

***“Paul’s First Letter to Timothy –
Son Timothy, Prepare Well to Be a ‘Type’ for Believers As I Have Been”***

Last Time: “Good Ministers of Truth Make the Difference in Dark Times”

***Today: “Son Timothy, Prepare Well to Be a Type of Believers As I Have Been”
(1 Tim. 4:6-16)***

Review: “Good Ministers of Truth Make the Difference in Dark Times”

- ***Good ministers must teach the Mystery of Godliness, should expect satanic opposition always, and, to avoid hypocrisy, should first nourish themselves and then the brethren***
- ***Good Ministers Teach the Mystery of Godliness. You will remember these words from chapter 3:***

1 Tim. 3:14-16

14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:

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.

- ***To better our understanding of this teaching in verse 16, we compared these words in our last study to those in Col. 1, 1 Cor. 15, and Rom. 1. Just to highlight one of these again today, consider:***

1 Cor. 15:45 And so it is written, **The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [was made] a quickening spirit.**

- ***There is so much here, isn’t there? Christ in his resurrection became “the life giving spirit”. In his resurrection glory, he demonstrated his “godliness”. We can too as he writes in Col. 1: “... the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”, Col. 1:27.***
- ***So, God has taken residence in human flesh and has proven it to all, if only they would hear the word of truth. Now, as his workmen, we as members of his body are empowered to***

display his godliness, and in the living out of that, we would “hold fast the word of that life”!! Amen. Such a great hope this causes to spring forth in us who believe. Such hope.

- ***Good Ministers Should Expect Satanic Opposition***

1 Tim. 4:1-3

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;

3 Forbidding to marry, [and commanding] to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

- ***But this glorious message is contrary to all that the enemy teaches and this teaching will therefore be opposed by him and all his emissaries on every side. God’s messengers of grace will be opposed by the strongest foes satan can muster. And their weaponry will be great indeed. Some will even “depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils”.***
- ***Satan’s weapons will deceive many since his greatest tools are “lies” of which two in particular are mentioned here. These two are interesting, are they not, “Forbidding to marry” & “[and commanding] to abstain from meats” This seems to refer to some kind of satanically inspired asceticism. We do certainly have this in many religions down through history and in many cults today. There is an abundance of it in western cultures.***
- ***The proper interpretation here, whether of perverse teachings promoted by the Catholic Church even today or of a more general kind of new age spiritism is not straightforward.***

Our Outline Today: “Prepare Well to Be a ‘Type’ for Believers As I Have Been”

- ***Timothy’s Exhortation - To Minister Only Words of Faith and Good Doctrine***
- ***Timothy’s Exhortation - To Attend to Reading, to Exhortation, to Doctrine***
- ***Timothy’s Exhortation - To Take Heed to the Doctrines Promoting Salvation***

I. Timothy’s Exhortation - To Minister Only Words of Faith and Good Doctrine

[READ] 1 Tim. 4:6-11

6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself [rather] unto godliness.

8 For bodily exercise profiteth [*only a*] little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

9 This [is] a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation.

10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially [*in the greatest degree*] of those that believe.

11 These things command and teach.

- *There must be no hypocrisy, Timothy is taught in verse 6. He must feed his own spirit first and then, having the benefit of this nourishment from the word of grace, he may then be an example for others. But the focus must be on the teaching the kind of teaching that promotes true spiritual growth. Any focus on bodily health, though of some value for us living here in the body still, can only “profit a little” as distinguished from an emphasis on true godliness which will profit now and forever.*
- *Verse 11 uses the word “teach” in reference to the previous verse, verse 10, which is so important:*

10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially [*in the greatest degree*] of those that believe.

- *What a statement indeed this is of our heavenly doctrine. The Pauline message is all about the living God who is the savior of all of humanity (not men but humans). But lest we think that this is a statement of universal salvation or reconciliation, he adds “specially of those that believe”. So there are benefits indeed to the healthy and wholesome teaching of God’s word, but only those who have believed and are therefore saved will gain the special, eternal blessings! Satan wants always to suppress this teaching and does everything he can to that end as was written in the earlier verses 1 & 2 of this chapter.*

- ***So the emphasis of the apostle for his son Timothy is in the area of “teaching”. The words found here for teaching are several and are central to Paul’s letters being used 15 times in the Pastoral letters alone, in 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus:***

Human doctrine:

Matt. 15:9, But in vain they do worship me, **teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**

—> ***Mar. 7:7***, Howbeit in vain do they worship me, **teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**

Col. 2:22, Which all are to perish with the using;) after **the commandments and doctrines of men?**

In Church Ministry:

—>***Rom. 12:7***, Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or **he that teacheth, on teaching;**

Rom. 15:4, For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Regarding False Teaching:

Eph. 4:14, That we henceforth be no more children, **tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

1 Tim. 1:10, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to **sound doctrine;**

—>***1 Tim. 4:1***, 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;**

1 Tim. 6:1, Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that **the name of God and his doctrine** be not blasphemed.

Ministry

1 Tim. 4:6, If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

1 Tim. 4:13, Till I come, **give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.**

1 Tim. 4:16, Take heed unto thyself, and unto **the doctrine**; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

—>**1 Tim. 5:17**, Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of **double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine**.

1 Tim. 6:3, If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even **the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness**;

2 Tim. 3:10, But thou hast fully known **my doctrine**, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

—>**2 Tim. 3:16**, **All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**:

2 Tim. 4:3, For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

Tit. 1:9, Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that **he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers**.

Tit. 2:1, But speak thou **the things which become sound doctrine**:

Tit. 2:7, In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: **in doctrine shewing uncorruptness**, gravity, sincerity,

—> **Tit. 2:10**, Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; **that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things**.

Verses 6 & 7:

6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself [rather] unto godliness.

- ***So, being a good minister (servant) of Jesus Christ nourished, as one properly fed and molded by his mentor in the faith, here Paul asks Timothy to labor with the saints in their faith and in their teaching (step by step and methodical). He further adds that Timothy to take note of his own life that he may demonstrate in his own life the virtues he is exhorting of others: “whereunto thou (he himself) hast attained”.***
- ***This is so personal and surely was recognized as such by his son in the faith, Timothy. His earlier and introductory words in this letter:***

1 Tim. 1:2 Unto Timothy, [my] own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, [and] peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Tim. 1:18 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.

- *Of course, this is all preparation for effective ministry. How one carries out that ministry is dependent on one's preparation. That Paul anticipated that his son in the faith, Timothy, would excel is clear from the wording throughout this letter and his second letter as well. But Timothy's nature was timid and he was a younger man and so these exhortations were appropriate considering the upcoming trials he would be facing. And, in addition, it would be necessary for Timothy to continually be in this "prepping" state as the challenges would only be accelerating as his ministry progressed, thus the words that follow:*

II. Timothy's Exhortation - To Attend to Reading, to Exhortation, to Doctrine

[READ] 1 Tim. 4:12-13

12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. **[See also Tit. 2:7-8 for a similar statement]**

- *We really must compare verses 12 & 13 with another exhortation to be written also to Timothy later, but at the very end of his mentor's life:*

2 Tim. 3:10, But thou hast fully known **my doctrine**, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience

- *This is such a remarkably similar reference to verses 12 & 13 on "doctrine" but different in a critical respect, for in the one case the reference is to Timothy but in the other it is Paul himself.*

There are other equally important and similar references to consider:

Phil. 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample **[or, type]**.

2 Thess. 3:9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample [*or, type*] unto you to follow us.

- ***These words of the apostle about being types or powerful and authentic example for others help us to understand better what Paul has written in a number of other places such as in 1 Cor.:***

1 Cor. 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also [am] of Christ.

- ***Well, so many teachers work so hard to NOT imitate Paul that these clear statement are mostly unknown in the evangelical community today. But here Paul is exhorting Timothy to become as he was and as he shall never, the apostle hopes dearly, would ever be able to forget — even when the apostle is no longer there in the flesh but only with him in spirit, as it were, after his martyrdom. We must never minimize the power of the kind of example Paul is here exhorting Timothy to be and that he himself was to Timothy and to all — and to us through his word of power that we are considering here today.***

To underscore this, remember John 20:25, where this same word translated “example” here is found but there it is translated “print”:
“The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.” ***Print of the nails. Types. Such a depth of meaning here. We should not miss it.***

- ***So many seek to imitate Christ by passing by Paul altogether as if there were a way to model Christ without modeling Paul. Paul states it so clearly that there is no other way. Trying to find ways to do so within the text of the gospel accounts of Christ’s public ministry to Israel are directly contrary to this. We follow and imitate Paul as he imitates the heavenly Christ Jesus. So be it.***

Many take Thomas’s remarks to be indicative of a lack of sufficient faith, but regarding Paul and his “type” for each of us, this is critically important, isn’t it? Imitating Paul as he imitated Christ is not optional. It is essential to effective ministry as Paul intimates throughout his letters.

III. Timothy's Exhortation - To Take Heed to the Doctrines Promoting Salvation

- ***We finish our study today with these concluding words from the end of chapter 4 where the exhortation continues and is even intensified:***

[READ] 1 Tim. 4:14-16

14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

- ***Here the apostle continues to address the significant challenges that Timothy would likely need to endure as his ministry proceeded. So Paul seeks here to reassert the necessity for a proper preparation for those challenges. His own testimony was to prepare him and those to whom he was to minister for the challenges anticipated, one step at a time.***
- ***Verse 16 is parallel in some profound ways to verse 10 in that salvation is mentioned in a use somewhat different from what we have been accustomed to. In verse 10, it is “we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially [in the greatest degree] of those that believe” while here it is “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”***
 - ***When we find the word “salvation”, it is important to consider in what way the deliverance is intended. Context is most relevant to that question. In verse 10 Christ is set forth as Savior as indeed he is, for all. But not all have believed and that distinction is noted. Here, though, salvation is not about that earlier salvation at all, but rather it is about the inestimable blessings believers who know the truth and live within their provisions enjoy.***
 - ***Not all believers enjoy these blessings, we are saddened to say. That is the point Paul is making here. In the context, the deliverance in this letter is from the ill effects of the satanic doctrines referred to earlier.***

Praise God for his abundant grace and the doctrines that communicate that grace. Praise be to God. Amen.

Application:

- ***The entire letter here is about ordering our affairs in accord with the Almighty God's sovereignty over all here on this earth. Do we properly respect God and his working here? Whether globally, nationally, in the churches, or personally. Knowing his working dispensationally is essential. If we do not know what he is doing how can we possibly know how to live day by day?***
- ***So Paul exhorts Timothy to minister well. But these exhortations also should be applied to us individually. As Paul writes so well to the Corinthians in his second letter, a "proof" of each of us is good and should be forthcoming. How are we living our lives in the light of his glory and grace? In the light of the "mystery of godliness"?***

2 Cor. 2:9-11

9 For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.

10 To whom ye forgive any thing, I [forgive] also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave [it], for your sakes [forgave I it] in the person of Christ;

11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

- ***Praise God for his abundant grace whereby we are able to live with others in the Body without controversy there because there is no controversy in the heavenlies. God is reconciling through his working under grace. And has committed to us the word of that reconciliation. Amen and amen.***

2 Cor. 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Tit. 2:10, Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; **that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.**