people.

7th there is "patience" this is endurance, steadfastness. This is an active word not a word about being idle. It is the Spirit that gets up and goes out overcoming the trials that confronts one daily. This person knows the trial is being allowed by God to teach us more!

11-12 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. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

The 8th is here and it is "persecutions & afflictions" Paul mentions 3 in particular.

1st Antioch- Acts 13:50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts here is where the city leaders throw Paul out of town for the gospels sake.

2nd Iconium- Acts 14:4-6 But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles. And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them, They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about: here again the city leaders wanted to stone him for the gospels sake.

3rd Lystra- Acts 14:19-20 And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city:

and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. Here a mob stoned Paul and threw him outside the city. Paul never failed to witness no matter the circumstances and the Lord did not fail in delivering him. Every believer will suffer persecutions; one cannot escape it; that is if one is a genuine believer.

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

The Godly person will protect themselves from the evil, seducing workers in sheep's clothing. Evil men are those actively and openly against Christ and the gospel. Seducers are imposters, deceivers who call themselves Christians for what they can get out of it.

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

Timothy had been taught the scriptures since childhood being grounded by Eunice and Lois who were strong believers themselves. Paul had taken timothy even farther along.

Notice Paul's injunction to timothy to "continue" which in to "dwell or abide." Timothy was to dwell in what he had learned. He was to live and move and have his very being in the scriptures.

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.

Paul continues his line of thought of assuring Timothy drawing him back into his mind the Old Testament passages timothy had been taught by his mother and grandmother.

Salvation comes by faith Eph 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast and rom. 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. It is the scriptures that will keep people from the sin in this wicked world.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Scripture is "inspired" this word means God breathed out the words of the Bible. Paul is making a direct statement about the Old Testament as the inspired or God breathed word of God; if this is true of the Old and it is then how much more of the New Testament. The New Testament had yet

to be completed yet. Notice it is the scriptures that are inspired and not the person who is putting them on paper.

The writers were men of all walks of life that God used to pen down His inspired word allowing their style and education level and personality to be a part of the writing style.

Now this God breathed scripture when taken in as Timothy has been doing since he was a child would do some things for him and the same is true for every believer.

1st It is very profitable for doctrine: God wants man to know who He is, who man is, the beginning, meaning and end of all things. Jesus told us to search the scriptures in John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me also john 7: 16-17 My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. And Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

2nd the bible is profitable for “reproof”: God breathed out the scriptures so that man could sense conviction and rebuke when disobey the will of God as we read Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart also read John 16: 7-8, 13.

3rd the bible is profitable for “correction”: the bible teaches obedience by teaching a person to discipline oneself as we read here in John 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. One should also read the following John 17:7; Eph 5:26; 1 Peter 1:22; Ps. 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

4th the bible is profitable for “instruction in righteousness”: our heavenly father wants us to know what the right things are to do; think and say. Here are some companion passages Titus 2:12-13 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; there is also 1 Peter 2:2-3 and Psalm 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Scripture will bring a believer to maturity and equip him or her for every good work. No one will become mature apart from the scriptures. We were made for God and we are to live by his word.

William Barclay the one of the great bible teachers of last century said this “He must study that God will use him to help to save the souls and comfort the lives of other.” Paul in Acts 17:11-12 gives us the model to go by “sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.” It would be good for every believer to become just like these Bereans and search the scriptures especially today with so many false teachers cropping up around this country.

Chapter Four

The world is bombarded with one message of hope after another. However above all the messages of hope there is one that is needed by man more than all the others. What is it? It is the message of the Word of God it is the only lasting message of hope for man.

It is for this very reason the Word must be preached, the preacher must commit himself to this awesome charge. This is Paul's message to Timothy in the opening verses of this chapter.

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;

Paul "charges" timothy to preach the word, because timothy you are being watched by God the Father and the Lord Jesus. His message is not to be of human philosophy, psychology, sociology, self image, or personnel development. These may be helpful, but they are not the Word of God.

The Word is the scriptures we hold in our hands. This is the revelation of God, the unbelievable love of God. Paul gives Timothy 3 reasons why he and all other preachers are to preach God's word.

1st the Lord Jesus is the judge of the living (quick) and the dead. He will judge preachers as to whether we preached the true gospel faithfully or not. Next He will judge us if we preached the word or an admixture.

2nd The preacher must keep his mind and preaching on the Lord's glorious return, he must be prepared by preaching the word. If one fails to preach the word he will stand before the Lord ashamed and embarrassed.

3rd the Lord on His visible return will set up His kingdom and His preachers will be citizens and the amount of responsibility will be based on faithfulness in preaching the Word!

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

Paul continues with marks of a minister here he tells timothy to

1. Preach the Word: a minister is to be obsessed with the word and preaching it. He should be consumed with it in his soul; why you ask? First it is God's method to see souls saved as we read in 1st Cor. 1: 18 & 21 "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

Second the Lord will hold the minister accountable for the preaching of the word 1Cor. 9: 16 "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel"

You cannot over emphasize preaching or grasp fully it's importance.

There are two key words here

1

a. Preach: it is to stand before people in all the dignity and authority of God.

b. the Word: "all scripture" this is the whole body of revealed truth.

Matthew Henry said "it is not their own notions and fancies that they are to preach but the pure word of God."

2. The minister is to be "instant in or out of season".

a. The word "instant" is to "take a stand" or stick to it.

b. "season" the preacher is to take advantage of every opportunity to preach. There are going to be good times and difficult times and preachers have to stick to it and preach as there are no times when a preacher is closed out of preaching.

3. The preacher's preaching of the word is to "reprove." This word means to cause a person to prove themselves or to be put under conviction to see their sin. Kenneth Wuest said "the preacher is to deal with sin, both in the lives of his unsaved and saved hearers to whom he minister's, and in no uncertain tones." The result is to be the salvation of sinners and the sanctification (cleansing) of saints.

4. The preacher is to "rebuke".

This is a very strong word it is one of "rebuke with a possible penalty".

Even where the minister has experienced failure in bringing sinners to forsake sin they are to still rebuke. 1 Tim. 5:20 "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear." And Titus 1:9 "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers"

5. Longsuffering and doctrine: the word "exhort" is to "please, I beg of you, I urge you" it is to plead, comfort, and help. The minister must be willing to carry the sinner to Christ! Encouraging people toward Christ or back toward Christ no matter the circumstances, enduring or bearing their weakness no matter what they say or do to you! He does it with doctrine.

1 cor. 13:4, Heb. 3:13 and 1 Peter 5:2.

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; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Even as Paul penned these words there were already false teachers starting to seep into churches. Two types were at work in Paul's day
1st Judaizers those who were forcing Judaism onto Christians.

2nd The Gnostics these were even worse as they went around trying to convince people that they had new revelations and a superior knowledge from God. What they really had was an admixture of truth and error to form their own gospel.

Paul says church people will not endure "sound doctrine" that is the teaching of God's word. The word "sound" means wholesome and healthy teachings which are the words of the Bible. Honestly it is the ones we do not want to hear or enjoy hearing.

Such as mankind is sinful and depraved or that we cannot become acceptable to God on our own; that Jesus is the only Saviour for men to become acceptable there are a host of others. The point is made men will turn from "sound" teaching seeking something else. Here are some references for this John 8:43-44,47; 12:48; Ro. 16:17; Eph. 4:14; 1 Tim. 1:3-4.

People will want teachers who will allow them to live as they desire. The words mean "dominated by their lusts". They will live by their lusts, cravings and gratifications of the flesh; for immorality, power, authority, position, possessions, and approval. These and others will begin to dominate people in and out of church so much so that they will hunt and find teachers and ministers who will tell (tickle) them what their flesh wants to hear.

These messages of personal development, self image of philosophy and psychology, of good works; these all benefit the natural man. There is one problem these will never deal with or solve the sin problem of the heart.

Men do not desire to deal honestly with themselves; they want to live like they want. They desire pleasure and self gratification so they need a teacher who will tell them words that will empower them to do just that; one needs to read Gal. 1:6-9 and Titus 1:10-11 "For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake." These will "turn from" this is a medical term meaning "to twist out of place."

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

The God fearing minister will "watch" or be sober, calm and alert, to maintain a controlled disciplined life and spirit as Paul says in 1 Cor. 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall and also in ch 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" also 1 Peter 5: 8. He will "endure affliction" that is the minister will

suffer hardship, trouble, problems, and difficulties as Jesus says in Matt. 10:22 “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake” and Paul in Phil. 1:29 “For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake” read also James 1:12 and 1 Peter 5: 8-9.

The minister is to do the work of an “evangelist” this doesn’t mean quit the pulpit and start traveling. No god gifts “some” to be evangelist as Paul states in Eph. 4 to be that kind of minister. Ministers are to be evangelistic or go after lost souls.

The minister is to fulfill his ministry to the brim. To carry his gospel ministries to the end to best of their ability as we read here in John 21:17; 1 Peter 5:2; Jer. 3:15 and Acts 20:28.

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

Paul says “for” connecting back to his last phrase “make full proof” here he was encouraging Timothy to do so; so that when he came to the end of his ministry he could say as Paul that there were no regrets of a wasted life.

The word “I” this is emphatic as in “as for myself” Paul was being honest with himself as we should all be. Paul was now ready to be “offered” this is a word used for the drink offering and means to be “poured out” Paul uses it also in Phil. 2:17 “Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all”

Paul tells Timothy that his “time of departure” is come, “departure” is a military term and means to take down a tent and fold it away.

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

Paul is not boasting but stating a fact that he had lived in a good fight or contest for the gospel’s sake. The word “fight” comes from the Greek athletic games. He adds the word “fought” this is a completed action and Paul’s confidence in it; we get our word “agonized” from it.

Paul had “finished” his course this is a reference to a foot race on a track. What Paul is saying is he had now crossed the finish line and had not quit. There is a great lesson here for all of us. The Christian life is not a hundred yard dash it is a marathon filled with obstacles.

Paul adds “I have kept the faith” this is not personal faith concerning salvation as that has not been part of Paul’s writing at all to this point. Paul is talking about the revealed body of Christian truth the word of God. Paul is saying he never became detoured by some new breeze of doctrine. The

apostle James warns us to not be blown about by every wind, but be steadfast.

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.

Paul reminds Timothy of the unbelievable reward the “crown of righteousness”. This is Christ’s righteousness that makes us acceptable and able to be in the presence of God. Paul was expecting his crown because he had spent his life-

- being a soldier for Christ on the frontline
- being an athlete for Christ in the Christian race of life
- being a steward for Christ and His Word.

This is in contrast to the crowns of man that fade and deteriorate. There are two items of importance to note here.

1st. This crown is given to all who love and look for the Lord’s appearing. Now did you catch that “Loves His appearing” who is the person that is doing this?

a. The person who loves the Lord Himself. Who is it that loves? The person who truly believes in the Lord and the salvation He has provided. Who is a true believer? The person who has committed his life; to be a soldier, an athlete, and a steward for Christ in mission, life, and faith.

This is the person who loves and looks for Christ coming for His church. It is not what we profess about Christ it is what we do for Christ.

9 Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:

The word “diligence” is the same as “study” in 2:15 and means to do ones best to come quickly.

10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

The word “forsaken” is to “let down” the last we heard of demas was in Colossians and he was standing with Paul. Now he has let him down, or forsaken him. This was a real disappointment to Paul. You see even Paul had those times of discouragement because people forsake him. Notice one thing even after all of Paul’s discipling Demas still turned from faithfulness to the world.

Pastor's need to read these verses and others like them, even those like here in Mark 14:50 "And they all forsook him, and fled." This was Jesus talking about the majority of His followers. Pastor's need these verses so that when they have someone forsake them they will not falter.

11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Paul is not seeking pity just giving insight to pastor's against discouragement. Most everyone had left but not his faithful brother in Christ Dr. Luke.

Now in Acts 13 and 15 Mark appears to have deserted Paul causing a break in Paul and Barnabus who is Mark's uncle. Mark over these ensuing years has proven himself to be faithful and mature in the lord. Paul has long forgiven his desertion and that as it should be. To many pout today over trivial things and never reconcile as Jesus said to do and deprive themselves of their ability to serve Him.

12 And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus.

This man was sent to the church at Ephesus the others having left on their own. He is the one who brought this letter to Timothy (1 Tim.1:3).

13 The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.

Paul is requesting his heavy outer cloak robe with a hole so he could drape it over his whole body. Paul needed it to help keep warm in the Roman jail.

The books were scrolls papyrus and parchment. Paul kept his mind sharp and his heart full by reading his scrolls. What an encouragement to timothy and all of us.

14 -15 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

Paul clearly identifies this man as Alexander the coppersmith as Alexander was a very common name so Paul marks him out by his trade. He knew Timothy would know him that way. To often someone causes trouble in one church and then move on then move on to another church to cause harm there also.. there needs to be an honest warning of others so the trouble makers do not hurt others 1 Tim 5:24 Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.

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.

At Paul's first defense in his trial, he had no lawyer or advocate. Even more all those around him deserted him leaving Paul to defend himself. Even so Paul did not allow any of this to bring bitterness. Paul followed his words in Heb. 12:15 lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; and no matter how much it hurts, allowed no root of bitterness so that others may no be hurt!

17 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.

Notice Paul's encouragement came not in those who deserted him but in the Lord who was faithful Heb. 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. the word "strengthen" is to pour in, that is Paul was continually having the Lord's strength poured into him. He was so encouraged and empowered he preached the gospel to Emperor Nero. At this he was not immediately executed as one would expect from the maniac Nero. Paul's reprieve gave him time to write this letter under inspiration and the church has been richly blessed by it.

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.

What awesome security Paul felt; he knew he would be delivered from evil and preserved unto glory as he had said in Eph. 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise and 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

19-21 Salute Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick. Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.

These final greetings show Paul's love and concern for people. The first two are a husband and wife evangelistic teaching team. They were very close to Paul as we can see from these passages Acts 18:2,8,26; Rom.

16:3; 1 cor. 16:19. Onesiphorus is one of the founders of the church in Ephesus. Erastus was the Treasurer of the city of Corinth and a devout Christian. Trophimus is a close friend who Paul had to leave sick in the city of Miletum, Paul no longer having the gift of healing just as he said it would happen in 1 Cor. 13.

The others well they have no clear record of who they are or from what church they were from is not know but to God!

22 The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

The word "you" here is plural, to this is not to Timothy alone but even to us also God's unmerited favor be towards us amen!