

***“Paul’s First Letter to Timothy —
O Man of God, Flee”***

Our Outline: *“Son, Timothy, O Man of God, Flee” (chapter by chapter):*

- ***Some Have Swerved from True Doctrine, Teaching Not Grace But the Law***
- ***Saved through Childbearing, the Promise of the Seed Gives Hope Always***
- ***Without Controversy, Great is the Mystery of Godliness***
- ***In the Latter Times, Some Shall Depart from the Faith***
- ***Honour Widows that are Widows Indeed, Desolate, and Trusting in God***
- ***The Challenge for All Seasons Is To Lay Hold on Eternal Life***
- ***Timothy’s Final Challenge — To Keep the Faith and the Trust!***

I. Some Have Swerved from True Doctrine, Teaching Not Grace But the Law:

[READ] 1 Tim. 1:1-7

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, [which is] our hope;

2 Unto Timothy, [my] own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, [and] peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: [so do].

5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and [of] a good conscience, and [of] **faith unfeigned:**

6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

- ***Paul was sent forth to be our example (or type) for the dispensation of grace, the dispensation which is distinguished by being by faith alone (verses 4-7 & 16). There would be constant spiritual warfare regarding the faith, he writes here. So don’t be surprised. And it has been in every period of time since this was written.***

1 Tim. 1:16-17

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

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

- *But as verse 17 says, the Lord is still sovereign and it is to him we look for salvation. He is “the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, [be] honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

1 Tim. 1:18-19

18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning [the] faith have made shipwreck:

20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

- *The mention by name here (and in 2 Tim. 2:17, where another, Philetus, is mentioned) underscores the seriousness of the challenge here to Timothy. The bottom line is that if false teachers are allowed to continue in the churches then the evil roots will bear fruit.*
- *Separation from those promoting evil doctrine is therefore critical to the health and wellbeing of the church of God. Compromise with the enemy of the faith can never bring the blessing of God. Rather, separation is the correct course forward. It is true warfare—know your enemy well that he may be defeated.*

II. Saved through Childbearing, the Promise of the Seed Gives Hope Always:

[READ] 1 Tim. 2:11-15

11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

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

- *The creator’s authority over all his work is a continuing theme here in this letter. In chapter 2 we see that his authority must also be reflected in the marriage bond. This may be an unpopular teaching indeed, but it is the word of God found here in 1 Timothy. Proper*

attention to context is necessary, as we have seen, to understand this teaching.

- ***“Saved in [or through] childbearing” is a statement troubling to many — unnecessarily so, I believe. The context is all important and as we have seen we need to go back to Genesis as the apostle shows us here to understand the teaching. This is all about the Seed of the Woman prophecy in Gen. 3:16. This is the proto-evangel, as some have said, the earliest revelation of the central truth of redemption.***
- ***The burden brought upon Eve and upon all women to follow after her disobedience to Adam’s headship was so great and enduring that only the hope of her coming Seed, the Seed of the Woman, would be sufficient to carry her through this life. Indeed, we are all Prisoners of Hope, but especially believing women. See Zech. 9:12 for that phrasing that has come to mean so much to us here.***

Today, even after the promised Seed has come, the promised blessings on women continue he writes here, IF they continue “in faith and holiness”. Amen. And so it is. But many today are missing out on these blessings because they have believed the enemy’s lies. Our current day is cursed by these teachings that are promoted in our schools and by our governments. How sad that so many continue to believe these lies to their own destruction.

What a powerful theme this is — and then the following ...

III. Without Controversy, Great is the Mystery of Godliness:

[READ] 1 Tim. 3:15-16

15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

- ***“God manifest in the flesh”. This is, he writes here, “the mystery, the one of godliness”, or, “the godliness mystery”. And it is a great one indeed that he writes of here, summarizing in a way the entire redemptive history of mankind.***

- ***“Without controversy ...”: Not that there are no controversies regarding this but that there should be no controversies regarding it!***
 - ***But let’s not forget the key question here: What is this mystery? We should not assume that it is simply the Incarnation truth though that is foundational indeed. For that was not a mystery in the scriptural sense. A mystery is what has not been revealed and cannot be known until it has been made known. But the Incarnation was revealed in both the Old and the New Testament in prophecy.***
- ***For our understanding, it would be wise to compare this with Col. 1 for additional insights and depth of meaning:***

Col. 1:25-28

25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

26 [Even] the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what [is] the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

- ***Who is preached according to this scripture here? It is “the Christ in you”, the riches of the glory of the mystery.***
- ***As verse 27 states, it is Christ in you the hope of glory! Even now a preview of our eventual glorification in Christ Jesus is well underway. But that is possible only because Christ was raised from the dead as a “life giving spirit”, 1 Cor. 15:45. So we possess him as such (Rom. 8:9) and this newness of life (Rom. 6:4) is what we manifest of him to the world and to angels (1 Tim. 5:21)! These are such transforming truths to consider that it is no wonder that satan’s efforts are so focused against us.***

1 Cor. 4:8-17

8 Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.

9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

10 We [are] fools for Christ's sake, but ye [are] wise in Christ; we [are] weak, but ye [are] strong; ye [are] honourable, but we [are] despised.

11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;

12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, [and are] the offscouring of all things unto this day.

14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn [you].

15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet [have ye] not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.

And then such practical teaching as what we find next:

IV. In the Latter Times, Some Shall Depart from the Faith:

[READ] 1 Tim. 4:1-2

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

- ***It is the spirit speaking here so take note! The timing is mentioned as in the “latter [ὑστερος καιρός] times”, an expression only found here. So this may be a reference to a specific and unusual kind of event, of perhaps not.***
- ***We also need to compare 2 Tim. 3:1*** This know also, that in the last days [ἔσχατος ἡμέρα] perilous times [καιρός] shall come. ***This seems to be referring to the same time.***
- ***If we compare also with Acts 20:32, we gain additional understanding of the apostles expectations for Timothy:***

Acts 20:30-32

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

- *Some challenges would be coming to Timothy soon enough, it seems. Well, it might rather be that these “latter days” cover the entire period until the Rapture of the church and the warning in Acts 20 refers to the beginning of those troubles. It seems, therefore, that we are in those times today, doesn’t it?*
- *The strong words “watch and warn” underscores the critical importance of Timothy’s challenge here, to maintain the purity of church doctrine even when divisions in the assembly are the inevitable outcome. See 1 Cor. 11:17ff for teaching regarding such divisions where he writes that they are “ordained”.*
- *The summary of this work of God, the mystery of godliness, in 3:16 is exactly the opposite of what the mystery of lawlessness is working out today as described in 2 Thess. 2:7. So we should not be surprised at his fierceness in attacking this truth. His lies and wonders are directly opposed to what God is doing today, under grace.*
- *And then, after this teaching we find such practical teachings as this regarding widows indeed”. Women are at the heart of Paul’s teaching here:*

V. Honour Widows that are Widows Indeed, Desolate, and Trusting in God:

[READ] 1 Tim. 5:3-5

3 Honour widows that are widows indeed.

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

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

- *As we have seen, Paul's teaching here on widows is both interesting and challenging. But it fits well one of the main themes in this letter, namely, that the sovereign creator has established in his creation a hierarchy of responsibilities. It is a major subject of emphasis here as is on his intense focus on the rich. The letter is seriously practical, and if the letters were longer, other issues in the churches of the day would be addressed, I am sure. That the apostle considered the most exalted teachings and doctrines to be the source of deliverance from the common trials of the churches is to be taken note of always.*
- *Times of increasing persecution were anticipated with an increasing need for the assembly's care for widows and especially those now designated formally as "widows indeed". The sentence is short but with significant impact for the life of the church, I am sure.*
- *Verse 5 elaborates on the depth of meaning here implied with the "widow indeed" designation. There was a special group of ministerial staff in the churches as we see here described. All that would desire to enter in would need to be properly qualified.*

VI. The Challenge for All Seasons Is To Lay Hold on Eternal Life:

[READ] 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 [here and now!]

- *There is much here to consider. But we have looked at this carefully enough already, I believe, so let's go on to the final conclusion of this letter.*
- *Just a final question is always in order before we proceed: Are you and I doing this? Are we laying hold on eternal life, redeeming the time, and loving his appearing? Or are we holding on to this life a bit too strongly perhaps? That is a weighty question indeed.*
- *Is the Mystery of Godliness in the center of our teaching and our thinking as it was for Paul? Well, is it? And what about the Genesis*

*revelations the apostle relies on so much here for his exposition?
There is much food for thought here.*

VII. Timothy's Final Challenge — To Keep the Faith and the 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.

- ***My Final Exhortation to You, Timothy — The Faith Itself Is Under Attack. Keeping the faith is therefore of critical importance.***
 - ***“... 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.***
 - ***What about us today? The title of all “leading” pastors and teachers today seems to be “Dr.” as it was once, equally wrong, “reverend”. It seems that the Seminaries have finally become Cemeteries, doesn’t it? So heartbreaking indeed.***

But Paul’s final words to Timothy are so uplifting:

- ***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!

- ***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. For there is nothing more important in this life than the outworking of the grace of Christ in our lives. That is eternal life for now with eternal rewards as written in chapter 6, "even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord".

Conclusions and Application:

- ***Final question: Where do we see ourselves in all of this. Timothy was exhorted strongly and for good reason... But what about us. Is there an application here for us?? There surely is!***
- ***And, never forget the theme of our mini-series on the Seed of the Women, "Prisoners of Hope". Zech. 9:12 is so relevant here, isn't it?***