

2 Timothy Chapter 1

v1 an apostle...by the will of God:
right up to the very end, Paul was completely and unconditionally
surrendered to the will of God

Paul knew the will of God for his life because he was

- A man of prayer
- Immersed in the Word of God
- Listening to the Holy Spirit
- Led by the Holy Spirit

God has a plan for every man's life...and it is a better plan than we have
for it.

Will you submit to God's plan?

What if it took you to a prison like it did Paul?

Do you completely and unconditionally trust God with your life?

according to the promise of life:

the will of God involves a promise of life

promise = "announcement of Divine assurance"

...no doubt whatsoever

Paul is alone in prison and facing a Roman death sentence...but he already
HAS the promise of life in Christ Jesus!

what a cool reminder 1 week after Resurrection Sunday!

Our position before God the Father is the life of God the Son...

because God Himself has promised

v2 grace, mercy, and peace:

notice the term of endearment

1 Tim 1:1 my own son in the faith

2 Tim 1:1 dearly beloved son (greater depth of emotion)

same salutation as in the first letter to Timothy and to Titus...

pastors need mercy in addition to grace and peace!

v3

I thank God:

even in his current circumstances, 1 Thes 5:18 (in everything give thanks)

When mindful of...

- God working in and thru us according to His plan (v1)
- God's promise of eternal life (v1)
- God's grace, mercy, and peace showered upon us (v2)

...what else can we do but be thankful at all times?!

serve...with pure conscience:

How can this man say this?

He murdered Christians.

He caused them to blaspheme the name of Jesus Christ.

For that matter...how can I say this? Or you?

Because God's promise of life includes grace...forgiveness of our sin

1 Tim 1:12-15

Titus 3:4-7

we are

- cleansed by the blood of the Lamb of God
Col 1:12-14
- washed by the water of the Word of God
John 15:3, Eph 5:25-26, 1 John1:9
- new creatures in Christ

without ceasing...of thee in my prayers:

Paul was

- used mightily by God \
- a faithful servant \ these are all related
- a prayerful man /

confined to a Roman prison, Paul is still serving the Lord

- used by God to deliver the written Word
- an ambassador of the promise of life in Jesus Christ
- prayer...he has lots of time to think and pray...to fight the spiritual battles with the power of God

sometimes God removes us from the mainstream for awhile that we might cry out without ceasing in prayer

- imprisonment
- confined to bed by illness or pregnancy
- the loss of a job that keeps us on our knees

a victorious Christian walk is a matter of perspective...and prayer

v4 Greatly desiring to see thee:
he desperately longs to see Timothy again...it was not easy saying
good-bye to or being separated from loved ones

I think we all know these tears...

But Paul is praying...we should pray like Paul...but we don't

- when times are easy, we pray complacent prayers
- when times are desperate, we pray fervent prayers...and
James 5:16b

v5 unfeigned faith in thee...grandmother...mother...thee:
Timothy is like-minded, having a faith in Jesus Christ that is

- sincere...
- genuine...
- "what you see is what you get"

Timothy's family

- Father was a Greek
- Mother was Jewish and a born-again believer (Acts 16:1)
- Grandmother also a Jew and a believer

Timothy was raised in the Scriptures...the Bread of Life...by godly
women (Ch 3:15)

the seeds planted and the foundation laid by his grandmother and mother
bore much fruit

parents, the greatest gifts we can give our kids are

- the Word of God
- a foundation in Jesus Christ
- an example of a living faith
kids pick up hypocrisy faster than anything...
Prov 22:6 is based on sincere, genuine faith of the parents
Paul is doing Prov 22:6 for his "son"

Timothy was blessed with a grandmother and a mother who lived for him
to see and spoke for him to hear real faith

v2-5 we see the heart of God for us as Paul shares his heart with Timothy

- dearly beloved son (v2, Rom 1:7, Eph 1:6)
- continual thoughts of (v3, Ps 40:5, Ps 139:17)
- continual prayer (v3, Rom 8:27, 34)
- eager to see (v4, Ps 116:15)
- rejoicing in his faith (v5, a sincere, active faith, John 15:14)

v6 I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God:
“I remember your faith...you need to remember your gift from God.
Because I love you as much as I do (v2-5), I exhort you to re-
kindle the spiritual gift (of evangelism) you received from God
when I laid hands on you. Get busy, son!”

“stir up” = to stir up the dying coals of a fire, put fresh wood on those
coals, and to fan the coals to re-ignite the fire!

Timothy had let his gifts lie dormant...he had neglected them
Paul is stirring the coals in Timothy’s heart and spirit...chastising his
dearly beloved “son” for

- getting lazy and complacent...
- being timid before men
- losing perspective of God’s will and God’s promise of life
- not having any urgency in his ministry

God has gifted each of us for our calling...do you need stirring up?

v7 God has not given us the spirit of fear:
fear = timidity, cowardice inherent in the flesh, fanned by satan
vs boldness inherent in the Spirit, given by God

the Holy Spirit gives us

- His power to be bold before men
- His Love to be lovingly truthful (1 John 4:18)
- the power to be overcomers by faith (1 John 5:4-5)
- A clear, rational mind

“Don’t be fearful of man, fear God.

Nothing can separate you from the love of Christ!

You are more than a conqueror thru Jesus Christ, Who has already
secured the victory.

The power of the risen Lord is upon you because the Holy Spirit has
come upon you.

He has not asked you to do anything but that which He has empowered
you to do.

Your cup runneth over with God’s perfect love.

Your mind has been transformed and renewed...you are now in your
right mind.

So start listening to the Lord and stop listening to the condemnation and
discouragement of Satan.”

v8

Be...not ashamed of the testimony:

shame is a character trait of the corrupted flesh, not of God

Heb 2:9-11

Jesus is not ashamed of us...why are we so ashamed of Him?

Rom 1:16-17 not ashamed of the gospel...it is the power of God...

Fear of man is a trap...but those who fear the Lord will be saved...by faith

Michael Ohlmann is not ashamed!

Nor of me his prisoner:

Whose prisoner?!

Paul is faithful to the very end

- A prisoner of Christ's...not of Rome
- A servant of God...not serving himself
- A recipient of grace, mercy, peace, and life...not death

partaker of the affliction of the Gospel:

2 things go hand-in-hand: the gospel and suffering

the world hates Jesus...so we who are called by His name and share His

Gospel will know affliction

to Timothy: "Religious persecution is coming your way. Get ready!"
a timely word for us today as well!

Do not neglect the power of God's Spirit that resides in you

Do not fear men, but witness of God's love for His enemies

Rejection will come...handle it!

Persecution will come...be blessed (Matt 5:10-12)

In persecution there is strength...God's strength when we are weak

the theme of this first chapter..."Do not be ashamed" of

- the gospel...the power of God unto salvation
- the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12)
- God's Truth
- me (written from Death Row in a Roman prison)
- the calling of God upon your life

v9

Who hath saved us:

God has saved us from the eternal consequences of our sin

our ministry is:

1. a holy calling from God
2. according to His purpose, not ours (Phil 2:13)
3. according to His grace, not our works

look closely at this remarkable verse...

“world = Gr “*chronos*”...therefore, “before time began”

Eph 1:3-6

Before time began, the eternal, all-knowing, all-powerful Godhead, by His foreknowledge, “watched the game of all men’s choices on TV” and agreed upon a plan to save us... all before Gen 1:1

so...in the same verse we see

- free will...man is given a choice and needs to be saved by grace thru faith as a result
- predestination...because God is sovereign and His will will be done...it’s all planned out!

I don’t understand it...I believe it

It’s called “faith”

What is needed to understand it is another dimension

e.g. in 2 dimensions, a cone is both

- a triangle
- a circle

How can that be? How can we reconcile those two perspectives?

By adding another dimension, we can readily see that both perspectives can be true at the same time

when it comes to free will and predestination, the Word of God teaches both

to advocate one position means abandoning the other

don’t debate “3-D truth” from a “2-D vantage point”

the Bible comes to us from another dimension...we will understand free will and predestination more fully when we inhabit that dimension

v10 now is made manifest:
just Who are we talking about?
with v8-9 and 1 Tim 1:1 and 1 Tim 2:3, Jesus Christ is God

God appeared in human flesh to

- abolish death (“to make of no effect”)
- bring life (the Way, the Truth, and the Life)
- bring immortality/incorruptibility (Resurrection & the Life)
- bring light (the Light of the World)

Death still exists...but it has no power over us who have faith in Jesus
Now, we have REAL life!

Who could say, “No” to that choice?
Why?
In what is your hope?

v11 I am appointed a preacher...apostle...teacher
Paul was appointed...chosen by God...to be a

- Preacher...to those who have not heard the Good News
- Teacher...to help God’s kids grow in the Lord and walk in the Spirit
- Apostle...an ambassador...as are we all

v12 I am not ashamed...I have believed and am persuaded:

“I am in a shameful place in the eyes of man...but not in the eyes of God.

I am not ashamed of

- My God
- The will of God for my life
- The Gospel
- My suffering for the Gospel

Why am I not ashamed? Because I KNOW

- The Word of God
- The heart of God
- God loves me
- God is trustworthy and faithful to His promises...that He will finish the good work He has started
- God is in control
- God will keep me from falling
- Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords
- The Lord is coming back soon!
- How the story ends
- The glory that awaits (2 Cor 12:2-4, Rom 8:18)
- Jesus has abolished death and given us life and immortality

Make it personal: I

- know (ala Rom 8:28)...
- know personally...
- to know personally that Jesus is able and faithful...
- to keep my heart and spirit...my life AND my death
- until I see Him face-to-face

Christianity is a relationship...not a religion

- I know whom...not what...I know Jesus Christ
- He is able...I am not able
- Committed my life unto Him...not unto it or unto me

I do not want a religion with my bride...I want a relationship!

So does Jesus Christ!

I do not want a religion with my children...I want a relationship!

So does God the Father!

How badly does God desire a personal relationship with each of us?

Just look at the Cross...and the empty Tomb!

Jesus did not set aside His glory, humble Himself, and die in order to

“set the bar” for us...but to give us life eternal with Him

v13-14 Hold fast...sound words:
do not be ashamed of the Gospel...do not “drop” it
cling to it and share it liberally...by the power of the Holy Spirit

the Gospel was spoken in faith and love.
That is how we are to shared it

v15 all...be turned away from me:
fearful of man and of “guilty by association”, those who were with Paul
have scattered...a Jesus-like experience for Paul!

Phygellus and Hermogenes appear only here in the Bible...and as
deserters of God’s faithful servant...to afraid to stand with God at
Paul’s side

v16-18 Onesiphorus:
also recorded is an awesome man of faith

He was from Ephesus, where he faithfully ministered to Paul, and went to
Rome, where he searched for Paul, in spite of the personal danger

Onesiphorus was not

- ashamed of the Gospel
- ashamed of the name of Jesus Christ
- ashamed of his brother in Christ
- fearful of mere man
- easily discouraged but was committed and focused

he walked boldly by faith to bring comfort to the hurting

find mercy of the Lord:

the Lord will be merciful to those who are merciful...who are merciful
because the Lord was merciful to them...and so it goes

Chapter 1

- Be not ashamed
- The promise of life is in the Lord Jesus Christ
- He abolished death and gives immortality
- Re-ignite and use the gifts God has given you
- Hold fast to sound doctrine
- God has given us a mind quite different than that of the world
- I know Jesus...I know that I know that I can trust Him with my life and with my death

2 Timothy Chapter 2

v1 be strong in the grace

Why must we be strong in grace?

1. We very naturally drift toward trying to be strong by works – earning God’s favor and love
But, since we are condemned by our works, we must be strong in His grace – in His performance, not ours
2. a very significant problem in the early church was legalism, works-based salvation preached by the Judaizers
3. Religious persecution is coming...be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
God shows His strength in His grace...He wants us to
 - be strong with His strength
2 Cor 12:9-10
Phil 4:13 I can do all things thru Christ...
 - show His strength to those who are weak
4. as we walk with Jesus each day, we don’t
 - look over your shoulder
 - listen to the condemnation of Satanboldly walk forward, knowing the power of God’s grace to change everything
Eph 2:1-5, 8-9
Lam 3:22-23 the Lord’s compassion does not fail...it is new every morning.
Great is His faithfulness!

v2 the things...heard of me...commit to faithful men...teach others also:
this is NOT a proof text for a spiritual pyramid scheme...
this is all about The Great Commission given to us by the Lord to
“Go and teach all nations”...getting zealous about the grace of God
and going to share it

churches grow when the people in the fellowship hear the Word, live the
Word, share the Word...healthy sheep beget sheep

if the Lord teaches you something on Sunday morning, let it change your
heart and then pass it on to someone

- what He reveals to us is not just for us!
- be a vessel of living water...not a “Dead Sea” that has no outlet

Just as healthy sheep beget sheep, healthy churches beget other churches

- We were an outreach of CCTC
- Should the Lord tarry, we will beget churches too!

the simple method of spreading the Gospel...by teaching the Word of God

“Take these truths I received from Jesus and faithfully gave to
you...

and faithfully pass them onto faithful men who can pass it on to
others who are faithful...

who will pass it on to others who are faithful...and so it goes

Note: the 1st qualification for the ministry: faithfulness

Monica and I are very grateful and thankful for the faithful men and
women the Lord has lifted up to come alongside us to “pass it on”

now Paul speaks to Pastor Timothy about being faithful in the ministry...
using 3 metaphors...pictures of

- commitment
- preparedness
- focus
- discipline

v3-4 endure hardness, as a good soldier

1st metaphor: a soldier

A soldier's life is not a soft, easy life...it is a hard life...
demanding, difficult, and dangerous.

“Timothy, the ministry is not a cushy ‘job’...it is a calling of God that has many hardships.”

The Lord has a calling on all of our lives...and it is not a cake walk...
it is a strenuous march and guerilla warfare behind enemy lines.

We are in God's Army! He has personally enlisted us.

- affliction (hardship) is S.O.P. (Ps 34:19)
- He has put us on the front lines!
- there is never a cease-fire (CCA is under attack!)
- His orders are simple: Forward march!

So we must be prepared – equipped and armored – and committed

no man that warreth entangleth himself:

“Be faithful to your calling...be focused on the things of God...not
distracted by the things of the world.”

A good soldier in God's Army is not to get trapped by the transactions
and negotiations, in “making deals” about worldly things

1 John 2:15-17

Born-again believers are

- Children of God...family...by the “thickest” blood!
- Friends of Jesus
- Light (bearers) of the world
- Bondservants
- Kings and priests
- Ambassadors
- Warriors

Are you comfortable in the role of a warrior?

Your life cannot be effective for the Gospel unless you are.

Want to be prepared and equipped for the battlefield you are on?

- Handle your sword every day
- Eat right...and often...the Bread of Life!
- Come to the prayer meetings
- Consistently attend “training camps”
- Stay focused...be disciplined

The war is not won by political activism or pacifism...but by prayer and
going out into our community and touching one life at a time

The Lord of hosts has put us on the front lines!

His orders are simple: Forward march!

v5 strive for masteries...strive lawfully:
2nd metaphor: an athlete

the serious athlete

- trains to win...runs to win
- is temperate in all things so as to not degrade his performance
- is highly disciplined
- is hard-working...driven...focused
- abides by the rules of the competition...or is disqualified

The Lord dictates the rules

Those who run the race must do so according to His rules
in the race set before us there are no

- Shortcuts
- Loopholes
- Cheating
- Delegation to another runner (ALL must run)
- Exceptions

Every day is a “leg” in the race...run to win!

Ch 4:7-8

Great news! All of us can run and win!

Jesus

- Saves us
- Keeps us
- Foreordains good works for us
- Empowers us for those good works
- Does those good works thru us
- Rewards us for His doing them thru us...
for His work, my faithfulness

The crown is given based on our faithfulness...not our works

Requires discipline...focus...commitment...preparedness

By His victory I am crowned...and I shall give the crown back to Him,
for only He deserves it.

Rev 4:4, 10-11

- v6 the husbandman
3rd metaphor: a farmer
the farmer that works the land (“to the point of exhaustion”)
is to be the first to receive fruit of his labor
- farming has rules too
whatever you sow is what you will reap...
you cannot harvest what you did not plant
- To be strong in God’s grace...to share God’s grace with others...you must
first partake of God’s grace in your own life
a “grace experience” is needed to give grace
- MAJOR exhortation to the Marthas to FIRST be Marys...
- cannot give unless you first receive
 - cannot minister to another unless you have first been ministered to
- v7 the Lord give thee understanding:
“Timothy, meditate on these things. Pray that the Lord gives you
understanding.”
Prov 2:6
- v8 Jesus Christ, the seed of David:
Jesus is our example...He
- Endured hardness as a good soldier
 - Strove for mastery with discipline and focus...and He won
 - Was a partaker of the things of God
- we are commanded to remember that...because we so quickly forget
1. Jesus is the promised Messiah
 2. Jesus is the Lamb of God Who died to take away the sin of the world...and
 3. Rose again to defeat death...by the grace of God

v9 I suffer trouble

Paul was persecuted because of his belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ...and because he shared that belief...with everyone

the world hates the risen Lord Jesus Christ and the Bible.

The Bible “scares” people...NPW yesterday on my street

The world hates Bible-believing Christians.

We are mocked and persecuted by the darkness.

but the Word of God is not bound:

the world can slam the door in our face...curse us...put us in chains...but it cannot put our message in chains!

Neither man nor the world nor Satan can restrain the Word of God from going forth and having God’s intended affect

Note: the Church flourishes in times of persecution...because then we are completely dependent upon Jesus, and get completely “out of the way”

v10 I endure all things for the elect’s sake

the servant of God has a heavy burden...

- for the lost...2 Peter 3:9...
their surrender to God and His subsequent transformation of them into family is FAR more important than any trouble we may suffer in communicating the love and grace of God to them
- for the saved...2 Peter 3:18...
is paramount in everything we do

with our eyes and hearts and minds focused on the hope of eternal glory with Jesus Christ...and the heart-break of “Not interested!”...we can endure any hardness or persecution that comes our way

Rom 8:18

v11-13 faithful saying...:

God's burden is 2 Peter 3:9...He died so that we might live.
Now it is our turn - to die (to self) so that He might live (in and thru us)

suffering and reigning are linked...by the blood of the King of kings

Matt 10:32-39

with John 15:20

during the first 200 years of Church history, believers were tortured and killed...

- fed to the lions
- burned at the stake
- torn in half by "opposing" chariots...

because they refused to deny Jesus Christ as Lord

and this continues to this day...Sudan...Latin America...

suffering: perseverance in the face of pressure, the bearing of trials

the difference between coal and diamonds is suffering...

time and intense pressure

thru suffering, God transforms coal into diamonds

endure...persevere...let the work of God have its glorious result

after all, what is the worst thing that could happen to us?

We die at the hands of man and...absent from the body and present
with the Lord!

v13 if we believe not...cannot deny Himself:

Does my proclamation of "I do not believe $2 + 2 = 4$ " make it untrue?

No! It makes me absurd!

"I don't believe in God!" does not make God irrelevant

It makes me a fool!

Truth is not determined by belief...truth is truth whether it is believed or
not

man's unbelief does not alter God's Truth

God will not deny His plan of salvation thru faith in Jesus Christ even if
no man accepts it.

even if no one believes what God says, His Word remains unchanged

Man does not change God, God changes man...He makes the rules

even if none are faithful, Jesus is ever faithful

v11-13 It is a faithful saying:
spoken at a time when to not deny Jesus Christ would cost you your life

“Do not fear persecution!”

<u>If</u>	<u>Then</u>	<u>Search your hearts</u>
we have died with Him	we shall live with Him	have you?
we endure suffering	we will reign with Him	do you?
we disown Him	He will disown us	will you?
we are faithless	He is faithful	are you?

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”
Jim Elliot...a faithful minister, strong in God’s grace, who obeyed the
command to “Go!”

Celebrate!

- The power of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection
- The healing in His broken body

- The cleansing/covering of the blood of the Lamb of God
- What Jesus has done...is doing...will do

To set the stage as we continue:

- Paul, a prisoner of Christ not Rome, has a great burden...2 Peter 3:9
- Timothy has a gift that needs stirring up (evangelism)
- God has declared war on Satan, sin, and death
- The Lord is on a search-and-rescue mission for the lost and backslidden...
- We are His agents behind enemy lines
- The enemy is tireless and does not need to be stirred up
- Enemy agents...false teachers...are furiously shipwrecking the faith of many

v14 of these things put in remembrance:
what things?

- The resurrection of Jesus Christ (v8)
- We suffer persecution for this faith so others may be saved also (v9-10)
- If we die with Him, we will live with Him (v11)
- If we suffer because of Him, we will reign with Him (v12)
- Unbelief does not change the Truth (v13)
- The Word of God is not bound (v9)
- Jesus Christ is faithful (v13)

strive not about words:

“Beware of the diversionary tactics of the enemy.

Don't be distracted by or argue over non-essential beliefs.

The objective of the war God has declared is to win the war of the spirit... it is not to win the war of words (debate or argument).

So witness in spirit and in truth...never wavering from the essentials.

false teachers quarrel over words, in order to avoid the Spirit

1 Tim 4:1

arguing over semantics or peripheral issues...rather than speaking the unchanging, absolute truth in love...undermines the faith of those listening

stay focused...like a good soldier and athlete...

Go to the heart of the matter...the resurrection of Jesus Christ...don't waste time arguing the ragged edges of what men believe

Therefore...

v15 Study...the word of truth:

<u>phrase</u>	<u>Note</u>
1. Study	diligently, continually, whole-heartedly
2. to show yourself	to be ever-ready to give a reason for the hope that is in you
3. approved unto God	tested and accepted by God...not man!
4. a workman	a tireless laborer of spiritual work
5. need not be ashamed	doing the highest quality work, not shabby slipshod work
6. rightly dividing	correctly handling/dissecting to discern and teach sound doctrine
7. the word of Truth	the weapon given to us...the 2-edged sword that is quick and powerful, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart

in the context of being

- strong in God's grace
- a good soldier...a competitive athlete...a laboring farmer
- a faithful witness (not denying the Lord)

the minister of God's Word must be every bit as

- Serious
- Committed
- Prepared
- Focused
- Disciplined

in the study of the Word of God

How much of our hesitancy or failure to follow Jesus stems from poor diet? (Heb 5:12-14)

We cannot be good soldiers...competitive athletes...laboring farmers... ministers of God's Word...on a milk diet! We need meat!

this is why we are here...to study and show ourselves approved to God

v16-17a shun profane and vain babblings:

this is a real problem in Ephesus...where false teachers have a stronghold

1 Tim 4:7

1 Tim 6:20-21

between v14 and v16 is v15...we need to study the truth in order to not waste time with...or be fooled by...the lies of the enemy

Prov 15:28 The heart of the righteous studies to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things

Satan loves to deceive us and gobble up our time and energy on “rabbit trails”

it is easy to get “wrapped up” (pun intended) in spiritual discussions that are fruitless...with people having hidden agendas

pray for discernment to “rightly divide” “spiritual” conversations because...

they will increase unto more ungodliness:

shun “diversions” which only get more and more outrageous and ridiculous

- Greg “discussion” with co-worker Phil
- (Daniel Cruz)...now + 15 families (not doing v14-16) and the cancer of arrogance, deceit, and false teaching has moved on to another church

their word will eat as doth a canker:

canker = “gangrenous ulcer”...creeping, rotting, stinking death
gangrene attacks the flesh and rapidly eats it away...like cancer
it must be swiftly and completely removed if the person is to live

the profane and vain babblings are

- like a goat grazing...unrelentingly eating away the pasture of your faith until there is nothing left
- worthless
- divisive
- spiritual gangrene

we feed on the Word of God...profane and vain babblings feed on us...
doctrines of hopeless death, not of hope and life

v17b-18 Hymenaeus and Philetus:

Paul (inspired by the Holy Spirit) names names!
“These guys are like gangrene! Cut them out!”

Their doctrines...including on the resurrection...
they did not believe Jesus was coming again...
the resurrection was past
were deceiving and shipwrecking the faith of many...who were not
avoiding them
perhaps Hymenaeus and Philetus followed Paul to Thessalonica and
disturbed them with their false teaching, prompting Paul to write

1 Thes 4:13-18

2 Thes 2:1-3a

JWs teach the same doctrine today – they come selling gangrene

- speak the truth in love to them...but
- do not debate the truth with them
- avoid them
- pray for them

Prov 14:25 a true witness delivers souls, but a deceitful witness speaks
lies

remember, Paul is in a horrible Roman prison because of his zealous belief
in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the future resurrection of all
those in Christ (v8-10)

v19 Nevertheless:

regardless of what false teachers say, the foundation laid by God is
unshaken...the Truth is unchanged

1 Cor 3:9-11

our lives are unshaken when our foundation is the Rock, the Word of God

this seal, the Lord knows them that are His:

we are sealed (Eph 1:13-14) until the day of redemption (Eph 4:30)...
which is future

the Lord will leave none of His behind when He comes for His Bride!

John 6:37-40

Because the Lord is faithful (v13) we have a blessed hope (Titus 2:13)

v20-21 vessels of gold and silver...wood and earth...honor...dishonor:
great house = the Body of Christ

the Church is home to false teachers and servants of Satan (v16-18) as
well as home to true believers

Matt 13:24-32 (Parables: Wheat & Tares, Mustard Seed)

In the Church are different kinds of vessels:

Honorable

- Gold and silver
- for washing hands and drinking water
- are clean

Dishonorable

- Wood and clay
- for dirty water and garbage
- are filthy

an honorable, useful vessel of the Holy Spirit is

- Cleansed of sin/filth...and false doctrine (“these”)
- Whole vs cracked pot
- Holy...set apart for only His service
- Surrendered...broken and empty (of self) so can be filled to overflowing (with the Holy Spirit)
- Grounded in the word of Truth
- Prepared according to the Master’s purpose

Phil 2:13

A prepared vessel...

It is not our work for God that matters...it is the work God has
done for us that matters!

For the vessel, the time of preparation by Master is

- difficult and unpleasant
- sometimes painful
- a time of “blindness”, not knowing the purpose He has in mind while being prepared
- requires faith

this time is a time of preparation for...me and CCA

I do not despise these times (Zech 4:10)

v22 Flee youthful lusts:
Our society is obsessed with youthful lusts – fornication, partying, etc, the things of the world to please the flesh
(and remember, Timothy is in Ephesus...Temple of Diana...)

“Flee...and don’t leave a forwarding address! Run like Joseph ran!”

follow:

“pursue” the things of God and the Spirit

all that call on the name of the Lord out of a pure heart:

...will not be ashamed (theme of this letter)

when you find yourself in a situation asking “What should I do?”

- In EVERY situation, pursue righteousness (WWJD)
- hang out with other like-minded, clean and honorable vessels

v23 foolish and unlearned questions avoid:
for the 3rd time...v14 and v16 are repeated...because it is important

foolish: “stupid”

unlearned: “stupid”

repeated for emphasis

avoid ill-intentioned people raising issues that give birth to conflict
these people do not ask honest questions seeking the truth...
from pre-conceived ideas, they are seeking an argument

e.g. I got another letter!

I pulled it out of the re-cycle trash...I know I’ll get it again

Pet doctrines...are non-essential or false

“I know you are listening...I am not going to respond.
v15”.

v24-25a the servant of the Lord:

Don't argue with profane and vain babblings...

- Be gentle
- Teach
- Be patient
- Be meek

teach with gentle humility...ala Jesus and Moses

Matt 11:28-30

Num 12:3

oppose themselves:

Compounding bad choices...by unbelievers and backsliders

those who are fighting themselves and fighting God

making self-destructive choices

God's burden: 2 Peter 3:9

He has a heart for those who are wrestling/fighting against the

Truth...a fight they CANNOT win (Is 1:18)

Like Paul, we need to have that burden too

not looking for a fight, but being as gentle as a lamb and as harmless as a

dove...with ALL men...even the horrible and unlovely ones

we are to be longsuffering...for we are ambassadors of the

One True and Living God Who is longsuffering

v25b-26 God...give them repentance to acknowledge...the truth:
Repentance is a gift of God...it must be received
Only God can give it...only God can give sight to a blind man
Pray for a receptive heart...broken and surrendered

recover themselves:

“get sober”, “regain one’s senses”, “to awake from a stupor”

snare of the devil:

remember

- this is spiritual warfare
- who the enemy is!
Eph 6:12
- The person is blind
The god of this world has blinded their minds

taken captive:

The person is also a P.O.W.

we all have loved ones and friends who want to argue about God and the Bible and mock us for our faith in Jesus Christ
Because they are blinded and binded...they cannot have a rational conversation about spiritual truths
Don’t argue with them...love them...be patient while God works...and pray that the bonds of the enemy are broken

Just think about the heartbreak of the Father Who paid so dearly for a reconciliation that is so lamely and violently rejected by so many
Be as heartbroken as God the Father and as desperate as Paul
in your prayers for lost loved ones and friends

to ensure we are not casting our pearls before swine (Matt 7:7), remember

- “our place” is that of a messenger...
the message is more important than the messenger...
the power is in the message, not the messenger
- Some sow, others water, others still reap...but the increase belongs to God
- salvation is God’s business
John 6:44 and Luke 10:22...
only the Lord can
put a man back into his right mind (Mark 5)
give sight to a blind man...and repentance to a sinner
break the chains of the Strongman
- Jesus Christ is the one building His Church (Matt 16:15-18)
- The bottom line is faith...not knowledge (Hab 2:4, Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11, Heb 10:38, Heb 11:6)

2 Timothy Chapter 3

v1 last days:

the days before the return of Jesus Christ.
From then until now

so, the world has been this way since the times of Paul

perilous = “ferocious”

spiritually ferocious times...because the deterioration of the moral base
upon which society is built
life seems “out of control”

Q: Since labor pains increase in intensity and frequency, is the world
suffering labor pains? Are we near “birthing”?

The ferocious times are getting more intense and more frequent

Man is not evolving upward, getting better...he continues his downward
slide to greater depths of depravity

The world is not moving toward peace and good will for all men...
it is increasingly at war

v2-4 men shall be:

the reason the times are perilous and society seems to be unraveling is that
people are...ugly!

- lovers of their own selves:
First: selfish beyond belief
All other evils spring from this one
unbridled self-centeredness
uncaring about others
run-away epidemic of “I-disease”
- covetous:
lovers of money...money-grubbers
in rabid pursuit of material wealth for the luxury and power
that comes with it
Corporate scandals, Wall Street madness
credit card/consumer debt quagmire
Madison Ave advertising...

- boasters:
 - braggarts
 - valuing oneself above others...at the expense of others
 - trash-talkers from professional sports to the schoolyard

- proud:
 - arrogant
 - thinking and appearing to place oneself above others
 - in a spiritual sense, Psychology, which makes man the center of the universe with its host of “self-“ isms

- blasphemers:
 - vulgar and abusive toward man and God

- disobedient to parents:
 - so many children are “out of control” these days

 - relentlessly argumentative (in spite of the obvious truth)
 - rebellious
 - headstrong
 - opposed to authority over their lives

 - Parents of teenagers: Did you or would you EVER talk to your parents the way your teenager talks to you? Why not?

 - Parents: Are you at home when your kids get out of school? Do they have “free reign” until you get off work?

- Unthankful:
 - ungrateful to both man and God
 - “I have rights! But I’m not responsible!”

- Unholy:
 - Wicked
 - no fear of God
 - Sexual immorality

- Without natural affection:
 - as natural as a mother loving her children...
 - yet hard-hearted toward one's own family
 - no natural love of parent to child or child to parent

 - Killer Moms, Killer Dads
 - Tyler TX...claimed God told her to do it.
 - Satan blames God
 - Truly, ferocious times!

 - Child abuse (physical and sexual)

 - Kids left to fend for themselves while parents are
intoxicated (on drugs or alcohol)...
being lovers of themselves

- Trucebreakers:
 - easy...and empty...promises
 - unforgiving

- False accusers:
 - Gr. = "*diablos*"...devils
 - Slanderers, those who seek to ruin the reputation of others
 - Malicious gossips

- Incontinent:
 - without self-control...out of control
 - slaves to animal appetites...are no more than brutes

- Fierce:
 - Violent
 - Savage
 - Wild beasts

- Despisers of those that are good:
 - hostile to "do-gooders"...which makes them lovers of bad
 - ask your well-behaved child if he/she gets any flack at
school...
 - if you object to foul and crude language at work, you will
get mocked
 - those that take a moral stand will be ridiculed

- Traitors:
 - treacherous
 - betrayers of a trust

- Heady:
Rash
Reckless
falling headlong
headstrong
inconsiderate of people or consequences
- Highminded:
Conceited
those who are full of themselves
- Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God:
their god is sensual gratification...
and they serve their god whole-heartedly

Last: undiluted self-centeredness

The Alpha and Omega of man...is ugly self-centeredness
Above all else, man loves self and pleasure

Tell-tale signs:
How is money used?
How is the Internet used?

v5 Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof:
Yet many put up a front of loving God
aka "religious"

the many who are

- claiming to be a believer...but lacking all the substance of a true believer...acting and talking just like the world... and thinking nothing of it
- believe membership in a church will save them
- satisfied with empty rituals instead of a meaningful relationship
- wanting entertaining presentations instead of heart-changing messages from the Word
- wanting church to be a social club, not a spiritual hospital
- wanting messages on how to get along better with other men, not on how to get along better with God

- resting on their own strength, and not wanting to hear
John 15:5
- coming to church to have their ears tickled, not their spirit stirred

Matt 7:21-23

1 Tim 4:3-4

the end times will see a rise in spirituality, but it won't be based on Jesus Christ.

This spirituality is corrupt and malicious.

from such turn away:

flee their influence, do not fellowship with these men.

They are dangerous and threatening...goats in the pasture of your faith!

Let the Lord deal with them!

v6-7 creep into houses:

context:

social: shady characters "warming up" to wealthy women who were weak and foolish and leading them astray into various lusts of the flesh

the Church: false teachers fleecing the flock

still today, televangelists and ministries using mass mailing do the same thing, feeding on the weak and foolish

They are opportunistic, heartless sneaks that portray themselves as something they are not, just to get what they want

They induce...lead...others into destruction

Ever learning, never able to come:

since they are not real, their searching for the truth is not real...so they never get to the Truth

instead of the unchanging truth, they would rather have something new and exciting!

The "experience-based" worshipper is easily led astray by men with a new gimmick

these "experienced-based" folks are constantly looking for something new...but never finding the full and rich life that can only be had in Jesus Christ

here at CCA, we are a "v14" kind of church

v8 Jannes and Jambres:
here, not in Exodus 7:11-12, are the 2 Egyptian High Priests/magicians are
named
again, Paul names names!

Pharaoh's intellectual elite were no different than today's

- resist the truth
- have corrupt minds
- are reprobate
- will be exposed as big-time fools

resist the truth:
how?

- By being counterfeiters, imposters, "wanna-be's" that had supernatural powers...but not of God
- By brazen defiance of the One, True and Living God

Today, many, including mainline Christian denominations, stand against
the Word of God...because it is not "politically correct"

Corrupt minds...reprobate concerning the faith:
Depraved...worthless
Rom 1:18-32

the result of political correctness

v9 proceed no further:
they will increase, advance no further...because the Truth always wins!
The Truth of God always exposes the folly of man
(Ch 2:19)

their folly shall be manifest:
their stupidity will be clearly seen by all who look
just as Jannes and Jambres were shown before all men to be stupid in their
resistance of God, so will these false teachers

Gal 6:7-8
Num 32:23

these people (v1-9) are all...

- P.O.W.s! (Ch 2:25-26)
- Being offered the gift of repentance by God (2 Peter 3:9)
Repentance leads to God's forgiveness, which cleanses all
sin (1 John 1:9)
All sin can be forgiven except unbelief

v10-11 fully known:

as a contrast to the false is the true

Paul was an open book. What you saw was what you got.

Timothy heard, witnessed, and lived Paul's:

1. doctrine: teaching
2. manner of life: lifestyle, priorities, walking the talk
3. purpose: calling (to preach the gospel to the Gentiles)
4. faith: in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ
5. longsuffering: with people, endured for his doctrine, lifestyle, etc
6. love: unconditional, sacrificial agape
7. patience: with circumstances, endured for his doctrine, lifestyle, etc
8. persecutions: 1 Cor 11:21 – 12:10
he saw Paul under intense pressure...standing faithfully
9. afflictions: all during his ministry

The Lord delivered me:

Heb 13:8

The false was supernaturally transformed to the true (Act 9:1-22) and
protected until his ministry was completed

Paul was a vessel of God – chosen, prepared, used, glorified

True for us too...the Lord reigns!

He will see us thru the stuff going on in our lives

- v12 live godly...shall suffer persecution:
a promise from God...for those who
- walk the talk
 - are faithful
 - are genuine
 - go against the flow of the world
 - stand with Him

if I live in Christ, I will be persecuted. The only way to escape it is
to...not live in Christ
a choice we must all make...

everyone (pretty inclusive!) that gives their heart to Jesus and seeks to live
according to His Word will be persecuted
a promise from God: with the eternal life of the gospel comes worldly
persecution...
...but so is the Lord's promise of deliverance from the persecutions

- v13 evil men and seducers...worse and worse:
imposters, destroyers

evil increases...seduction increases...not decreases as evolutionists and
psychologists would deceive us into thinking
evil will crescendo in the end times

the world is getting more and more hostile to God and His ways...
and His children
the world militantly rebels against what the Word of God says about

- abortion
- every sort of sexual immorality
homosexuality, fornication, adultery, pornography
- covetousness
- ...the nature of man

men and the world are only getting worse...the labor pains are more
intense and more frequent
man is not evolving upward, he is ever decaying downward

after all, man is ugly! (v1-5) Don't put your faith in man!
evil men are blind fools.

They deceive all the while being deceived themselves (2 Cor 4:4)

Evil will prevail in the days before Jesus Christ returns...

“Will He find faith on the earth?”

which means...

- your commitment to the Lord is going to be strenuously tested
- the contents of your heart will be revealed
- it is going to cost you to serve Jesus Christ

v14-15 But continue: be steadfast.

God does not seek blind faith, for it is not enduring.

He wants to sit and reason with us...He wants us to use the minds and brains He gave us.

And in these evil last days, He wants us to hold onto the truth we KNOW not onto the things we FEEL...for none can hold onto that wild bull

This Memorial Day we need to remember those who have paid with their lives so that we might be free...in Jesus Christ

those who faithfully fought the spiritual war for men's souls that still rages today

men like

- Stephan
- those in *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*
- Paul

We ended last time with Ch 3:14-15

Timothy (Ch 1:15) was raised by a Godly mother and grandmother...
grounded in the Word...
cultivated in faith in Jesus Christ...
and is being urged to continue in the Word

why is that noteworthy?

Because Ch 3:16-17

Paul says something radical that cannot be ignored or glossed over

Something that demands a decision from everyone who hears it...

Like John 11:25-26

I am the resurrection and the life. He that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

v16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God:

All Scripture:

every word...not most or just some

given by inspiration of God:

God-breathed...spoken by God...authored by God Himself

2 Sam 23:2 The Spirit of the Lord spake by me and His
word was in my tongue

2 Peter 1:20-21

“The shortest road to an understanding of the Bible is the
acceptance of the fact that God is speaking in every line.”

Donald Grey Barnhouse

The Source of this Book is One Author...

Who used 40 vessels

over thousands of years and

three languages

to deliver a supernatural Love Letter

with no errors and

no contradictions

the Word of God is

- Inspired...spoken by God
- Inerrant...without error
- Infallible...without contradiction...perfect

therefore, it is the Final Authority for the lives of men

Note: if I find a contradiction in the Bible...written by a
God who cannot make a mistake (Num 23:19)...
the contradiction is actually in my pre-conceived
idea or in my understanding of the inerrant Word of
God

People who think the Bible is like any other book simply don't
know the Author.

This Book is written by the Creator to His creature, so we must

- learn what this Book say
- live according to its contents

The inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God is useful for :

- Truth...absolute truth...God teaching us about
Himself...His nature, will, and ways
Jesus Christ
The Holy Spirit
man
His plan of redemption and restoration of fallen man
Righteousness...holiness...faithfulness
Satan
Heaven and hell
- Reproof...of what is not Truth
- Correction...back on to the path of Truth
- Instruction...in the ways of Truth

OR

- What is right
- What is not right
- How to get right
- How to stay right

the result of the work of the Word is that God's vessels will be complete...
by faith in Jesus Christ...and fully equipped to "do" God's work

man cannot be complete without the Word of God

- the Light to guide us
- wisdom to counsel us
- comfort to us
- the staff to support us
- the sword to defend us
- the physician to heal and strengthen us

the Word of God is the true

- lens thru which we see...
- filter thru which we hear...
- mouthpiece by which we speak

it is the Final Authority in the lives of men

but...natural man wants nothing to do with that!

the JWs and the Mormons will come to you offering other books...
authored by man...not God-breathed

how can I say that? I have checked it...searched it out
I have their books in my library

JWs: the New World Translation started as one man's theology...
his concept of God...which was much different than the one God
reveals about Himself in His Word

he edited the Bible to conform to his theology...and then...
even though he was not a Hebrew or Greek scholar, he modified
Greek and Hebrew words...ignoring the rules of the language...
in order to support his English modification

now, the religion left in his wake dictates

- what "Scripture" its followers are to read
- how to interpret them
- ...is the Final Authority in that religion

The Book of Mormon is an addition to the Word of God and is hailed as
another revelation
yet its teachings contradict the Word of God...
both cannot be true...one must be false

the New World Translation...the Book of Mormon...are not

- inspired
- inerrant
- infallible

because they contradict the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of
God...which means

- they have a different author
- they are counterfeits

neither the New World Translation nor the Book of Mormon bring light to
the dead spirit of man...they do introduce confusion, however.

"Compare Scripture with Scripture. False doctrines, like false witnesses,
agree not among themselves."

William Gurnall

Satan is the author of confusion...for the express purpose of drawing men
away from the inspired Word of God (ever since Eden)

Even the Christian religions have issue with The Word of God these days.

Several weeks ago, my “fan mail” said, “Paul as usual was lying.”
if Paul is lying...Who is lying?

Ps 119:160 Your word is true...forever

Num 23:19 God cannot lie

Blasphemy!

Many old, mainline Christian denominations do not believe that ALL
Scripture is

- inspired
- inerrant
- infallible...

...only parts are.

- Which parts?
- Who decides which parts?
- Does this produce confusion?
- Who does this make the Final Authority – God or man?

Who would you rather be your Final Authority?

- Man (2 Tim 3:2-4)
- The church (Rev 2-3)
- God (1 Cor 13:4-8a)

When one does not submit to the Final Authority of God, one is
double-minded...and unstable (James 1:8)...

leading to comments like

- “I don’t care what the Bible says. I don’t believe it.”
- “I am a good person. God will let me into heaven.”

All Scripture reveals

- The holiness of God
- The unholiness of man
- the entrance requirements for the kingdom of God...perfection

Are you perfect?

If not...and no sane person would claim to be...you have a problem far
bigger than your ability to solve it

You need a supernatural solution from a power outside yourself...
you need Jesus Christ.

Scripture says that supernatural solution is but for the asking by faith.

But so many people say, “No thanks. I’m comfortable with my religion.”

Every religion is a system of works to be acceptable...which contradicts

Heb 11:6

Rom 7:18

Jer 17:9

Is 64:6

and is condemned by the Ten Commandments...for who has not coveted?

Therefore, religion is a counterfeit, a master stroke of evil genius by the counterfeiter, Satan

God is anti-religious...because if religion were true, His Son died a horrible death for absolutely no reason

Scripture says

- You must be born again (John 3:3-8)
- The just shall live by faith (Hab 2:4, Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11, Heb 10:38)
- For by grace are you saved thru faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works lest any man should boast (Eph 2:8-9)

Nonetheless, many people say, “No thanks! I am a good person.

I am a faithful and devout

- Hindu.”
- Buddhist.”
- Muslim.”
- Mormon.”
- JW.”
- Jew.”
- Roman Catholic.”

the Bible says if you are trusting in any thing (a church, a religion) or anyone other than Jesus Christ, you are still dead in your sins

The only one dancing when those “faithful and devout” religious words are spoken...is Satan, the Destroyer.

The broken-hearted God says you are still dead in your sins...because the problem of the entrance requirement of His kingdom...the atonement of sin...is not resolved by any religion.

a “religious” illustration

A man is digging in a field.

Another man comes along and asks him what he is doing.

At first he does not want to say, but by the 2nd man’s persistence,
he says, “I’m just digging. I got this new shovel and I like
to dig. It’s kinda embarrassing so don’t tell anyone.”

“OK.”

A 3rd man comes along and asks the 2nd man, “What is he doing?”

“I can’t tell you.”

“He must be digging for treasure!”

The 3rd man runs off but soon returns with a shovel and he too
starts digging in the field.

Then a bus stops.

All the men from the bus ask the 2nd man, “What are they doing?”

“Well, he is digging for treasure, but I can’t tell you what he is
doing.”

The bus of men leave excitedly and return with shovels and start
digging in the field.

Soon the whole field is full of guys digging.

There must be treasure in that field because so many guys are in it
digging for treasure, right?

No! The first man is just digging because he loves to dig,
the 2nd man in the only one to personally search out
the truth...

all the others have been deceived and are following a false
leader who made a false assumption

Just because there are millions of people in a religion does not mean there
is treasure there!

Just because your whole family...for many generations...is in a religion
does not make it true

Jesus Christ said [Matt 7:13-20](#)

John 14:6 said everyone is accountable for Acts 17:11

About religion, the Word of God says, “Come out of her, my people, that
you not be partakers of her sins and that you receive not of her
plagues.”

To the religious, the Word of God says Acts 17:22-31

To the religious, The Word of God says you have

- bought the counterfeit...instead of receiving the real deal
- been deceived
- have believed a lie from the father of lies, the god of this world who desires your eternal destruction

As revealed in the inspired Word, the God of the universe is offering you

- The absolute truth
- Grace
- A priceless gift of eternal life

So the choice is yours:

- imperfection and eternal death in your religion...or...
- perfection and eternal life by grace thru faith in His Son

That's the message of the Bible – your Creator loves you so much that He has made possible life for the dead

man does not find truth and wisdom by experience...they can be found only in

- a Book...given to us by our Creator
- a personal relationship with Jesus Christ...the Word of God that became flesh...
died...
was buried...
rose again on the 3rd day...
ascended into heaven...
is coming back very soon to the clouds to collect His
Bride...
and then with His Bride to the earth to judge all who do not believe

2 Timothy Chapter 4

v1 God, and Lord Jesus Christ,
the Greek would be more clearly understood if the English was translated
and punctuated as:
“God even the Lord, Jesus Christ,

Paul is emphatically proclaiming that

- Jesus is God
- Jesus is Lord

who shall judge the quick and dead:
Jesus is the Judge of all.

John 5:22-29

“quick” and “dead” are eternal spiritual descriptors
Death cannot conceal you from The Judge

v2 Preach the Word:
1 Tim and 2 Tim have a strong emphasis on teaching sound doctrine...
the Word of God

Because of the rampant cankers attacking the Body...(Ch 2:16-17)
and because the Word of God is useful (Ch 3:16-17)...
always be instantly ready to preach and teach the Word

- in order to reprove the false teacher
rebuke those who are following the false teachers
exhort the weak and confused to adhere to
sound doctrine
- with longsuffering (patience with people)
- according to...the Word of God...our guide and authority

this requires

- preparation time (2 Tim 2:15)
- prayer (2 John 2:27) i.e. listening (so hard for man to do!)
- faithfulness to share what was given
- never giving up

Sadly, this is a great need in the Church today
The Church has gotten lukewarm...trying to be palatable to everyone
church services are entertaining and messages are watery...very little of the Word is being taught
But Jesus said He came with a sword...to divide from the world...not peace with the world

We went to a Diamondbacks game on Friday night...

The Word of God offered by many churches today is like cotton candy

- Sugar sweet
- Gives the impression of substance...but in reality has no substance
- It “melts in your mouth” instantly and is gone
- It is of no nutritional value
- It leaves you just as hungry
- Gives you a sugar rush...and slows you down...puts you to sleep

It has been my personal experience...and that of many others...that once I tasted the meat of the Word, nothing else satisfies my appetite... I cannot bear “cotton candy”

but that is not true of most

hundreds of people have come thru this ministry...never to return perhaps it was the facility...

perhaps it was the sharp 2-edged sword of the Spirit that is profitable for

- doctrine
- reproof
- correction
- instruction in righteousness

v3-4 time will come...Not endure sound doctrine...after their own lusts...itching ears:
that time is...NOW!!!

Since TV and video games etc have captured the time and attention of our
society...people are more interested in entertainment than in
instruction

where does that lead men?

Ch 3:2-4 is a proper place to start...

This is a recent phenomenon...so NOW is the time that people are heaping
entertaining (vs instructing) teacher to their itching ears

“Entertain me...make me feel good about myself...tell me what I want to
hear, not what I need to know.”

The “Word-light” seeker-friendly churches should really be called
“itching ears” churches because people follow after

- “feel good”
- socially comfortable
- self-indulgent
- shallow

performances...believing nonsense

to those “seekers”...what are you seeking?

- Truth...like Pilate did (John 18:37-38a)
- The One True and Living God?

Seek and you shall find

Jer 29:13 Ye shall seek me and find me, when
ye shall search for me with all your
heart

Prov 8:17 those that seek me early shall find
Me

Matt 7:7 Ask and it shall be given you.
Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and it shall be opened unto
you.

Where will you find Him? In His Word...in Jesus Christ

John 6:44

Luke 10:22

fables:

non-truth, a product of the imagination, truth with a fanciful spin
take away the Truth and this is all that is remains

We come now to the end of 2 very hard-hitting, passionate letters written by Paul to his son in the faith...to whom he is passing the baton.

In his passionate, zealous, uncompromising way, Paul repeatedly touches on

- Teaching sound doctrine
- Opposing false teachers
- Having a sense of urgency
- Being faithful to one's calling
- Expecting persecution for speaking and living the Truth

v5 But thou:

verbs:

- Watch...always be alert, never complacent or drowsy
- Endure...as a good soldier does the hardships of war (Ch 3:12)
- Do...don't just hear...say you will...but do! Action!
- Make full proof ("entirely accomplish")

Paul urges Timothy to let the Lord use the spiritual gift Timothy has in his flesh neglected and, through him, entirely accomplish the work God wants to do in his life

“Be sold-out for Jesus.

Proclaim God's undiluted Truth, not what people want to hear.

Be faithful to your calling”

v6-7 I am ready to be offered...my departure...fought...finished:
“Learn from me at this critical juncture in my life!
The baton is yours now...run!”

Paul is a man at peace...at the end of his ministry...

- quite satisfied to see his Lord again
- ready for his blood to be “poured out”...
to be a sacrifice for his faith...
to be emptied from this body
- the appointed time of his exodus was at hand...the much
anticipated reunion imminent

Paul had been faithful to his calling...he has

- gone 15 rounds with the god of this world...and is victorious!
- finished the marathon...with a sprint kick!
Finished...not won
Biblical Christianity is not a competition...we all have
our own appointed course
the finish is the most important part of the race
running the course set before you is not a matter of speed
and time...but of focus and endurance
...so finish strong!
- guarded the faith against every false doctrine...ever since
Acts 9

right to the very end, Paul is a faithful vessel of God’s burden...
2 Peter 2:9

his steadfast focus and discipline has always been to

- please Him who enlisted him as a soldier in this war
- win the race set before him
- work the hard, rocky soil and sow good seed

fighting...finishing...guarding...

nothing else matters to Paul...not even his death
he was inspired by Stephan in Acts 7!

Are you fighting...finishing...guarding? Or have you stopped?

- v8 laid up for me a crown of righteousness:
his calling included much suffering...but...
- he has overcome...by faith (1 John 5:5)
 - now he was about to be set free, to set sail (departure), into a glorious eternity with his Lord
 - he will hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”
 - he will be rewarded a crown...
purchased by Jesus
awarded by Jesus
to be given back to Jesus (Rev 4:4, 10-11)

All them also that love his appearing:
This crown of righteousness also awaits all of us who

- Are poured out
- Finish the race
- Overcome the world by faith
- Love the return of Jesus Christ

Someday very soon Jesus Christ will be visible to all eyes of men...
not just to eyes of faith

are you excited about the appearing of Jesus Christ?
If not, why not?
Something is terribly wrong...make it right...right now!

- v9 Do thy diligence to come shortly:
“Make every effort to come to me quickly.”

Why?

- Emotional comfort – Paul longs to see his son in the faith again before his departure
- Always the teacher, one last invaluable lesson – to see him die

Paul taught Timothy much by how he lived and now could teach him
much by how he died...as he had learned from Stephan

If God’s plan for me includes a foreseen exodus, my fervent desire would
to be God’s instrument to teach my wife, my children, and you
how to die...how to embrace the Life on the other side of that door

Note: Timothy apparently made it Rome
Heb 13:23-24...supports the view that Paul wrote Hebrews

v10a Demas hath forsaken me:

a sad and tragic contrast...Demas was not ready to be offered...his departure was not glorious

Demas

- A co-laborer of Paul's
Philemon 24
- An eyewitness of Paul and his ministry
Col 4:14, another prison letter
- A man with a problem...a heart problem

He loved the world not as God did (John 3:16)...but as a man of the world did (1 John 2:15-16)

this is a tragic problem...to be a friend of the world and the enemy of God (James 4:4)

many "Christians" today have

- this same problem (are not ready to be offered)
- this same love (of the world)

An excerpt from the June 1997 issue of *Voice of the Martyrs* newsletter:

This reminds me of something that happened in my homeland, Romania, when the Soviet army invaded it. In a village, two Russian soldiers entered a Baptist church with their rifles pointed and said, "What are you doing here, worshipping God? All those who are faithful to Him, stand on the right side. You will be shot for your faith. You who wish to go home, who wish to keep your life, stand on the left side. You must decide to live or to die. Those who are faithful will die. Those who deny Christ can live."

Ten minutes earlier, both sides had sung the praises of the Lord, but it cost them nothing...Now it was a question of life and death.

Some stood on the right, some stood on the left.

To which side would you have stood?

After this sifting had taken place, the Russian soldiers said to those on the left, "You are free to leave." These were happy to have escaped and left the church. When the others remained, the Russian soldiers put aside their rifles and said, "We are Baptists but we wish to worship without hypocrites."

The contrast between Paul and Demas is a warning flag for all of us...

We must chose between

- What we see
- What we don't see

Demas chose a city built by man...Thessalonica...a city that has been in ruins for over 15 centuries...

he made a "live-for-the-moment" choice...for the kingdom of darkness

Paul chose a city built by God where the asphalt is gold...

where there are no

- tears
- sorrow
- pain
- death...

where all things are forever new

he made a "live-for-eternity" choice...for the kingdom of Light

make an informed choice between this moment and eternity

- Satan says "Now!" to the pleasures of this world...and "Later" to the truths of God
- Satan offers the best first...Jesus Christ offers the best last

John 2:1-10

The choice before every man:

- Choose the pleasures of the world...enjoy now...when you are drunk the god of this world then serves the poison... eternal pain, suffering, and death
- Choose the pleasure of God...know pain and suffering now, maybe even physical death...and enjoy the presence and power and majesty and goodness and love of God forever

The wise man considers the end of the matter...and choses wisely!

v10b-11 Titus:

The pastor who had already received the letter we will study next

Only Luke is with me:

the beloved physician (also in Col 4:14)

take Mark...profitable to me:

a "Demas" has returned to the Lord and to his right mind!

Acts 15:36-41

What incredible encouragement from a God with a burden...2 Peter 3:9

Demas forgot his first love (Rev 2:4)

Mark did too but repented (Rev 2:5)...and experienced a personal revival

revival and restoration...is available to every submissive and obedient heart!

Every Demas has an opportunity to be a Mark!

the finish is the most important part of the race!

v12 Tychicus:

Paul's letter carrier

Eph 6:21

Col 4:7

v13 the cloke that I left at Troas

perhaps this is where Paul was when he was arrested this time

Winter was approaching...the prison was freezing cold..."Bring my coat!"

And always the student and the teacher, Paul desired to have his

- books ("scrolls")
- parchments ("sheep skins")

to comfort his spirit and to keep his mind busy and focused

if you were Paul...perhaps you feel like you are Paul...what might you desire more than anything else?

The Book of Psalms

(the next study on Thursday night)

v14-15 the Lord reward him according to his works:
Yikes!

Every man gets a reward from the Lord

- By faith – a crown of righteousness
- By works – the wrath of God...judgment

This is why religion is so detestable to our God with a burden...
every system of works is misplaced faith and results in wrath

Paul's clear warning:

- Those who play with fire will get burned
(Interesting occupation...prophetic, even)
- Beware of dangerous men...they may even be in the church
- always be on guard against the enemies of the Gospel
there is a war going on!
Even at church! Take last Thursday night for example...
Matthew...Nathan twice...Ben...
Kids "party"...mic went dead...dust storm

those opposed to the Word of God are God's enemies
Vengeance is mine, says the Lord

v16 At my first answer...all men forsook me:
Paul has already had his hearing before Nero...he is just awaiting Nero's
judgment
at that time, his entourage scattered like sheep when the shepherd was
smitten (only Luke remained)...
another Christ-like event in Paul's life

that it may not be laid at their charge:

a Christ-like response from Paul!

"Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

Additionally, Paul had heard this prayer before! (Acts 7:58-60)

"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."

Paul learned a monumental lesson watching a sold-out, faithful born-again
believer die...

Have not all of us at some point deserted Jesus?

Has He not forgiven us?

How can we be unforgiving and stand before a forgiving Lord?

2 Cor 2:10-11

v17 the Lord stood with me:
seemingly abandoned, Paul was never alone...the Lord stood with him
so that he could preach the Gospel there in prison...
right up to the very end
and you KNOW he preached the Gospel to Nero at his first hearing!
Just as he did to Felix, Festus, and Agrippa
Additionally...Paul's trial was a public spectacle...so thousands heard the
Gospel shared with the power of God!
Is 55:8-11

at the end, only Luke and Jesus stayed with him
...Jew and Gentile together with the Lord...serving the Lord

v18 the Lord shall deliver me
Ch 3:11...right up to the very end and into eternity!

while we run our the course set before us, Jesus never deserts us!
Even when all others have fled, He is nearby to strengthen and to
deliver us
the Lord is the source of our strength, we are not.
Phil 4:13

Jesus does not give us work to do that He does not first empower us to do.
If He has given us a work, He will give us the power to complete it.

Will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom:

The kingdom of Paul's choice...the one he could not see
John 14:1-3
Rom 8:18, 31-39
Is 30:1

The faith of Paul...like the faith of Job...knows that the hands of the
Almighty (John 10:28-30) are immeasurable better than the hands
of Allstate (this world)

v19 Pricilla and Aquila:
faithful, like-minded co-laborers...true friends
a true friend is the one that shares the Word of God with you

Onesiphorus:

Ch 1:16-17

v20 Erastus:
Rom 16:23...written from Corinth

Trophimus...sick:
The Lord heals according to His sovereign will...Rom 8:28

v21 come before winter:
not only is Paul cold...but...

he was always looking out for Timothy's best interest, urging him to travel
before travel became dangerous (Acts 26-28)

of the over 100 individuals ever mentioned by Paul, including the 17 mentioned
here in his closing remarks, Timothy is the one he greatly desired to see at
the end of his life (about 3 months hence)

v22 the Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit:
not knowing if Timothy could make it in time...
"Good bye, Timothy, my son."

Imagine the emotion behind these words...knowing he would be losing his
head soon

Paul's last words:
Grace...undeserved favor of God
Amen...Let it be so!

Paul...

- A great man
Clear-eyed
Clear-minded
Single-minded
Focused
- A giant in the faith...unwavering against all opposition
- A faithful bondservant...always seeking and doing God's will
- A man like Elijah...and you and me (James 5:17a)