

# FIRST TIMOTHY

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The name Timothy means 'honoring God.' His mother was a Jew and his father was a Gentile. Timothy was raised to know the Old Testament scriptures by his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois.

The book of First Timothy was written by Paul to Timothy between his first and second imprisonments between AD 63 and AD 66. Paul was in prison for two years, set free for a short time, then imprisoned again. He wrote Second Timothy during the second imprisonment, about thirteen years after Paul first met Timothy in Lystra.

Paul met Timothy in Acts 16 because the brethren gave him a good report about Timothy. Timothy was like-minded with Paul and an exceptional brother in the faith. Timothy was a joy to Paul and also a yokefellow. He followed Paul as Paul followed Christ. Timothy boldly preached the gospel given to Paul by Christ. Paul had great regard for Timothy because he knew he would preach the whole counsel of God. Timothy wasn't seeking his own profit, but the things which are Christ's.

At the time this letter was written, Timothy was pastor at the church in Ephesus. This church was the bridal pattern church. Ephesus means 'fully purposed' or 'city of the moon.' God had a full purpose for this church. All God's provision, purpose, and power for the church can be found in the letter to the Ephesians. This letter is for pastors and saints, and especially for those teaching the gospel.

This letter is timely for what we need in our day. We need to be encouraged and strengthened; to be of good courage, and to stand and endure hardness as good soldiers. The Lord goes before us and brings us through whatever tribulation, trial, or circumstances we have to face.

There are four threads in this epistle that intertwine and form an unbreakable cord. The charge is the first thread, admonishing us that we teach no other doctrine. The second thread is doctrine, or instruction. The word doctrine occurs eight times in this epistle; eight is the number of the bride. The third thread is faith. Without the first two threads there would be no faith. The word faith appears 18 times in this epistle. The fourth thread is godliness, the outward manifestation of what is within. The word godliness appears nine times in this epistle and means 'holiness.'

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **VERSE 1**

**Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;**

#### An apostle of Jesus Christ

Paul sets forth his apostleship and shows that Jesus Christ himself commanded it. He comes on the authority of his apostleship which God had entrusted to him. Paul was not an apostle of a church or a denomination, but an apostle of Jesus Christ. Christians grow up in the gospel, not denominations.

#### By the commandment

This is a command, a mandate or injunction: the very will of God.

#### God our Savior

God in this passage refers to the Trinity. The Trinity is involved in bringing about salvation. God the Father so loved the world He gave us His son to be our Savior, Christ Jesus. Once we are saved, the Holy Ghost convicts us, and opens our hearts to receive the fullness of God. Only the power of the Godhead can bring all this about.

#### Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Jesus Christ is the head of His body, which is the church.

#### Our Hope

All of our hope and confidence is in Jesus. We can't come to our Father but by Him. Believing in Jesus, the God of hope, is pleasing to our Father.

### **VERSE 2**

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

#### My own son

Paul called Timothy his son in the faith. No doubt it was Paul's gospel that brought Timothy into sonship with him. We are all made sons of God through the gospel, and we need to be sons in the faith and fellowship in the gospel of Christ. Paul's gospel is what builds us up and gives us an inheritance among all them that are sanctified.

### Acts 20:32

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.

This is the mystery of Christ and His church given to the apostle Paul because he was the vessel chosen by God to receive it.

### Grace, mercy, and peace

These come directly from the throne. As a Christian we have these, and we should rejoice in them. This is a perfect order because we will never have peace without mercy, and we will never have mercy without grace. Everything begins with grace. Grace is the undeserved gift that brought us mercy when we were dead in trespasses and sins.

'Grace, mercy, and peace' is the message Paul preached. The gospel message brings grace into our hearts. Mercy manifests God's grace, and peace is the result.

### **VERSE 3**

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

### As I besought thee

Paul encouraged Timothy to stay at Ephesus as a pastor and teacher; to stay among the saints at Ephesus who knew the truth. Paul wanted him to be quickened in that. Paul wanted Timothy to abide in the place of the fully-purposed saints at Ephesus. There is a mark for the prize of God's high calling in Christ Jesus, and we should run for that prize and finish with a full joy.

### Charge them

The word charge means 'to give a command; transmit a message.' The word charge is found seven times in this epistle.

### No other doctrine

Paul's doctrine is good and true doctrine, and it is the only doctrine given to us by God. There are many false doctrines that Paul warned Timothy about. Paul warned all the elders at Ephesus to heed lest the wolves come in among the saints, and not spare them. Some in the assembly would arise and take disciples unto themselves. Paul told Timothy to command the teachings so that no other doctrine besides the one true doctrine God gave him would be preached. Paul's gospel loves Christ's appearing. It is the gospel that receives the exalted rank of righteousness. It is only through Paul's gospel that we are able to know Christ more intimately, grow up in Him in all things, and become the readied wife set aside for the husband.

### **VERSE 4**

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

### Fables and endless genealogies

Fables are fairy tales; endless genealogies represent our earthly ties to our human relatives. No matter what our genealogies are to us here on earth, they are meaningless in light of eternity, and will all fade away. Fables and genealogies just lead into silly questions. We should not waste our time with such things, but instead let the love of God make us lovely to Him. If we get away from the true gospel we leave ourselves open to separation and divisions. We need to stand and withstand in defense of the gospel. There are many winds of doctrine in the world, but there is only one true doctrine, and that doctrine is found in Paul's gospel.

### Romans 2:16

In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

As was said before, giving heed to fables and endless genealogies will only raise questions. Who ministered the first question back in the Garden of Eden? Satan, and he still does to draw people out with endless questions.

### Godly edifying

Edify means 'to build up; encourage; enrich.' This is what God's Word does. The gospel doesn't bring forth questions, but instead brings godly edifying which is faith. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. It isn't what feels good, what is pleasing to man, or what is socially acceptable. It is about sound doctrine, and we should stand and withstand for it. The gospel will build us up in our hearts.

### VERSE 5

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

### End of the commandment

This means 'the end of the message; the end of the charge; the completion of it all; by that which a thing is finished.' Complete salvation is finishing with a full joy by His great grace. The culmination of the event of the ages is the manifestation of the sons of God, and all creation is groaning for that manifestation. Growing up in Him in all things is that which is finished. The completion of it is very clear; it is love. When we become like Christ we love like Him. His love is for us always – in good times as well as bad times. We learn to love in every circumstance or trial. Love is the point we are aiming at. Completion is a reservoir of love.

There are three rivers that flow into the reservoir of love:

1) Love out of a pure heart.

A pure heart speaks of sincerity. A pure heart pours into love to make more love. In its deepest meaning a pure heart speaks of fire; something that is pruned. Love causes us to believe the Word of God, and to know Christ in His sufferings as we love Him more and more. When we are willing to suffer with Him it proves we love Him. We are more than conquerors through Christ.

2) A good conscience.

This speaks of Christ's mind, the same mind that should be in us. When we yield to God's will so as to be complete, it is His desire to open our hearts so we can take in the things of Christ. We learn there is a rest to the people of God, and we begin to cease from our own works. This is something we can't earn because we need to take it from Him. Christ has to finish us because we can't do one thing toward finishing ourselves. Christ does it all. The rest we enter into is the confidence that comes forth when we believe God.

3) Faith unfeigned.

Our faith is in Christ who lives in us. Unfeigned means 'without pretence; undeterred; undisguised.' The name of Jesus is the power in our lives. Sound doctrine will minister godly edifying to build us up, and bring faith into our hearts. Faith unfeigned is receiving the grace that allows faith to take over in our lives, and it will take over so much that we believe all the Word of God.

The three rivers that flow into the reservoir of love is the completion of the love masterpiece. When we finally submit to Him we realize that He loves us very much and that His love is deep, and true, and everlasting.

**VERSE 6**

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

Some having swerved

Swerved means 'to deviate; to miss the mark.' We press toward the mark for the prize of God's high calling in Christ Jesus. This is a precise race, and to swerve, turn aside, or to twist out of, will mean losing the crown. 'The end of the commandment' is referring to preeminent bridal love, and this is speaking of Christ having a readied wife.

Hebrews 2:1

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

We need to hold fast our crown that no man take it away. The trumpet could sound at any moment.

Vain jangling

Vain jangling means 'empty words; making a lot of meaningless noise.' There are ones that have turned aside from the faith to empty words.

**VERSE 7**

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

### Teachers of the law

Those who are just making a lot of noise with empty words are the ones who want to teach the law, not grace. The epitome of vain jangling is legality, and legality is the epitome of empty words because there is no love there. Legality is apart from grace. No love is found in the law.

### Understanding not

The ten commandments are not our moral compass. They cannot put us on the pathway to heaven, or on any pathway that is pleasing to God. Jesus is the only pathway God recognizes. These teachers don't understand grace, and they don't understand what they are saying as far as the law goes.

### **VERSE 8**

**But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully;**

### The law is good if used lawfully

In Christ we know the law is good when used properly. To use the law properly we need to rightly divide the Word of truth.

### Romans 5:20

The law entered that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

The law was meant to show the wickedness of natural man. The law was not given strictly to make us understand how guilty we were in God's sight.

### Galatians 3:21-22

21) Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for is there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

22) But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

The law is not capable of justifying us in the sight of God. Only our Savior Jesus could make us not guilty in the sight of God. Jesus is the only one qualified to justify us and make us sons of God.

### Romans 3: 28

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

The law was not for us, it was against us. Jesus took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross.

Colossians 2:14

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross.

We are saved by grace, not by the law.

Ephesians 2:5

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved.)

Six points to using the law lawfully:

1) Give the law its place and office assigned by the Lord.

It is the Lord who assigns the place for the law. The law is given to convict men of of transgressions.

Romans 3:20

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Galatians 3:24

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Without the law people would not know what sin is. The law executes a sinner, but grace deals with sin and gives mercy unto the sinner, and that is the difference between the law and grace.

2) We must admit that the law cannot save us.

The law can't save us any more than looking into a mirror can wash our face. We can look into the law, just as we look into a mirror and see the dirt on our face. But the law cannot clean the dirt off, or clean our lives up. The law is weak through the flesh.

Romans 8:3

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.

3) By grace we are saved through faith apart from works.

We must realize we are saved by grace through faith, and Jesus is the only way to salvation.

4) Not from trying to keep from breaking the law.

We can't keep from breaking the law. There is no victory in the law, and righteousness does not come by the law. We come to God by mercy and grace.

Galatians 2: 21

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness came by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

5) Flee to the city of refuge.

Jesus Christ is our city of refuge. He will cleanse us from all our sin, and all unrighteousness.

1 John 1: 8-9

8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

6) Confess Christ to be our life and victory and believe in Him.

By following this plan and abiding there, sustained victory will follow. Jesus will prove himself to be our sufficiency in all things.

1 Peter 1:5

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

The law cannot perfect the saints, and according to Paul this is an unlawful way to use the law. The law was meant for the unrighteous and ungodly, not for children of the King.

**VERSES 9-10**

**Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers, and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,**

**For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for men stealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;**

All who come under the law

Verses 9 and 10 are a list of all who come under the law and will be judged by the law unless they allow Christ to save them. We are justified by Christ's blood and made sinless.

1 John 3:9

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

We need to believe this to grow up in Him and become mature. Christ will bring us out of the things we could never get out of on our own.

#### Contrary to sound doctrine

Grace and sound doctrine are the things for those in Christ who want to grow **up** in Him. Christ has to help us with all of our insecurities.

#### **VERSE 11**

**According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.**

#### According to the glorious gospel

This should read 'according to the gospel of glory.' The gospel of glory is the theme of this message. We rejoice in the gospel of glory, and we are not ashamed of it because of the love of God shed abroad in our hearts. God help us to have that unfeigned faith with nothing disguised or hidden, but let it be sincere and fiery. Sometimes bent, but never broken; sometimes smoking, but never quenched. The gospel of glory is Christ in us, the hope of glory.

#### Committed to my trust

The gospel of glory was committed specifically to Paul's trust. This is the sound doctrine and our rejoicing. The word committed means 'to entrust a thing to one,' and it speaks of fidelity in marriage.

#### Colossians 1: 25-26

- 25) Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the Word of God.
- 26) Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest in His saints.

This is the message of the high calling of God, the message given to Paul to complete the Word of God. Paul was the chosen vessel to receive that gospel of glory. Without the Holy Spirit revealing it to us, we can't understand it. The mystery hidden in the gospel of glory is that the Gentiles should be joint heirs as husband and with Christ Jesus. We need not only to see this, but enter into it as our own to become the bride adorned, the Lamb's wife. The bride is the masterpiece of His underserved grace and mercy.

#### **VERSE 12**

**And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;**

#### I thank Christ Jesus

Everything is encased in one thing: the grace of God. Christ in us is the hope of glory, and anything good is in Him. We can't take credit for anything, because He is our strength, and He does everything in us. The church of Philadelphia is said to have a little strength; just enough strength to realize that Christ is their strength. Christ's strength is the power of His might which

is the Holy Spirit, and the power of the Holy Spirit is the love of God. It is this love that holds us in the race. His love causes us to stir up the gift within us and to finish the race with a full joy.

#### Counted me faithful

Counted means 'the leader in speech; the chief spokesman.' This is what Paul is: a chosen vessel unto Christ. This was nothing Paul earned. God first had him to be the chief of sinners to show he didn't earn it. Paul was enabled by God and counted faithful. As God's children we are full of the faithfulness of God, and we need to let it grow. The life of Christ Jesus living in us is why we can do all things through Him who strengthens us. We have it all, and Christ wants us to grow up in all things. He provides everything we need in all aspects of our lives. We believe this when the love of God really hits us.

#### Putting me in the ministry

God put Paul in the ministry because of love, and Paul could only preach by love. God's love dwells in His saints. Christ in us is the only hope for mankind. Everything that was done in Paul's life after salvation was done by the grace of God.

#### **VERSE 13**

**Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious; but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.**

Paul is speaking about his past life...out of the miry clay, dead in trespasses and sins – but God. Paul revels and rejoices in that it was pure grace and mercy that found him. Grace and mercy is what found us, too. Paul was brought from being a blasphemer to a worshipper by the grace of God. He was a persecutor but God chose him and made him a preacher. He was injurious to those of God's purpose and plan, and God made him useful to those he had injured. Paul obtained mercy because he persecuted God's people out of ignorance and unbelief.

#### **VERSE 14**

**And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.**

There is nothing in us that is good. None seek God, no not one. God has to open our hearts to receive the truth, His very will and purpose. If we lean on Him, He will take us all through everything, and everything is in grace. God help us to enter in. Without grace our lives are never lived with all God's fullness.

#### 2 Peter 3: 18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

### **VERSE 15**

**This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.**

Paul was taken from the greatest depths to the greatest heights, and this shows that God is no respecter of persons. No matter how wicked a person is God can save them. The love of God saw the souls Jesus came to save.

#### Hebrews 2:9

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

He died for the sins of the world once for all. We just need to believe. He came not to judge, but to save.

### **VERSE 16**

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

Paul was at one time in his life the chief of sinners, but God made him the chief of saints. Only the grace of God can do this for a person. God used Paul as a pattern for all to see what His grace can do in a life, and grace will lead them to salvation and life everlasting. God saved the chief of sinners which showed He could save all men. The word pattern means 'as a die struck.' Paul's life became a pattern for us beyond being saved. The pattern going forward to them that are saved is to be filled with all the fullness of God. In God all fullness dwells: the pattern of the suffering with Christ, the pattern of the Holy Ghost, and the pattern of love upon love.

### **VERSE 17**

**Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever: Amen.**

Jesus is the King eternal. We want to glory and honor the King eternal and love Him because He first loved us. His love has finally hit us and the Godhead rejoices in the work of Christ in us.

#### Revelation 4:9

Those beasts give glory, and honor, and thanks to Him that sat on the throne, who lives forever and ever.

### **VERSE 18**

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

### This charge

This charge is speaking of the message. In verse 5 we found the end of the commandment, i.e. the completion of the message. Paul was given the message that completed the Word of God. This message is alive and working in those who believe. The message is for us, and until we see this we will never fully embrace it to know the love of Christ and how intimate He wants to be with us. This is by His Spirit to His body, the church.

### I commit unto you

This charge is to Timothy. It reminds us of the charge which is the message that the secrets of men will be judged by the gospel given to Paul. The completion of this message in our lives is to grow up in all things in Christ. The message given to Paul comes only one way: in love out of a pure heart. According to verse 5, a pure heart is a pruned and tested heart. The love of God is going to be tested and proven in us. We can't endure hardships like good soldiers if we are not in love with His love to us. The readied wife understands that she is her beloved's, and His desire is toward her.

### The good warfare

It is by grace we fight the good fight of faith. We need to know the Word of God to fight a good warfare, and faith is believing the Word of God. We need to know the quickening power of the love of Christ, and it is through His love that we become more than conquerors. God not only prepares the battle, but the outcome of the battle as well. In Jesus the victory is already won. The key to living a full overcoming life is living in Christ and His love for us.

## **VERSE 19**

**Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck;**

### Holding faith

To hold faith is to hold God's Word in our hearts. This is holding faith without any work of the flesh because it is all by faith and not man's vain ideas. By faith we believe there is something better for us. The Bible tells us in Hebrews chapter 11 that the Old Testament worthies of faith cannot be made perfect without us.

#### Hebrews 11: 39-40

39) And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

40) God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

The 'better thing' for us is to win Christ as Bridegroom. This is accomplished by holding faith and by clinging to it. Holding means 'given in marriage.' Faith gives us a good conscience, and God's Word, prayer, fellowship, and love, increases our faith. Faith always brings the mind of Christ, and that gives us an optimistic, full overcoming attitude. We can only be more than conquerors through Christ Jesus.

### Made shipwreck

Being made shipwreck is what happens to those who are like the ones in verse 6 who swerved and turned aside from the true gospel. This happens when faith is put away. Put away speaks of pushing away or refusing. The enemy is very subtle, and he can cause people to swerve from the true gospel.

### Galatians 1: 8

Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Faith is what pleases God. When Christians swerve from God's full counsel and all of its teaching, sin begets sin and causes shipwreck – missing the mark for the prize of God's high calling. We need to follow Paul as he followed Christ.

### **VERSE 20**

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

### Hymenaeus

His name means 'wedding song.' We are espoused to Christ in 2 Corinthians chapter 11.

### 2 Corinthians 11: 2

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

The whole church is espoused as a chaste virgin to Christ, but many will have their minds turned aside and corrupted from the simplicity and sincerity of Christ, just as Eve was beguiled by Satan in the Garden of Eden. The one thing Jesus had against the church of Ephesus in Revelation chapter 3 was that they left their first love, the pre-eminent bridal love that the bride will have for her Bridegroom Jesus.

### Alexander

His name means 'man defender.' Those who defend man find good in everyone, but the bible says there is none righteous, no not one. There was nothing good in us until Jesus died for us.

### Delivered unto Satan

Timothy was charged to hold faith in a good conscience, but Hymenaeus and Alexander pushed it away. They were delivered unto Satan to learn not to blaspheme by saying they had been saved, but then lost their salvation. When people are saved and become Christians, the life of Christ – the holy seed that remains – is planted in them by the Holy Spirit. Once this holy seed is implanted we are forever a part of God's family. This remains true, even if we turn away from Paul's message to another doctrine. We can never be separated from the love of God once we become one of His children. However, if we push away, darkness comes to our spiritual lives.

### 1 Corinthians 5: 6

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

As Christians we should first, last, and always, stand in defense of the Word of God. Only the Word of His grace builds us up and gives us an inheritance among all them that are sanctified.

## **CHAPTER 2**

In chapter one, we got the message of messages. When we yield to God, allow the infilling of the Holy Spirit to come into our lives and live that life full of the Holy Spirit, we are doing God's will. He wants us to grow up in all truth and run the race to attain Christ as Bridegroom, and to share in His glory. God wants us to have the full, complete, exact, and intimate knowledge of the truth.

In chapter two we find the love. God's Word tells us it is not in word only, but in deed and in truth which is the Word of His grace. God wants us to grow up in grace and grow up in Jesus in all things.

### **VERSE 1**

**I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;**

#### I exhort

Paul was strongly encouraging and urging Timothy. If someone encourages us it is up to us as to whether we take the encouragement or not.

#### Supplications

This is a petitioned prayer request that supposes a great need as when Christians get together and agree as one on behalf of others. The Godhead is passionate toward all men. God help us to see our needs and the needs of others. When we can see these needs we will come boldly to the throne of grace to find help for all needs.

#### Prayers

This is worship, to draw nigh in fervent love as to kiss. We worship our Redeemer and Savior, and we need to be occupied with Him and become well-versed in His love and compassion. We are to do this for Jesus' sake, and for His glory.

#### Intercessions

Intercession is prayer and supplication in action. Intercession means 'a meeting; a conversation; to chance upon.' This is when a person intervenes on behalf of another person especially by

prayer. A good example is the Good Samaritan who happened upon the wounded man who needed his help.

### Giving of thanks

Giving thanks and being grateful to God in the act of worship is just as important as prayers, supplications, and intercession. We give thanks for all men because God loves all men.

### **VERSE 2**

**For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.**

#### For kings and all in authority

God places these rulers in authority, and He gives them their power. All authority is given of God, and He precisely appoints them in our lives to help us win Christ. He knows exactly the ones we need to bring that about. Everyone in our lives is sent for the purpose of growing us up in all things in Christ.

The following scripture is the way God gives to bring about change:

#### Romans 13: 1-2

- 1) Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God.
- 2) Whosoever therefore resists the power, resists the ordinance of God; and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

We are not to resist the powers that be lest the damnation of the government be upon us. God is the source of all power, and He puts the governments in place. We are to respect the ones He appoints, and to pray for all those in authority. God's way is not to protest, but rather pray that God would make civil authorities serve us as they should to the end that we can live peaceable and godly lives.

#### In all godliness and honesty

There is nothing good or honest in us; it is all of the Lord. Honesty speaks of purity and sincerity. We sincerely need to know we need the grace of God. Love is always the motivator.

### **VERSE 3**

**For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior;**

This is speaking of the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. They all work in perfect unity so that we may have not just salvation, but complete salvation. We become full overcomers in Christ by letting Him have His way in our lives. This is God's ultimate will for all mankind, but not all will accept it.

#### **VERSE 4**

**Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**

This is the very meaning and purpose of life for every person who has walked the face of the earth. God is not a respecter of persons, and He gives everyone the opportunity to have their sins taken away freely. Christ opened up heaven and all of its wealth of grace and truth. God would have all men to be saved and turn from their evil ways, and have life eternal in His kingdom.

#### **Ezekiel 33: 11**

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

God takes no pleasure in sending a man to hell, or judging them of their sins. God has made every provision to prevent this, but not all men will let God save them. He wants all men to come to the knowledge of the truth and have a future in heaven, not a future in the lake of fire.

#### **VERSE 5**

**For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;**

#### **One God**

Because He is God He does all things right and rewards those who diligently seek Him. There is one God, and no other.

#### **Isaiah 43: 10-11**

10) Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am He: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

11) I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no savior.

#### **Isaiah 44: 8**

Fear ye not, neither be afraid; have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? Ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? Yea, there is no God; I know not any.

#### **One mediator**

God is one, and Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. Jesus had to become a man in order to die for us. There is no one between us and God except Jesus. We can't believe in God except for Jesus.

#### **1 Peter 1: 21**

Who by Him do believe in God, that raised His up from the dead and gave Him glory: That your faith and hope might be in God.

## **VERSE 6**

**Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**

### A ransom for all

This verse shows the great lengths God went to in order to save men from judgment and the lake of fire. The ransom was paid with the precious blood of Jesus. Because of His love for us, He ransomed himself for all, and now if we believe Him we have peace with God the Father through Him. He suffered and died to pay the ransom for all the sins of the world, and our only cost is to believe in Him. God gave us everything when He gave us Jesus. If there was any other way to ransom mankind God would never have sacrifice His most precious Son. However, the cross was the only way to satisfy our sin debt, and God's love for us was strong enough to allow His Son to die in that cruel manner. Because we couldn't pay our sin debt, He gladly took our place on that cross. Christ is our everything, our all in all.

### Testified in due time

This means that Jesus came at the precise time to ransom us. We can have eternal life in heaven because of this, and all we have to do is believe Him. From the moment we accept Him as our Lord and Savior all our sins are wiped away, and this is past, present, and future sins. His blood has covered them all.

## **VERSE 7**

**Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle. (I speak the truth in Christ and lie not:) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.**

### Whereunto

Whereunto is another way to say 'because of that message.' Paul was ordained by God to be a preacher and an apostle. He was sent as an overseer of the body of Christ, and to preach the message to the Gentiles that was given to him by Christ.

### I speak the truth in Christ

There is no truth to be spoken except in Christ because He is the truth. One day every knee will bow before Him, and every tongue confess that He is Lord. He is the Savior to those of us who have bowed our knees and confessed Him as our Lord.

### A teacher of the Gentiles

Paul is a preacher to Gentile Christians who have accepted Christ as Savior. Those of us in Christ are the ones Paul teaches about growing up in all things in Christ Jesus.

### Faith and verity

This means 'faith according to truth.' There is no faith except in truth, and truth is the Word of God which is the most holy faith. We can be confident that the Word is ours and it is alive. We know it is alive because it is Christ Jesus.

## **VERSE 8**

**I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.**

### Men pray everywhere

Paul is speaking to the new creatures in Christ who have accepted the salvation Christ died to give them. We should pray all the time and in every place. Don't be ashamed of the gospel of Christ, because it is the power unto salvation, and unto complete salvation.

### Lifting up holy hands

Lifting up holy hands shows surrender and worship. Whenever we lift our hands we are looking to Jesus to accomplish everything in our lives. We can trust Him for everything concerning our every need, and this includes what we need to run the race and finish with a full joy.

### Without wrath

Without wrath is more than without anger. This is another problem men have, because the wrath of man works not the righteousness of God. Wrath means 'without character,' because it is not about us, it is about the Lord. We need to forget self **and** become happy in Jesus. We should lift up our hands and look to the Lord.

### Doubting

Doubting refers to disputing or arguing. Victory comes when we cast all our cares on Jesus, and trust in His deep, everlasting love.

## **VERSE 9**

**In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;**

### Women adorn themselves

God made women beautiful creatures outwardly, but the most important beauty of a woman is her inward beauty. Adorn means 'to prepare themselves.' A Readied Wife prepares herself by allowing grace to work in her life.

### Modest apparel

Modest apparel means 'to condescend; a bowing; a reverence to God and His Word.'

### Shamefacedness

This means 'bashfulness; modesty.'

### Sobriety and self control

This is speaking of soundness of mind, and to be under control. Every person has to know how to possess his own vessel. In order to do that, we have to lift our hands and ask the Lord for help. His grace is sufficient for us.

### Braided hair

This figuratively speaks of twisted, like a twisted mind. These are thoughts of gossip, hatred, spite, or more chaos.

### Goodly pearls or costly array

This isn't speaking of what we have, because God is not concerned with what we have. What He is concerned about is what has us. What are our idols? Where are the affections of our heart set - on ourselves or on Jesus? Being self-consumed keeps us from running for the prize and finishing with a full joy. Self-consumed lives push faith away. All the gold, pearls, and costly array accentuate the outward beauty, but do nothing for the inward beauty.

### **VERSES 10-11**

**But (which becomes women professing godliness) with good works. Let the women learn in silence with all subjection.**

The word silence means 'stillness; quietness.' It is hard to learn anything with a lot of noise. We need to learn to quietly listen. If we are in subjection we will learn to tend our own gardens, i.e. our own affairs. Never meddle in the affairs of others, but do pray for them.

### **VERSE 12**

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

### Suffer not a woman to teach

Many women in scripture were used to preach when there were no men willing to do it.

### Usurp authority

This means to take authority not given. Women should be subject to the head of the home just as all are subject to Christ.

### **VERSE 13**

**For Adam was first formed, then Eve.**

Adam was a type of Christ, and we are subject to Christ who died for His love for people. We praise Christ because we are weak vessels upon whom His power rests upon. His strength is made perfect in our weakness.

### **VERSE 14**

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

Eve was the one deceived by the serpent that told her to eat of the tree of knowledge.

### **VERSE 15**

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

### Saved in childbearing

This speaks of being fruitful. It's a miracle how God brings fruit out of our weakened flesh, but He does when we realize we are nothing apart from Him. We can live a miracle every day when we submit to Him and let Him grow us up in all things in Him.

### Faith and charity

This speaks of faith in love and it calls out to us throughout the Word of God. All of the great women in scripture were those who got low and surrendered. They became the worthies of faith by submitting to God. Likewise, when we get low and submit we become the readied wife. Christ is our Head and we don't usurp His authority.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **VERSE 1**

**This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desires a good work.**

#### Desire

Desire means 'to stretch oneself; to reach out after; set your heart upon.' This is one that would feel the calling in his heart to be a pastor. Desiring this would be a good work ordained of God.

#### Bishop

The word bishop comes from the word Episcopal and means 'overseer.' A bishop is an overseer of the church. These men called to be bishops are ordained to be pastors, ministers, or shepherds. All are called by the grace of God. Paul was the chief overseer, or bishop, of the church.

### **VERSE 2**

**A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;**

All the requirements for a bishop listed in verses 2-7 are like reading about the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31. This describes the same heart that the virtuous woman possesses, and the heart that all bishops should possess. Being a bishop goes far deeper than a position or title, because this is the state of the heart of those running for God's best. There is much instruction in these verses, but it is the same as Paul telling Timothy to follow him as he followed Christ. This heart that the virtuous woman had should be evident in all of us running the race to win our precious Jesus as Bridegroom. People observe and mark us, so all we do should not be in word only, but also in deed and in truth.

There are 16 points of qualification of being a bishop:

1) Blameless.

This means someone who has brought no reproach to the gospel of Christ. This is speaking about a state of the heart. By God's grace we should be ones quick to be convicted when we are wrong, or when we have treated someone erroneously. Our hearts should make us quick to say, "I'm sorry," and admit we were wrong. God help us to have that kind of heart. If a pastor were blameless it would fulfill the other fifteen points of qualification.

2) The husband of one wife.

This doesn't say he has to be married, but if he is he needs to be the husband of only one wife. At the time of Paul's ministry there were many who had more than one wife. In regards to winning Christ, the bride will not be just a virgin, but a chaste virgin who submits to the one and only Head, Christ Jesus. This is first-love, husband and wife time. Our hearts should be with the Lord in a first-love relationship with Him.

3) Vigilant.

This means 'to be circumspect; careful; watchful.' We should consider every circumstance before acting. We need to be alert and not hasty. We are not ignorant of the devil's devices and how he tries to get our eyes off God and onto ourselves. Vigilance doesn't mean a heart of judgment, but a heart to pray for others, and want to please the Lord. Having a heart of discernment rather than a heart of judgment is very wise. We need to be wise in God's love, and ask Him for the wisdom to always stand for the gospel.

4) Sober.

This is speaking of any type of intoxication which causes people to have a dimmed vision. We need to have a perfect vision because without a vision the people perish. We can know the truth, love it, and appreciate it, but still be easily distracted. We should always keep our eyes on the Lord and understand it isn't about us, it is about Him. Sober speaks also of a singleness of heart and mind; not sleepy but awake, alert, and praying for one another.

5) Good behavior.

Good behavior means 'to be modest; lowly.' This is a good example of conduct, because we need to 'get down' and let God increase in us as we decrease.

6) Given to hospitality.

A bishop should be fond of guests and will have a lot of guests in his home. We should want to have a welcoming heart, and actually pray for people to come. Especially those who know the truth but are in a battle to come back to the message of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. This is having a heart beyond the good Samaritan; it is having a heart desirous that people grow up in the Lord in all things to share in His glory.

7) Apt to teach.

A bishop needs to know the Word of God to be able to teach and instruct others in it. They should be ready to share the gospel anytime, and this means regardless of time of day or the circumstances. God help all of us to be spiritual ones ready to share the gospel, and want to see growth in others. We plant and water but God gives the increase.

### **VERSE 3**

**Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;**

8) Not given to wine.

He can take it or leave it, but if he does take it, he doesn't take too much. We all have weaknesses and are tempted by things, but God's grace is sufficient for all of them.

9) No striker.

We are not to be quarrelsome or argumentative. We don't want to be mean and strike out against someone.

10) Not greedy of filthy lucre.

This of course is speaking of being greedy for money. The love of money is the root of all evil, and the love of money is not a respecter of persons. It can affect every one of us, but for the grace of God. We can trust the Lord for all we need.

11) Patient.

Being patient is being gentle.

12) Not a brawler.

This is speaking of abstaining from fighting. We should never fight or argue about scripture, but rather we should be as the Bereans and search the scriptures.

13) Not covetous.

We are not to envy what others have, and we are not to be lovers of material things and money. Lord Jesus help us not to envy, but to look up and realize there is nothing in this world to compare to you and what you have prepared for us.

### **VERSE 4**

**One that rules well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;**

14) One that rules well his own house.

He is to rule his own house well and with all gravity. Gravity speaks of uprightness in all dealings, and this is with complete honesty and integrity. A bishop is to rule in all meekness.

### **VERSE 5**

**(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)**

The way a bishop rules his home will tell how he would rule the church of God.

### **VERSE 6**

**Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.**

15) Not a novice.

Novice means 'newly planted,' and speaks of a young convert. A bishop should be mature in the Lord, because the Lord wants us to be strong in Him, and in the power of His might. This is the only way to fight the good fight of faith like good soldiers. We shouldn't be tempted to swerve from the things of God, because nothing else can compare with Him. Everything is by His grace, not of us.

### **VERSE 7**

**Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.**

16) Have a good report from them without.

A bishop must have a good report from within the church and with the world, because he is the world's bible. People of the world look at Christians and how they live. If they fail, the world holds them up to great reproach and as snared by the devil. People who preach the gospel are the world's most conspicuous, and their lives, their flock, and their God will be judged by the world. Our lives should let unbelievers know we are genuine in our love for God, our love of souls, and that we preach truth in love which is the effectual working power of God. God builds the love of His Son in our hearts, and it is essential to have the love of God shed abroad in our hearts more and more, and love will win.

### **VERSE 8**

**Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre.**

In this verse God introduces us to deacons. A deacon is one who serves and ministers; one who executes the commands of another. Deacons differ from bishops in that they are not overseers, and they don't have the extent of authority that bishops have. Deacons serve and minister the Word. All the evidence of the heart of a deacon is the same evidence of the heart of a bishop. These two have different operations, but the same testimony of the truth in love is operating in them. They both have the same heart full of truth and grace.

The eight qualifications of a deacon:

1) Be grave.

Grave means 'honorable; thankful ones.' They have a praise and gratitude for the truth and grace of God.

2) Not double tongued.

Double tongued means 'having two or more meanings.' Deacons should not intend to deceive. They should know what they are talking about, and be able to express it in a way that is not confusing or misleading. They hold the Word in all sincerity and rejoice in it.

3) Not given to much wine.

Wine or strong drink has stumbled many people, and misuse needs to be taken seriously. Strong drink intoxicates people, and the only thing anyone should be intoxicated by is Jesus. We need to be drunk on the new wine of the Holy Spirit.

4) Not greedy of filthy lucre.

This means to not be driven by the love of money. God tells us the love of money is the root of all evil. Coveting what another has is damaging to a spiritual life, and this is one of the tricks of the devil to take our eyes off our precious Jesus. Getting caught up in the lusts of the flesh is very harmful to the saved and the unsaved alike.

### **VERSE 9**

**Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.**

5) The mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

The mystery of the faith is the whole counsel of God which is Paul's gospel. No other gospel should be preached but Paul's gospel message of bridal truth. Their own conscience should be clean, and not defiled in any way by their conduct.

### **VERSE 10**

**And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.**

6) First be proved.

There is a testing period that takes place before attaining the office of a deacon. For example, in the book of Acts when the first seven deacons were selected, both Philip and Stephen were first proven, or tested, as to their ministries. Once they were proven they could use the office of deacon and were able to serve in it. It takes an amount of time to make sure what they are preaching is actually part of their life. They must be fighting the good fight of faith and holding fast their crown. We are all called to be workmen who are not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. We are to rightly divide and study the Word to show ourselves approved unto God.

### **VERSE 11**

**Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.**

7) Their wives must be grave.

The wives of deacons are not to be false accusers that say untrue things.

### **VERSE 12**

**Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well,**

8) Let a deacon be the husband of one wife.

This refers to every facet of a deacon's life, but mainly his family. How a deacon lives and rules his household will be seen by others.

### **VERSE 13**

**For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

#### A good degree

Those that have served in the office of a deacon (beginning with Philip and Stephen) purchased to themselves a good degree. Degree signifies 'a step up; a grade up for a more responsible position.' Good means 'beautiful; excellent; surpassing.' God pursues us to take all He has, and to win Christ as Bridegroom. He wants to draw us into that intimate love with Him.

#### Great boldness in the faith

Entering in to the depths of faith only comes one way, by apprehending grace. It isn't just by faith or boldness in faith, but great boldness in faith is exceedingly large confidence in the Word of God. We can have exceeding confidence in faith as we take hold of grace, and as we are willing to let the Lord will and do of His good pleasure in our lives. When we take hold of grace we will start to understand the great love wherewith we are loved. God wants to share all He has with us.

### **VERSE 14**

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

Paul longed to be at Ephesus with Timothy. Most likely he wrote this epistle from Corinth, and no doubt he wanted to get out of there as most of the saints at Corinth were at the teenage stage as far as their spiritual growth in the Lord. Paul longed to fellowship with the mature sons of God. Likewise, we should want to gather and fellowship with saints of like precious faith too.

### **VERSE 15**

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

God has deposited His truth in His church. His truth rests upon the people and they hold it up. The church of the living God is the pillar and ground of His truth. We know the mystery of Christ – the glorious church – by the pillar which speaks of the overcomer, and by the ground which speaks of strength. This is referring to the church of Philadelphia which is the pillar and ground of the truth.

### **VERSE 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.**

#### Mystery of godliness

A mystery is something that is hidden and the true meaning of godliness is a mystery. Godliness is a beautiful mystery to most of the world. Most Christians will never understand the depths of what godliness truly means.

#### Manifest in the flesh

This is the first part of the mystery. Our glorious Creator came to earth holy and sinless. He took upon himself the form of a man, as Christ Jesus. People have to study and dig deeper into the Word to gain the enlightened eyes of understanding to comprehend it.

#### John 1: 14

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.

#### Justified in the Spirit

Jesus was justified in the Spirit when He, by His Spirit, led captivity captive by preaching to the spirits in prison and announcing to them that their redemption was accomplished.

Justification comes to all sinners that believe on Jesus as their Savior. All who believe in Jesus have their sins washed away by His blood. All are transformed from sinners to saints the moment they accept Christ as Savior. He took all our guilt and sins upon himself so that we could be free because of the great love He has for all mankind.

#### Seen of angels

Redemption is witnessed by the host of heaven.

#### Preached unto the Gentiles

The Gentiles represent what the Jews referred to as the 'heathen.' Most of the Jewish nation rejected Christ and the salvation He wanted them to have, but the Gentiles believed Him and embraced the salvation He died to give them.

### Believed on in the world

Many said, and are still saying, "Thou art the Christ." How simple and how beautiful. This is a mystery too. Anyone Christ saves will experience a change in their life. God can make any of us godly if we believe Him to do it.

### Received up into glory

Christ was raised up into glory and seated at the right hand of the Father. This is the final glory of godliness: godliness must culminate in heavenly glory where it will be manifested and received up in glory.

The Bishop in this chapter is Jesus.

### 1 Peter 2: 25

For ye were as sheep going astray but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

The deacons represent the bride in executing commands of another. The heavenly Bishop (Jesus) causes them to will and do of His good pleasure, and they are set aside for His use. Both the Bishop and the deacons are alike in heart because the bride is just like Jesus. She allowed grace to grow her up into Him in all things. When she becomes His masterpiece she will descend from heaven having all the glory of God.

## CHAPTER 4

### VERSE 1

**Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.**

### The Spirit speaks expressly

Expressly means 'distinctly; specifically.' The Holy Spirit is speaking distinctly and expressly about something, and revealing details about the Word of God. Those who believe will hear and know the truth of God's Word which is in Christ Jesus. The bride is made ready by feasting on the Word.

### The latter times

The 'latter times' speak to where we are today. These times shouldn't scare Christians, but rather encourage them because the Lord is faithful in all things concerning His children. Christians should rejoice in these times because Christ is coming soon for His bride and soon we will see Him face to face!

### Some shall depart from the faith

The ones referenced as 'departing from the faith' are Christians.

#### Acts 20: 29-30

29) For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

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

Verse five of chapter one it tells us that some 'swerved from the faith.' There is a difference between swerving from the faith departing from the faith.

- 1) Swerving from the faith pertains to legality. Some Christians swerve from being freed of sin by grace, and turn back to the law. However, swerving from faith doesn't make a Christian any less a child of God. Rather, they store up wood, hay, and stubble instead of gold, silver, and precious stones.
- 2) Departed means 'apostasy.' Apostasy is saying the glory of the Lord has departed. Many religious organizations that once professed Christ, yet they only had a form of godliness, and they denied the power thereof (that is, they left Jesus.)

#### Romans 1: 21

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful: but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Most preachers today preach self-improvement, positive thinking, and the prosperity gospel and doing one's best. The true gospel is being ignored.

### Giving heed to seducing spirits

Giving heed shows they cleave to the apostasy and have abandoned faith. Seducing spirits are imposters and deceivers. They are not necessarily demonic spirits. Generally seducing spirits refer to false ministers.

'Spirits' speak of something that governs the soul. The Spirit of the Lord and the Holy Spirit should be the ones governing our souls. Trusting Christ as Savior is the only thing that can save us. Without the blood of Christ on our lives there is no remission for sin. The Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth, and get us ready for the bridal company.

### Doctrines of devils

Doctrines are teachings. Demonic teachings are by seducing spirits. These deceivers and imposters lead people astray to doctrines of devils. There are many winds of devilish doctrines, always counterfeits to the truth. 'Doctrines of devils' are any doctrines that are contrary to God's Word. When referring to God's Word it is doctrine, singular. There is only one true

doctrine, and that is the doctrine of Christ. Even a tiny swerving from the truth of God's Word is a doctrine of devils. Paul's gospel is the true doctrine that is the full counsel of God and includes yea the deeper things found in Christ Jesus.

## **VERSE 2**

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

### Speaking lies in hypocrisy

Lies are one thing, but lies professing to be Christian are lies in hypocrisy. These false ministers' messages are lies in hypocrisy, and they themselves are speaking lies. Professing Jesus and then not preaching the true doctrine of Christ is hypocrisy. These ministers claim Christ dwells in them, but they deny the shed blood and the deity of Christ. These are not born of the Spirit, and they can lead many astray.

We live in the time of great counterfeits, which are one of the signs of Christ's soon coming. Today, for the most part, anything is preached but Jesus. There is a subtle form of godliness that denies the power thereof. Christ is all powerful and only His blood can save us. He is the only way to salvation, and the only way to God the Father.

### Their conscience seared with a hot iron

Seared means 'to cauterize; to render insensitive.' This speaks of being branded like cattle. The brand signifies the owner or master. The minds of those who went after the counterfeits are owned by the seducing spirits. The author of the seducing spirits' false doctrines is the devil himself. These things can be scary to those who don't know the Word of God, but those who know God's Word need not fear. The evil of man is waxing worse and worse, and the time is soon coming when the devil will come forth as a roaring lion. He will no longer be restrained at that time, and circumstances in the world will be almost unbearable for those who don't know the Lord. The Lord will shorten those unbearable days lest there be no man left alive on earth. This will only take place after all believers will be in heaven.

The Holy Spirit can't get through to these hypocrits. They have no conscience about neglecting to preach the truth. Having their conscience burned with a hot iron cause them to lose all feeling and prevents the Holy Spirit from getting through to them. Those with a seared conscience have departed and drawn away from the faith. These have rejected Christ.

### Matthew 7: 15

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Jesus is talking about these seducing spirits being wolves in sheep's clothing. A wolf in sheep's clothing is still a wolf. The seducing spirits may seem righteous to many, but in reality they are ravening wolves.

### **VERSE 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.**

#### Forbidding to marry

These seducing spirits believe they can't marry in order to be chaste. There is no forbidding to marry in the true gospel. God certainly approves the union of marriage between a man and a woman.

#### Abstain from meats

Forbidding to marry and abstaining from meats are some of the practices of devilish doctrines. This is one of the ways man tries outwardly to gain favor with God. This speaks of self-righteousness which is as filthy rags to God. The sin the Lord hates the most – and that stumbles so many Christians – is legality. God help us to see and to live by His grace and not the law.

#### Receive with thanksgiving

The apostle Paul tells us God gives meat to those of us who know and believe the truth, and we are to receive it with thanksgiving. In Christ we have freedom, by faith, to enjoy and be thankful for the many foods God gives us.

### **VERSE 4**

**For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:**

In the book of Acts, God told Peter not to call unclean or common what He had cleansed. According to Romans chapter 14, there is nothing unclean of itself. If there are things people think to be unclean then those things are unclean to those who deem them so. All things God created are clean, but there may be certain foods some people shouldn't eat for health reasons. The choice as to what foods we want to eat is ours. We need to be wise about what we put into our bodies and we need to thank God for His grace in providing such abundance for us to partake of.

### **VERSE 5**

**For it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer.**

The Word of God sanctifies, or sets things apart, to make them edible for us. What God gives us is right. The setting apart comes by adhering to God's Word and through prayer.

#### 1 Corinthians 10: 31

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

## **VERSE 6**

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

Paul told Timothy that if he put the brethren in remembrance of these things he will be a good minister in Christ Jesus. And like Paul and Timothy, we don't want to do anything that will bring reproach to the gospel of Christ. We want to feed people words of faith, and always give the words of the Lord and sound doctrine in Christ Jesus. His Word is the truth in love, and this is how it should be preached. We should all be vessels to receive grace from Him, and be true worshippers who worship God in spirit and in truth.

A good minister is every pastor, bishop, or teacher who is nourished up by the words of faith and the truth of God's full counsel. This good doctrine is Paul's gospel. It is sound and steadfast, and it will bring a saint to full maturity. There is no middle ground where the gospel is concerned; it is either the light of the doctrine of Christ, or it is the darkness of the devilish doctrines.

## **VERSE 7**

**But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.**

When the enemy is allowed, he is very specific in what he does. His main objective is to steal, kill, and destroy. When God allows – and only when God allows – the devil uses cunningly devised fables, devilish doctrines. Many will fall for his lies, especially in the end times. Satan's doctrines are what cause Christians to swerve from the one true doctrine, and then depart from the faith. There are endless winds of doctrines but only the true doctrine of Christ and Him crucified can grow us up in Christ. Everything was done at the cross. Any other gospel is a fable.

## **VERSE 8**

**For bodily exercise profits little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.**

### Bodily exercise

This is speaking of things we can do physically, i.e. religious demonstrations like forbidding to marry, abstaining from meats, keeping holy days, etc. These profit nothing without the love of God. A saint could have the most physically fit body but it would profit him or her little without the love of Jesus. Our physical body will break down with age. But the new glorious bodies we will receive when we get to heaven will last for eternity. This is when we will have a body like unto Christ's own glorious incorruptible body.

### Godliness

This is about growing up unto the promises of God, and growing up in Christ in all things. Godliness is profitable unto all things. It is pleasing and acceptable to God.

## **VERSES 9-10**

**This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance. For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe**

### Labor

Paul is thankful he labored and suffered for Jesus. His labor was in the good works that were fore-ordained by God for him before the foundation of the world.

### Suffer reproach

Trusting in the living God and standing for sound doctrine will bring reproach from those who don't put their trust in God and believe Him. Christ is a Savior for all men, but specifically for those who believe. Paul, by grace, trusted in the promises of God. He knew the temporal sufferings of this world were not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us. We may be pressed out of measure, but that is part of the good fight of faith. We shouldn't think it strange when the Lord sends trials into our lives.

### Romans 8: 28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

## **VERSE 11**

**These things command and teach.**

The word command means 'charged.' This is a charge to 'behold and take note.' Paul is instructing Timothy to charge the saints to keep the things that he taught them: good doctrine and the full counsel of God. Keeping Paul's gospel is vital and essential to growing up in Christ in all things and winning the crown. We are to grow up in godliness and grace, and in the knowledge of Christ Jesus. This gospel was laid out for Paul, and he brought it to us. Paul's gospel is vital if we are to be vessels of honor that add to the usefulness of our Husband.

## **VERSE 12**

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

### Let no man despise thy youth

Timothy was a young man when Paul wrote to him. He was young in age, but he was not young in the Lord. Because Timothy was a young man there were many in the church older than him. Timothy may have had a problem with the older saints resenting him teaching them about the scriptures.

## Be thou an example

Paul wanted Timothy to be a pattern for the believers in six different ways:

### 1) In word.

Paul wanted Timothy to be an example in his speech, to practice what he Preached and to live a life that spoke the truth in love.

### 2) In conversation.

What we talk about says a lot about us as far as our manner of life and our conduct, not in word only, but also in deed and truth.

### 3) In charity.

The really genuine examples come from within, such as love. The Holy Spirit sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts. Love is genuine because it is the grace of God. Love causes us to submit to Christ Jesus. The love of Christ enables us to love the unlovable. The world can only love its own; it can't love the unlovable.

### 4) In spirit.

Ministering by the Holy Spirit is amplified love. This is a life that is powerful in The fruit of the Spirit, i.e. tenderness, longsuffering, meekness, etc. This is a life that encourages others.

### 5) In faith.

Paul told Timothy he needed to be an example of faith. A life of faith is a life that abounds in hope and in pleasing the Lord. The Word works effectually in those who believe. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

### 6) In purity.

Purity is a cleanness in conscience. This is the heart of the chaste virgin in Christ, the heart of a life that only sees Jesus.

If every pastor standing in a pulpit today could fulfill all of these examples, it would be a different world. Pastors who are not living examples of these things can bring trouble to a church. Pastors are to let their light shine and be an example in order to win converts for Christ.

## **VERSE 13**

**Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.**

Give attendance is noted to three specific things:

### 1) Reading.

This is reading the scriptures. Paul admonished Timothy to never stop reading and studying the scriptures and letting the Word expand in his life.

2) Exhortation.

This is to give encouragement.

3) Doctrine.

Timothy was to teach sound doctrine. He did this by teaching Paul's bridal message, the whole counsel of God in Christ Jesus.

#### **VERSE 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.**

#### Neglect not the gift

Neglect means 'to be careless.' The gift being spoken of here is the Holy Spirit and we shouldn't make light of this.

#### Given by prophesy

Timothy received a special gift from God to minister the Word. The presbytery (elders) laid hands on Timothy to show him their support.

#### **VERSE 15**

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

#### Meditate upon these things

God speaks through meditation. To meditate is like chewing a cud. It involves taking in the Word and then allowing God to bring it back to mind in order to meditate upon on it.

#### Give thyself wholly to them

Timothy was to give himself wholly to God's calling to the ministry. We have been gifted a better thing, and we need to stir it up and meditate on it, and give ourselves wholly to it to become the readied wife.

#### **VERSE 16**

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

We need to live lives that are not wasted, but rather filled with all the fullness of God. Jesus wants us to win Him as Bridegroom. We need to heed what God has taught us in His doctrine as sound doctrine will deliver us to the end of the race.

## **CHAPTER 5**

In this chapter Paul instructs Timothy about order in the church. God isn't so much interested in church organization, but rather in church order. Pastors and elders should know how to behave in the house of God, as should all the church family as well. Christ is the head of the family, and everything is in order in the church because of Him. By grace, all the thoughts of the body of the church should be in fellowship with the gospel. Let this mind be in us that is also in Christ Jesus.

### **VERSE 1**

**Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father, and the younger men as brethren;**

#### Rebuke not an elder

Paul breaks this down in a family manner. This is speaking of an elder as pertaining to age, not church elders. The older men in the assembly should be treated as fathers and shown respect. They shouldn't be chastised with harsh words.

#### Younger men as brethren

These men are subordinate and they should be treated as younger brothers. These are the ones who will be future fathers.

### **VERSE 2**

**The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.**

#### The elder women

These women are to be treated as mothers and shown respect and affection, just as a natural mother would be shown these things. These women are a resource to all, but especially to the younger women. These elder women are often eager to help. They shouldn't be eager to chastise and rebuke, but to encourage in love.

#### Younger women

The younger women should be treated as sisters - not belittled or criticized, but treated with love and respect just as natural sisters. These women are the future mothers.

### **VERSE 3**

**Honor widows that are widows indeed.**

Widows 'indeed' are the true widows, and they have a wonderful testimony of faith. Their pleasure and rejoicing is in Christ. The Bible tells us to mark them and inquire of them.

### **VERSE 4**

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

If any widow have children

These widows are not widows 'indeed.' If widows have family members that are able to take care of them, the family should do that.

Requite their parents

This is a repayment to their parents for their upbringing. This is what God would have us to do.

**VERSE 5**

**Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusts in God, and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.**

Someone who is a widow indeed has no one to take care of her, and is therefore truly desolate - 'left alone.' The church takes care of them when they trust in the Lord, and are praying night and day.

**VERSE 6**

**But she that lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.**

Pleasure means 'sensuality,' and it is the opposite of trusting in God. She is dead while she lives means she is spiritually dead and has no spiritual maturity.

**VERSE 7**

**And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless.**

This is the fourth charge we read of in this epistle. This is speaking of the church making sure to take care of the widows indeed in order to be blameless.

**VERSE 8**

**But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.**

If any Christian doesn't provide for his own house he is worse than an unsaved man. This goes totally against what God expects Christian men to do.

**VERSE 9**

**Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man.**

The church is not responsible to care for a widow under the age of 60.

**VERSE 10**

**Well reported of for good works; if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.**

There are some good qualifications for the widow to be brought in and cared for by the church. This is like reading about the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31.

### **VERSE 11**

**But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry;**

Immature widows who behave like children should not receive the same honor as the widows indeed. They are still attached to the things of this world, and have cast off their first faith. They will be looking to remarry. This shows their first love wasn't that precious to them after all.

### **VERSE 12**

**Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.**

Damnation is not speaking of hell or eternal death. When a saint turns to selfish wants and desires, they lose the opportunity of finishing with a full joy and winning Christ.

Revelation 3: 11

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

### **VERSES 13-14**

**And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.**

The younger women should marry again and raise families if they are able. This will keep them from getting into trouble because of idleness.

### **VERSES 15-16**

**For some are already turned aside after Satan. If any man or woman that believes have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.**

Families that have widows should give aid to them. The church's only responsibility is to help those women who are widows indeed.

### **VERSE 17**

**Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor; especially those who labor in the Word and doctrine.**

Not all elders rule the same way; here Paul is addressing those elders who rule well. Rule means 'to preside; to stand beside.' These are worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the Word and preach sound doctrine. These pastors put a lot of time and effort into their pastorship. The double honor speaks not only of the spiritual support they receive, but also to financial support.

### **VERSE 18**

**For the scripture says, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treads out the corn. And, The laborer is worthy of his reward.**

#### Muzzle the ox

Those pastors who rule well are worthy of all the honor and provision due them. We can't muzzle them, so to speak.

#### Deuteronomy 25: 4

Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treads out the corn.

#### The laborer is worthy of his reward

We shouldn't be critical of the living a pastor makes. God gives them what they have, and we should be thankful for what he gives His pastors that rule well, and they should thank God for what He gives them.

### **VERSE 19**

**Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.**

Paul instructed Timothy not to receive an accusation against an elder unless it is borne out by two or three witnesses. Elders are human and can fail; some do. Only God abides faithful. He sometimes has to bring that fact to some. When an elder has a failure it is the other church elders that go to him. Spiritual elders have to uplift spiritual elders. This is God's way, and God's way is always right. God heals, restores, and makes better because He loves all His children.

### **VERSE 20**

**Them that sin rebuke before all, that others may also fear.**

#### Them that sin

This is speaking of those who sin before all, and continue to sin. They are to be rebuked before all. In scripture we are encouraged to cover our brother's sin:

#### Galatians 6: 1

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

An example of continuing in sin is the man in 1 Corinthians chapter 5 who fornicated with his father's wife. Despite all attempts to stop him, he continued in that sin. He was cast out, but later was reinstated back into the fold when he repented of his sin. Those who continue in sin have swerved from the truth and compromised their race to win Christ.

This verse is often taken out of context. It is so important for us to know how to rightly divide the truth. The devil tries to twist scripture as he did when tempting Christ in the wilderness. Christ gives us His mind to know His Word, and He enables us to know how to rightly divide the truth. This verse can be taken out of context because so many want to serve the creature more than the Creator, i.e. they want to serve the flesh and turn to self-righteousness.

#### Rebuke before all

It is the responsibility of the pastor or the elders to rebuke such sin. This is for the sake of the person sinning, and especially for the edification of the body, to rebuke that sin openly. Those who continue in sin are to be rebuked before all so that others may be deterred from continuing in sin. If such sin continues it can defile the whole meeting. We should understand that it is not the person being rebuked, but the sin. This may seem harsh, but there are consequences of sin and departing from the truth.

#### **VERSE 21**

**I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.**

#### Elect angels

This is the fifth charge. Elect angels are those saints who are running the race to win Jesus as Bridegroom.

#### Without preferring one before another

The rebuking of sin should be done without partiality or prejudice. Those doing the rebuking should not be respecters of persons; we are to submit one to another as unto the Lord. We are always to honor a son of God. We don't have to rub elbows with everyone, but we are to love all in Christ's body equally. Every member of the body of Christ is absolutely vital to the body.

#### Galatians 3: 28

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Every person in the body is a treasured vessel loved by God.

#### **VERSE 22**

**Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partakers of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.**

### Lay hands suddenly on no man

This means not to be too hasty in ordaining men to the ministry. They should prove themselves as far as knowing and keeping God's Word. Many churches today try to keep everybody busy and make them feel special because of some title they were given. This is something pastors or others may give them but it may not necessarily be from God.

### Keep yourself pure

Paul told Timothy not to partake of other men's sins. If someone enters a church and preaches a watered-down gospel, they are entering into other men's sins. An "anything goes" people-pleaser church is not pleasing to God. Paul told Timothy "preach the Word." He was not to swerve from the true gospel.

### **VERSE 23**

**Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.**

This means not to drink water only, but also drink a little wine for the stomach's sake. Wine in small amounts can act as an aid to the body. Science has found some medicinal ingredients in wine that are beneficial. Wine in excess is always troublesome, and can shipwreck a life.

Wine also speaks of the Holy Spirit stirring up and encouraging us in the Lord. We have a vital need for the Holy Spirit, because He is absolutely essential for enabling us to win Christ. The Holy Spirit takes the things of Christ and makes them ours, and He sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts. The wine of the Spirit renews life, grows a life up to maturity, and lifts a heavy heart.

### **VERSE 24**

**Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.**

Some men's sins are 'open beforehand' means that their sins are manifest and can be seen. These are already under sentence in advance. This is speaking of man's judgment, not God's. Some seem to get away with wrongdoing, but the sin follows after and is judged. There is no escaping them because all are made manifest in time. These sins sow discord in a meeting, as well as other things the Lord would hate. Those sowing discord in the meeting must be dealt with by the pastor or elders of the church.

### **VERSE 25**

**Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.**

The good works of some are manifest openly, but some are hidden that we don't know about. All will be made known in due time. God brings everything to light because He is light.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **VERSE 1**

**Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, that the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed.**

There were slaves in Paul's day and he wrote that they should consider their masters worthy of honor. He told them to be faithful to their masters just as they would be faithful to Christ. This verse is concerning those masters who are nonbelievers, and the position they hold should be honored as unto the Lord. Some masters (i.e. bosses) who despitefully use those under them are still to be respected. It isn't that they deserve to be honored, but it is because the Lord expects this. Our lives should be about winning Christ. God puts up whom he will to be over us. He does this for our good, and for our spiritual growth. We are to do everything as unto the Lord.

### **VERSE 2**

**And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.**

This is concerning masters or bosses who believe in God. Many of the slaves in that day may have resented their Christian masters because they did not set them free. All under Christian masters or bosses should be faithful in service to them. We should not be resentful toward, or be envious of, the masters or bosses over us. They are our brothers and we should realize the positions they are in carry a lot of responsibility. We should do them service from the heart, as unto the Lord.

### **VERSE 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;**

If we try to do things ourselves we will fail. In the Word of God we find love, joy, and peace. When we become unruly we are without testimony because we have left wholesome words. In the Greek wholesome words are the same as sound doctrine. Sound doctrine is not in word only, but also in deed and in truth. Leaving wholesome words leaves us weak, and vulnerable to becoming tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. Sound doctrine is free of error and so needed for those wanting to win the crown.

Verses 4-6 show the severe effects of turning from sound doctrine. When we turn from sound doctrine we blaspheme God.

#### **VERSE 4**

**He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmising,**

Any man teaching anything other than the gospel given to the apostle Paul is bewitched and proud. God sees the proud afar off. Proud also translates as 'a fool.' Doting means 'to be sick; to have a diseased appetite.' The appetite of the proud is not centered on the Word of God.

#### **VERSE 5**

**Perverse disputing of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness; from such withdraw thyself.**

##### Perverse disputing

We are to withdraw ourselves from those who preach anything other than the true gospel. When people withdraw themselves from the true gospel, they try to distort it to fit their own lifestyle. Once they start twisting the truth nothing lines up, and sin begets sin. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. One step away leads to another step away, and so on. We need to give more earnest heed to sound doctrine. There are consequences for leaving wholesome words.

##### Destitute of the truth

Being destitute of the truth means to not have the truth and being robbed of the truth.

##### Supposing that gain is godliness

Being destitute of the truth will cause people to think what they can gain materially is godliness. This is the so-called "prosper and be in health doctrine" which is contrary to God's truth. Some think that if a person is healthy, wealthy, and wise it makes them a godly person. This is simply not so. Paul instructed Timothy to stay away from this kind of teaching, because gain in worldly things is not necessarily godly. We must be willing to let God prosper us as He sees fit.

##### Colossians 3:2

Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth.

What material things gained on earth have no worth in heaven.

#### **VERSE 6**

**But godliness with contentment is great gain.**

Godliness is Christ in us, and we should live in the Spirit. If we do this, the righteousness within us will manifest outwardly and contentment is learned.

##### Philippians 4:11

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

Paul knew how to suffer need and how to have plenty. Whatever Paul's circumstances were, he knew Christ was there to strengthen him. Godliness with contentment is great gain, and it is a lesson we need to learn just as Paul did. A 'show' of godliness is not true godliness. True godliness brings contentment, and great gain. When we are content in the Lord we have everything. Knowing that brings joy, and peace, and praise, and thanksgiving to our lives. We see how rich we are in glory for eternity.

### **VERSE 7**

**For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.**

What material things we possess will not go with us when we go to meet the Lord. We came into this world with nothing and that is precisely how we will go out. Only those things done for Christ will last. Job knew his riches were given by God. Losing them didn't bring Job down. He knew God could give riches or take them away as He saw fit.

#### **Job 1:21**

Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither; for the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

### **VERSE 8**

**And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.**

Most everyone has more than food to eat and clothes to wear. Are we content in our hearts with food and clothes? Our hearts should be full of thanksgiving and praise for all God gives us, no matter how little or how much. We need such things as food, clothing, housing, etc., but God knows our need, and He supplies what we need when we need it. It will be in His timing, not ours. We need to learn to be content with what God gives us each day.

### **VERSE 9**

**But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.**

Those who desire to be rich fall into temptations, snares, and lusts. A snare is a trap, and a trap needs bait. Satan will use money as bait to draw people in. The ones wanting to be rich will take the bait money. Being rich doesn't make people fall into temptation; it is those who want to be rich that fall into temptation. God doesn't care so much about what we have, but with what has us.

### **VERSE 10**

**For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

Money itself is not the root of all evil, it is the love and desire for it that is the root of all evil. People that desire riches will have a life consumed with gaining wealth. They will pierce themselves through with many troubles and much sorrow. Seeking the world's wealth is an insatiable coveting that leads to heartbreak. A heart set on things of this earth is a heart that is not set on Jesus. Our identity is in Christ. The love of money can cause a life to be squandered away. It can cause a loss for those things Christ wants us to have that last forever.

### **VERSE 11**

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

#### Man of God

God has a vision pertaining to winning Christ for those who do not depart sound doctrine. A man of God is a mature son, appropriate for the likes of Timothy, and for the likes of those wanting to win Christ.

#### Flee these things

Paul told Timothy to flee false teaching and seeking earthly riches. Flee doesn't mean to simply stand and fight temptation, it means to get totally away from them. Only a mature son of God could flee these things, because it takes maturity to do it. Maturity comes by grace, which causes us to grow up in all things in Christ. Those drawn to truth and light can flee these things by God's power.

#### Follow after

The things Paul told Timothy to follow after are all the fruit of the Spirit, and represent Christ in us. His complete grace has called us, and He is molding and making us after God's will. He completes us in Jesus, and we complete Him.

### **VERSE 12**

**Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou are also called, and hath professed a good profession before many witnesses.**

#### Fight the good fight of faith

This is a fight, but not of flesh and blood. By faith we fight spiritual wickedness all around us. The devil is out to steal, kill, and destroy. Everything our Lord has encouraged in our lives is what the devil wants to get at, but he can only do what God allows him to do. We put on the whole armor of God and fight the battles that were prepared for us, the battles He has already won. We put our faith in Him to fight for us. We are good soldiers when we endure hardness in our quest to attain Christ as Bridegroom. The only way we can fight or contend for the beautiful courtship with Christ is by faith. Faith pleases the Father.

#### Lay hold on eternal life

Lay hold on means 'to seize; take it; catch it.' Lay hold on eternal life which is a gift.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sin has wages that are paid, but eternal life is a gift God gives to all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and who receive Him as their personal Savior.

Romans 11:29

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

The gifts and calling of God can't be revoked. God does not give gifts and then want them back. When He gives us eternal life through Christ Jesus it's forever. A gift can't be earned; it is freely given.

**VERSES 13-14**

**I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickens all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; that thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:**

We are to love the Word of God, and embrace and treasure Christ Jesus. The duration of this sixth charge is to be in effect until Jesus appears. What Timothy was being charged with was to be charged to other pastors and teachers: to fight the good fight of faith, to follow after righteousness, and to lay hold on eternal life.

**VERSE 15**

**Which in His times He shall show, who is the blessed and only potentate, the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS;**

Potentate means 'capable ruler.' Everyone will see that Christ is Lord some day. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

**VERSE 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 honor and power everlasting. Amen.**

Who only hath immortality

Who only has immortality? Christ Jesus. This refers to the mortal body dwelling in the light.

No man has seen

This is referring to the natural man. Man's own wisdom cannot comprehend the things of God. Not only can the natural man not comprehend the things of God, he can't even come to God with his own natural instincts.

1 Corinthians 2:10

But God has revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.

**VERSE 17**

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

Rich in this world

This seventh charge Paul gave to Timothy is that the rich of the world not let their wealth make them high minded, feeling like they are better than others, and to not trust in uncertain riches. They should rather put their trust in God who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

God's riches

God's riches go far beyond the world's riches and are everlasting. Those of who are privileged to know the riches of His glory should never be high minded about it. Our testimony should be one of humility and thanksgiving for what we have in the truth of Paul's gospel.

**VERSE 18**

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

God has blessed some Christians with riches, and God expects them to be rich in good works to distribute their wealth. This refers to taking care of some of people's legitimate needs. Wealthy people in the meeting are to be taught what God expects them to do with their wealth, and that includes distributing it to the needs of others.

**VERSE 19**

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

If the rich heed the teaching of God's word, they will know that their worldly goods will not go with them when they depart this life. They should put their trust in Christ's riches, and always remember the wealth of the world will fade away. Only the riches in Christ will last for eternity.

**VERSE 20**

**O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoid profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called;**

Keep that which is committed to thy trust

This refers to the gospel given to Paul by Christ. Paul reminded Timothy to keep the sound doctrine that was taught to him.

Avoid profane and vain babblings

Timothy didn't need to answer every vain question that came his way.

Oppositions of science

Some scientists think they are smarter than God, but they are not. They want to oppose God in everything, but rest assured - God will always have the last word.

**VERSE 21**

**Which some profess have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.**

These are ones that missed the mark.