

***“Paul’s First Letter to Timothy –
Laying Hold On Eternal Life – Part 2”***

Review: “Laying Hold On Eternal Life”: Brother, Son Timothy ...

- ***Never Forget – That the Lord and Only the Lord Rules Now and Forever***
- ***Never Forget – That Christ is the Lord of Glory***
- ***Never Forget – That the Rich in This World Have Special Responsibilities***

- ***Never Forget – The Lord and Only the Lord Rules Now and Forever***

1 Tim. 6:11-12

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

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

- ***“Fight the good fight of faith”: “Fight” is literally “to struggle”. Our English word “agonize” is nearly identical in spelling with the Greek root word here. This is a struggle that for good ministers of the faith is not optional. Paul says it so well in Ephesians:***

Eph. 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].

There are also many other similar statements in Paul’s letters. For example, in 2 Timothy Paul in his final words what we should never forget:

2 Tim. 4:7-8

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

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

This is perhaps that greatest utterance of Paul’s life written anywhere. Paul had kept “the faith”. This is Paul’s last will and testament. This means that he guarded and protected and proclaimed “the faith” until the end. With the definite article, this refers to the body of doctrine. Of that he has written much in these

two short letters. “Keeping” in this context is continuing to grasp onto the crown jewels of the faith, honoring them and protecting them always. This really is the ultimate theme of the letter. He begins with it and ends with it. The final exhortation here is sufficient to give Timothy (and us?) what is needed for the spiritual warfare ahead.

- *So the focus here is on the fight, on the struggle to “keep the faith” proclaiming it boldly and living out its blessings. He calls that “laying hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called”, speaking of a personal attachment to that which is eternal and the resurrected life of Christ in us that is so precious and empowering. May we never turn away from that, no matter what. The battles against our foes will be fierce! But never forget, the Lord is leading us all to victory.*

1 Tim. 6:13-14

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

14 That thou keep [this] commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ [or death, possibly by martyrdom, and perhaps soon]

- *That Timothy is then commanded to fight this good fight of the faith until the end which he designates here as “his appearing”, or, the Rapture. Only those fighting this battle which is an heavenly one (Eph. 6:12) can know the depths of one’s earthly oppositions (and, of course, heavenly, since there is a correspondence there). But there is a consolation, and that is that it is “... God, who quickeneth all things”: This is a truth with many dimensions.*
- **Never Forget — Christ is the Lord of Glory and all is about him as God works out his eternal plan for the ages:**

1 Tim. 6:15-16

15 ... our Lord Jesus Christ, which in his times he shall shew, [who is] the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom [be] honour and power everlasting. Amen.

- **“... in his times he shall show ... [who is] the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords”: Only he is in charge**

of the calendar! “The times and the seasons” are under his control. And it will be glorious indeed. Not Caesar then, not the Roman guards, not the largest army in the world, for they are all subject to the Lord God. Who was Paul? Who was Timothy? Who are we? They were slated for death and martyrdom. And, “only [he] hath immortality”: The Greek literally means not subject to death and in its context, not subject to death again. Compare this with Romans 5, “dieth no more”. The resurrected Lord Jesus will never suffer death again. And he has secured this for us as well.

- *Though these are simple statements, their truth is overwhelmingly central to the testimony of God. But we live in a world of circumstances that demand our close attention. What shall our response be? The apostle picks one with which to end this letter.*
- **Never Forget — The Rich in This World Have Very Special Responsibilities**

1 Tim. 6:17-19

17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

- *What is not written but is perhaps also implied by what is written, is that the hard times of battle that the saints would soon find themselves in would mean that for most if not all, their earthly riches would soon be stolen by others and their lives as well.*

But the motivation Paul seeks to instill in Timothy and others is that it is the blessings of this world are nothing to compare with what is coming.

And, taking this truth to heart we are enabled to “lay hold on eternal life”.

Again, verse 12 applies to Timothy and this verse 19 using the same language applies to all that are rich in this world. We have eternal life now as a foreshadowing. But the fulness of eternal life yet to be enjoyed forever will follow upon our living that new life now, and that life will provide a “foundation” for what is yet ahead.

Our Scripture Today: 1 Tim. 6:17-21

Our Outline: My son in the most holy faith, Timothy, ...

- ***Keep That Which Was Committed to Thy Trust***
- ***Thy Trust Will Be Opposed by Many Using False Knowledge***
- ***My Final Exhortation to You, Timothy – The Faith Itself Is Under Attack***
- ***Grace, Grace, Grace – This is the Glorious Theme!***

I. Keep That Which Was Committed to Thy Trust:

[READ] 1 Tim. 6:20-21

20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane [and] vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace [be] with thee. Amen.

- ***Paul's Final Words to Timothy is here in verses 17 through 21. This is the final exhortation here and it is a strong one indeed.***
 - ***“Keep that which is committed to thy trust”: The Greek here literally means “to be on guard” or “carefully watch and protect”.***

[READ] Eph. 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. ***[Paul was given grace and therefore could give it to others! Think hard on that and its relevance to us today. Do we have that same grace to share with others?***

- ***There is a distinction to be made here., I believe, between the grace of God that has provided our salvation, on the one hand, and the grace of Christ, on the other. The two are different but related, of course. One is central to our SALVATION and the other to our SANCTIFICATION. In his second letter to Timothy, Paul also exhorts his son in the faith regarding this essential matter:***

[READ] 2 Tim. 2:1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

- ***So this is not something that we can ignore without consequence. This means far more than believing the “right” doctrine. It means that Timothy is instructed to rest fully in that truth, in that abundant***

grace, and to live it out here and now. This grace is ours for the living!

[READ] 2 Cor. 8:7-9

7 Therefore, as ye abound in every [thing, in] faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and [in] all diligence, and [in] your love to us, [see] that ye abound in this grace also.

8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

II. Thy Trust Will Be Opposed by Many Using False Knowledge:

1 Tim. 6:20-21

20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, **avoiding profane [and] vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:**

21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace [be] with thee. Amen.

- ***“ ... profane and vain babbling”: Worldly and ungodly chatter that has nothing to do with the revealed truth of God. This is the standard in the satan governed world system.***
- ***“ ... and oppositions of science falsely so called”: These words are telling. Some of us were caught up in this falsely called “science” or “knowledge” for years before the word of Christ came to our hearts. What are some of the tenets of this doctrine?***
 - ***The theory of evolution with all that follows from that, all which is based on outright denial of all that the Bible teaches about “origins”. And that all major Bible seminaries have given themselves over to such teachings is abhorrent and abominable.***
 - ***The elevation of man’s knowledge over the word of God - absolute truth is replaced by relative opinions. This is the pernicious doctrine of relativism, or as the ancient Greeks put it, “man is the measure”. Or, “I’m OK, you’re OK”, in the parlance of the 20th century. We cannot judge another person! How Biblically wrong this is.***

- *The substitution of what is “popular” for true science. True science then looks more like science “fiction”. Lies are substituted for the truth even in the realm of so-called “science”. That word is one of the most misused words in our contemporary speech.*
- *But the worst of the errors is in regard to Biblical interpretation. What does the Bible really say ...? Is it to be taken literally? What about the dispensational plan of God? What about the fundamentals of the faith?*

Salvation is wholly by grace through faith, independent of all works. It is the gospel of grace and the word that teaches that that satan considers his greatest enemy.

- *Indeed, it is the faith that is under attack, as he writes here in his final words to Timothy.*

III. My Final Exhortation to You, Timothy – The Faith Itself Is Under Attack:

1 Tim. 6:20-21

20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane [and] vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

21 **Which some professing have erred concerning the faith.** Grace [be] with thee. Amen.

- *“... Which some professing have erred concerning the faith”: This is all about the false teachers, of course. They professed the faith but they missed the mark, he writes here. The “vain babbling” and the “oppositions of [a false] science [or knowledge]” had led them all astray. Timothy was to have nothing to do with them. Satan’s lies were at the heart of their teachings, their profession of faith. What an amazing statement this is. But their profession of faith was “believable” for many although it was a false profession of faith that they were making.*
- *The charge to Timothy here applies also to us, of course. There has been a “deposit ... committed to our trust.” If we are not willing to carry that deposit honorably, then we shall surely suffer the consequences. **BUT IF WE ARE WILLING TO BEAR THAT RESPONSIBILITY, THE GLORY IS OURS TO SHARE. IT IS THE GRACE OF CHRIST THAT WE OFFER TO THE WORLD. NOW THAT***

MAKES A DIFFERENCE, DOESN'T IT? IT MAKES AN ETERNAL DIFFERENCE INDEED! SUCH A GREAT GIFT MUST BE SHARED!

IV. Grace, Grace, Grace — This is the Glorious Theme:

1 Tim. 6:20-21

20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane [and] vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. **Grace [be] with thee. Amen.**

- ***“Grace [be] with thee. Amen.”: Today this is everything in a short, one word summary. GRACE. What a great way to end this letter. Praise God for his unsearchable and glorious riches. These are simple words but with so much meaning. At beginning and at the end ... This was his blessing to offer. It is found in nearly all of his letters. 14 times we see these words as he completes his letters!***

Rom. 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you. Amen.

Rom. 16:24 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you all. Amen.

1 Cor. 16:23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you.

2 Cor. 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, [be] with you all. Amen.

Gal. 6:18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with your spirit. Amen.

Eph. 6:24 Grace [be] with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Phil. 4:23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you all. Amen.

Col. 4:18 The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace [be] with you. Amen.

1 Thess. 5:28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you. Amen.

2 Thess. 3:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you all. Amen.

1 Tim. 6:21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace [be] with thee. Amen.

2 Tim. 4:22 The Lord Jesus Christ [be] with thy spirit. Grace [be] with you. Amen.

Tit. 3:15 All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace [be] with you all. Amen.

Phile. 1:25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with your spirit. Amen.

- **Then, if it were possible to add more to the truth here stated so often and so clearly, there are also all the salutations at the beginning of the letters. So it should be clear that the Grace of Christ is central to Paul's letters and his teaching.**

The grace of God is our entry to God's blessing FOR ALL ETERNITY. But it remains for us to enter into this grace fully NOW. Paul's constant exhortations are directed here to just that, for example, in Rom. 5:17 and 21:

[READ] Rom. 5:17, 21

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

...

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

- **If this teaching is correct, then there is nothing more important in this life than the outworking of the grace of Christ in our living a life of abundant grace. That is eternal life for now with eternal rewards as written here, "even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord". But there is more to this than what we have time to share today. Amen.**

Rom. 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should [may] walk in newness of life.