

SECOND TIMOTHY

Paul wrote this departing letter of love to Timothy about a year after he wrote the first letter. That first letter was – and still is – encouraging. And the second letter is even more so. Paul knew very well the fight that God had graced his life with, and he encouraged Timothy (and us) that time is very short and that we have a fight as well. But all the fighting and trials and tribulations are dwarfed in light of the rewards at the end of a well-fought fight of faith. The well-fought fight of faith is a fight that finishes with a full joy. Only grace can cause us to love Christ's appearing. By God's grace we run the race to win Christ as Bridegroom and to be part of that joyous first trump rapture.

Without a doubt Timothy is more apprehensive and fearful at this time because Paul is still in prison. Many who had joyfully fought the good fight of faith had despaired at this time, and many had forsaken Paul. Perhaps even Timothy may was tempted at times to quit. In this letter Paul encouraged Timothy to “stay with the stuff” and stand in defense of the gospel he was so adamant about. Paul understood what Timothy was going through because he himself wanted to quit at times. Only the grace of God can lift us out of our doubt and fear and give us an inheritance. We can light off our camels after a trip through the wilderness singing for joy. This all happens by God's grace through faith. The end result – winning Christ – will be worth it all.

CHAPTER 1

VERSE 1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

An apostle

Paul the apostle magnified nothing but Christ. He came to Timothy as an apostle of Jesus Christ. It wasn't by Paul's will to be and apostle, it was by God's will.

The will of God

God's will is that all men be saved and come to a full knowledge of the truth; the exact and complete knowledge of the truth. The perfect anointing was on Paul's life by the will of God.

The promise of life

The promise of life speaks of eternal life in Christ Jesus. This is always God's will. We live and breathe and have our very life in Christ Jesus. Jesus is to be magnified in all things. His appearing is very near, and we need to hold fast our crown. Those who love His appearing could at any moment hear His voice saying “Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away.”

VERSE 2

To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

My dearly beloved son

There is an urgency for Timothy to feel the love Paul has for him. Timothy was Paul's son in the faith, and in this verse Paul is coming to him as a father. Timothy was very precious to Paul because Timothy was his son according to the gospel Paul delivered to him.

Grace, mercy, and peace

When we come to God we receive grace and then we receive mercy. When grace and mercy become a reality in our lives we receive peace. These all come from the Lord, and he uses us to pour them forth to one another. The Trinity is at work here:

1) Grace

God's grace always comes first. It is all powerful and sufficient for all things.

2) Mercy

Mercy is Christ Jesus dying for us so that we are not condemned before God. Mercy through Christ's blood encourages our hearts that we are no longer guilty, but rather washed whiter than snow in God's eyes.

3) Peace

This is peace that passes all understanding. It comes from the Holy Spirit who is the comforter and teacher, and He leads us into all the truth. He will take the things of Christ and make them ours. He sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts.

The three persons of the Trinity work together to produce perfection. The harmony of Christ is in us when we realize how much He loves us. We learn to rest in Him.

VERSE 3

I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

I thank God

All glory and all thanks go to God. We are to glory in Jesus, and magnify Him in all things, and for all things.

Remembrance of thee

Paul constantly remembered Timothy before the Lord's throne of grace. The love Paul had for Timothy was the love of Christ. That was the grace of God working in Paul. There is nothing in us that is good; anything good in us is found in our Savior Jesus Christ. Any love we have is all in Him and Paul knew this. God brought the loving and caring Father's heart into Paul's heart.

God's love in his heart caused Paul to want everyone to grow up in Christ and win the crown. Christ in us is our hope of glory.

VERSE 4

Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;

Greatly desiring to see thee

Paul greatly desired to see Timothy – not just because he loved him, but because he also wanted to fellowship with a brother of like precious faith. No doubt there were many things Paul wanted to share with Timothy before his departure.

Mindful of thy tears

Paul knew Timothy was hurting because he was in battle. It could be that Timothy was fearful of being imprisoned also. It would appear the enemy was bombarding Timothy with lies trying to get him to swerve from the gospel. The feet of the four living ones are straight, and they keep their eyes on the blood. This is exactly how we should run the race to win God's best. If we are to reign with Christ we will suffer with Christ. We need to fervently pray for one another as we run the race that by His grace we finish with a full joy and share in all His glory.

Filled with joy

Paul was joyful in all his suffering. At the time of writing this letter he was about to go to the Lord as a full overcoming bridal saint. What a beautiful circumstance to be in, and that same circumstance can be ours if, by grace, we finish our race with a full joy too. This is what God wants for all believers: joy unspeakable and full of glory.

VERSE 5

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

Unfeigned faith

The reason Paul didn't sink into despair in his dire circumstances was because he rejoiced in his unfeigned faith. He was so encouraged in faith that he encouraged Timothy in it. Faith is always the victory because nothing can stand against the Word of God. Even the devil flees from it.

Lois and Eunice

These two faithful women had that unfeigned faith, and Paul was confident it was also in Timothy. By God's grace He gives us that unfeigned faith too. All the victories of faith in Hebrews 11 are yet to be authored and finished in us in Christ. There is a better thing for us. Faith is what pleases God; it is impossible to please Him without faith.

VERSE 6

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

Wherefore

Wherefore indicates because of everything the Holy Ghost put on Paul's heart to tell Timothy in verses 1-5.

Stir up

Stir up means 'to rekindle into a flame.' Paul wanted to call these things to Timothy's remembrance so that he would stir up the gift of God which was within him. The Holy Spirit is that gift. We stir up the Holy Spirit in us by praising, worshipping and testifying of God and Christ Jesus. When we testify of Christ we should feel the Spirit rekindle in us. When we are despondent we can just start praising God and Christ Jesus to stir up the gift within us. Then we can be joyful in the Lord.

Putting on of my hands

This indicates that Timothy had received the anointing. When God gives the anointing it confirms that the one anointed was prepared for it by Him. God is very specific and precise about who He anoints.

VERSE 7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

The spirit of fear

Fear means 'timidity; cowardice.' We have all had our own conversations with the spirit of fear. Fear has torment.

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear: because fear hath torment. He that fears is not made perfect in love.

Fear is one of Satan's tools because it comes from his realm. When someone is trying to testify to others about Christ Jesus, Satan brings opposition to the testimony and tries to stop those testifying through fear of the opposition.

Spirit of power

The word power comes from the Greek word 'dunamis' which means 'strength; power; ability.' It is the root word for our English word dynamite, or dynamo. This power is Holy Spirit power, and we receive this power when we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. God has given us all the power we need to overcome all when we have this gift. It is a gift from God; it is nothing we can earn. Once we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us He is there to stay.

Spirit of love

This is referring to God's divine love which is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is God's gift to us.

Romans 5:5

Hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

The Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to love one another. We rest in Christ's perfect love, and perfect love casts out fear. This is what it is to know the love of Christ and enter in to the depths of the truth. Without His love we will never know God's deepest truths. The bride will live these truths, and rejoice in her bridegroom's love for her. As we believe more and more of the Word of God our love will keep compounding and compounding like the ever-expanding wineskin.

Sound mind

This is referring to a disciplined mind. We have power for service, love for worship, and a sound mind to hold both in harmony. These should all be operative in our lives. Power operates through love, and love flows out to others through the power and a sound mind. The sound mind comes from understanding and believing in the grace of God. In grace we understand we have peace with God, and when we grow in grace and knowledge of Him we can then have the peace of God. A sound mind speaks of a settled and stable mind that is not tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine.

Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.

VERSE 8

Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

Testimony of our Lord

Paul told Timothy not to be ashamed of his testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. Timothy wouldn't be able to proclaim Christ Jesus if he were ashamed of His testimony.

Me His prisoner

If Timothy were ashamed of Paul's imprisonment, he couldn't make Paul's gospel his own. Paul told Timothy to suffer the afflictions of the gospel through the power God gave him. Paul wasn't a prisoner of Rome; he was the Lord's prisoner of love.

Partakers of the afflictions

Partake means 'to suffer hardship in company with.' Timothy was probably persecuted for preaching the gospel because Paul was in prison. The opposition may have caused Timothy shame and tears, and served to dampen his boldness in the Spirit. Paul wanted Timothy to accept the afflictions that came for the sake of the gospel according to the power of God. If we are willing to suffer with Christ, we will reign with Him. We need to fight the good fight of faith,

and endure hardness as good soldiers. We are privileged to fight the good fight, and we need to thank God for the opportunity.

VERSE 9

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Saved and called

We are saved and called according to God's purpose and His grace. He saves us, He calls us, and He chooses us. It is His grace that is working and it is performing the good pleasure of His will in us. We are His workmanship, and we can only please Him by placing our faith in Him and His purpose for our lives. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Not according to our works

God didn't call any of His children on the basis of what they can or cannot do. God calls us by grace according to His purpose for our lives. This was given to us in Christ Jesus before the world ever came into being. God had His plan in place long before any of us came along, and His purpose is to make us new creations in Christ Jesus. God predestined the new creation, and we align ourselves to His purpose.

VERSE 10

But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Made manifest

God's purpose was made known by the appearance of Christ Jesus. All of God's purposes and promises are in His Son Jesus, and He is the center of everything to His children. Christ, and us in Christ, was before the world began. It is being revealed in the Church Age. Christ was born a man, then died a Lamb. He conquered sin and death, and those of us who believe Him are His forever.

Abolished death

Jesus came to save us by dying on the cross to free us from our debt of sin. We who believe Him have been given eternal life, and we need never fear death. The word abolished means 'to render entirely idle.' When we die physically we go to the Lord to live forever with Him. It was through the gospel that eternal life and immortality was made known.

VERSE 11

Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Paul was not responsible for his calling or commission. He was called and commissioned according to God's purpose. God called Paul to preach to the Gentiles he had once persecuted and killed. Paul was the chief of sinners, but God chose him to receive the gospel for the Church

Age. Paul's gospel reveals God's plan to seek among the Gentiles to find a bride for His Son Jesus.

VERSE 12

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.

I suffer these things

Paul was in prison because of his apostleship. That is why he suffered hardships. It is given to us not only to suffer with Christ, but also to reign jointly together with Him. Paul was not ashamed of the gospel that caused him to be beaten, shipwrecked, imprisoned, and eventually killed. He stood for the gospel and endured the hardships by the faith he had in Jesus. All who are willing to suffer with Christ and bear His reproach will also suffer for His sake. The eternal glory offered for the suffering is far greater than the trials that last a short season. Christ's bride will be like Him. Paul knew he was not responsible for being in prison, and he also knew the situation he was in was designed to fulfill God's purpose in his life. Paul had faith in the Lord to strengthen and keep him in all circumstances.

Against that day

'That day' is the Lord's day that begins when the first trumpet sounds and the bride is caught up to heaven. This is the time Christ will be crowned KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. He won't be crowned until His bride is by His side.

We could never get to verse 13 without what was said in previous verses. We could never understand verse 13 without knowing and believing verse 12. Paul was telling Timothy (and us) that he believed God was able to keep that which he had committed unto Him against that day. We shouldn't fret about circumstances, but instead believe Him who is faithful and true. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. We are precious lumps of clay to Him, and He wants to mold us and make us into His masterpiece. Grace assures this to us because Christ is in us.

VERSE 13

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Hold fast

Paul is telling Timothy to hold fast the gospel of Christ Jesus. The words 'hold fast' should get our attention. This isn't speaking of salvation because Jesus holds that. This is speaking of being part of the elect of God, and by His grace, becoming a bride for Jesus. The elect are those who are running in a race to become full overcoming saints to win Christ, the prize of God's high calling. We are to hold fast the exalted crown of righteousness that we have been given.

Revelation 3:11

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

Sound words

Sound words refer to Paul's gospel. The form of sound words shows there is pattern as the word form means 'pattern.' There is a pattern in these sound words, and Paul told Timothy to stand in this pattern. Our fellowship should always be in the gospel given to Paul by Jesus Christ himself. The pattern of these sound words is the bridal calling.

The value of Paul's gospel cannot be compared. As Jesus Christ boldly declared himself the Son of God, and Paul, in the same boldness of spirit, reveals himself as the vessel chosen to receive revelation of the mystery of Christ and the church. Paul should never be worshipped, but we should be thankful that God chose him to reveal the mystery to us and that he always did according to the will of God. We are to follow Paul as he followed Christ.

Paul was not ashamed of the gospel, and he knew the revelation of the mystery was the mark for the prize of God in Christ Jesus. He would preach no other gospel, and we should stand in the sound words that were given to him, because this is the true gospel.

There is much error in preaching today. Below are some reasons for this:

1) Preachers don't know the gospel of Paul.

This is only because they don't want to know. God has made it very clear that he wants all men to know the gospel given to Paul.

2) Preachers know the gospel but choose to preach other doctrine.

Any doctrine other than the one given to Paul is devilish doctrine. God wants us to come to a full knowledge of His truth, not a watered-down version of it. Paul's gospel is the full knowledge of the truth that came directly from Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:25

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.

Paul's gospel completes the Word of God; it is His high counsel. The bridal message in God's high counsel will produce a bride for Christ Jesus who will complete Him.

VERSE 14

That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwells in us.

The gospel was committed unto Timothy, and he was to keep it by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is like depositing power into our account, and this is the power that is for us when we are

filled with the Holy Spirit. This good thing is far more than all the treasures in Fort Knox. The gospel was committed unto Timothy because he was to become Paul's successor and continue to preach the sound words after Paul was taken to heaven.

VERSE 15

This thou know, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

All in Asia

This refers to religious leaders, not the people. These are the church leaders who were preaching the gospel, and the elders and others who had responsibility in the church. These are those who forsook the message Paul preached. The world today is very religious, but the true gospel is not preached in many of the churches. Many have turned away from the true gospel to preach what the people want to hear.

Phygellus

This brother's name means 'a little fugitive.' You don't have to be a big fugitive to turn away from the truth. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. It doesn't take much turning away to miss the mark for the prize of God's high calling.

Hermogenes

This man's name means 'lucky born; fortunate in the natural.' Being fortunate in the natural may cause some to turn away from the suffering because they don't see a need to do it. The sufferings hurt, but the joy they bring when we leave this earth will be more than worth it.

These two brothers turned away from Paul's gospel and preached a more popular doctrine. When they stopped seeing things in faith they turned, or swerved away, from the true gospel.

VERSE 16

The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain;

The name Onesiphorus means 'beneficial; advantage bringer,' and this speaks of those who heed the gospel. This brother saw to Paul's needs. He didn't care that Paul was in prison.

VERSE 17

But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.

Onesiphorus sought Paul out. It refreshed Paul when someone sought him out to hear the gospel.

VERSE 18

The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day; and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou know very well.

Ephesus means 'fully purposed.' What a wonderful place to be. May we continue to seek out Paul's message diligently. He that wills to know will know Paul's gospel. This is what God desires for all of His children.

CHAPTER 2

VERSE 1

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Paul encouraged Timothy to be strong in the grace of Christ Jesus. Strong means 'to increase in it; be bold in it.'

2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

9) And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10) Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distress for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

How do we become strong in His grace? By learning of our weaknesses in ourselves, and knowing we are not able to bring about anything by ourselves concerning God's purpose for our lives. It takes God's grace to make us strong in Christ Jesus. We need to be bold in grace because grace is like no other thing. It is never-ending and will never let us down.

Psalms 84:11

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.

It is of our heavenly Father to give grace that is all sufficient, and He gives it freely. God's grace separated Paul from so many because of his love, his tenderness, and his encouragement. He spoke the truth in love, and that truth in love is how we grow up in Christ in all things. Without the love of God in our lives we profit nothing. The motivation for everything is love.

VERSE 2

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Paul wanted Timothy to take the gospel he heard from him and preach no other gospel. He wanted Timothy to take it to faithful men who will pass it along. In order for us to teach others we have to be taught. Paul's gospel came from Christ himself. The gospel that teaches the

mystery of Christ and the church is the only true gospel. It is the gospel of the glory that pertains to the bride, the Lamb's wife. We must stay with the true gospel and hear what God says, not what some men say He said. We can be bold and confident in the gospel of grace and the glory to take us all the way to the throne of Christ.

VERSE 3

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Paul is likening Christians to good soldiers. When a soldier goes off to war to engage the enemy, he leaves everything he loves in the natural behind. When he steps onto the battlefield the fight is the only thing on his mind. If he is not fully prepared to fight he will lose. Without the whole armor of God, Christians are done, because we can't fight the good fight of faith without that full armor. God has called us to endure hardness from battle to battle. It is in His faithfulness that He afflicts us. God appoints or allows every battle we face. He actually does the fighting. Our fight is having faith in what He is doing. This is why we can be more than conquerors through Christ Jesus. Enduring hardness is not appealing to the flesh, but it is necessary so that God can fulfill His purpose in us.

VERSE 4

No man that wars entangles himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

We shouldn't let what we do in life define us, but we should do everything heartily as unto the Lord with Christ at the center. He should always be our first love. We need to forget those things that are behind, and let them go. Winning Christ is greater than anything we could accomplish on our own. What Christ offers is forever. Through Him, God provides everything we need to accomplish winning Him and the crown. God wants to make good soldiers of us.

VERSE 5

And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

Here Christians are likened to athletes. The only way we can run the race is by God's rules. Lawfully striving shows it will be by faith. This is the time when we put on the whole armor of God and let the sword of the Spirit lead the way.

Ephesians 6: 12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rules of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

The goal in any race is to win the prize and be crowned. We can't ever hope to win the crown if we don't enter the race. There are no shoe-ins to run the race and win Christ Jesus as Bridegroom. We are called to submit to God, and let Him mold us and make us after His will.

VERSE 6

The husbandman that labors must be first partaker of the fruit.

The husbandman

Paul writes of Christians as farmers. Farmers plant seeds in the ground and then with hope look forward to the harvest. The Christian plants the seeds of the gospel, continues planting the seeds, and looks forward with hope and joy waiting for a harvest that is eternal.

That labors

In verses 5 and 6 Paul encouraged Timothy to drink deeper and deeper from the cup of salvation and to take dead aim at the mark and the crowning. There is a laboring that is required if we are to take part in the crowning, but this word laboring has nothing to do with ourselves or anything we could do. It is all of God who is rich in mercy, who loves us with a very great love. The laboring is in the grace of God, and we can go boldly before His throne of grace for all we need. His grace is sufficient for every need we have, and it is freely given. We battle by faith in the grace of God, and we grow up in grace, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

First partaker of the fruits

Before he can sow seeds of the gospel, any husbandman must first take in the message in for himself. The gospel he takes in must be understood and practiced in his own life before he can pass it on to others.

VERSE 7

Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

We take in the gospel and consider what it says, and then the Lord gives us understanding. Paul was not sheepish about what he knew. He was bold about his knowledge in the Lord. He didn't waver in this knowledge, but instead stood and withstood for the gospel of Christ Jesus. The word consider means 'understand; heed to it.' We should not swerve from the gospel, but run the race with straight feet and keep our eyes on the precious blood that saved us. When we enter in and go deeper and deeper into Paul's gospel, we will begin to fully understand God's love for us, and that Christ in us is the hope of glory. All of the hidden mysteries throughout the Word of God are unlocked and revealed through Paul's beautiful message of grace and glory.

Colossians 1:25

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.

Fulfill means 'to complete; to finish.' Those of us who are privileged to run the race are not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. We stand and withstand and truly rejoice in that beautiful gospel as we look forward to the day we will be completed.

VERSE 8

Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

It is in Paul's gospel where we see the depths of the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection, and also what His headship to the church means. All of this is made known through Paul's gospel, and without it we wouldn't have the depth of the new creation life we read of in chapters 6 through 8 in the book of Romans. The gospel Christ gave to Paul encompasses God's entire plan and purpose for the Church Age.

Ephesians 2:6

He hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

We are seated with Christ in the heavenlies from the moment we are born again. We are forever part of God's family. We are heirs but we can be joint heirs with Christ Jesus if so be we are willing to suffer with Him and run the race to win Him.

Paul saw things in the power of Christ's resurrection and what it could do. No one else saw these things until the Lord, by His Spirit, revealed them to Paul. The things revealed to him were the deeper things of God; His full counsel. Moses knew God face to face as a friend, but Paul knew Him face to face as a lover and a Bridegroom. Paul had a vision of the finished work of the cross, and the resurrection power that was so complete that it had total victory over sin and death, and he saw that the old creation was dead. We can rejoice and praise God for this finished work of the cross, and that Christ lives in us. He loves us very deeply. Paul saw the grace of God, and by grace he lived the grace of God. Paul knew he was already seated in the heavens in Christ, and all of us who believe Him are already seated there as well. Our citizenship is in heaven and always will be.

VERSE 9

Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the Word of God is not bound.

Paul suffered trouble as if he were an evil doer because of the gospel - even in prison. He endured much trouble for the sake of the body of Christ. Regardless of what situation Paul was in he knew the gospel was not bound, and that it would continue to be preached by Timothy and others like him.

VERSE 10

Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Endure all things

Endure means 'to stay under.' Paul continued to endure all things for the sake of the gospel so that God's elect could obtain full salvation in Christ. The full salvation is winning Christ as

Bridegroom and sharing in all His glory. By the grace of God we can endure all things because He is faithful and true. Because of that we can be sure that He will perform the good work He began in us. We may murmur and complain at times, especially when He is cutting His diamonds into beautiful jewels. He loves us, and He is very patient, longsuffering, and understanding. If we are obedient as He is molding and making us after His will, the reward will be totally astounding.

For the elect's sake

The elect are the ones running the race to win Christ and the right to rule and reign with Him. Paul endured so that we can obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory by God's grace and love.

Eternal glory

Eternal glory speaks of a reward, and the reward is the crown of righteousness which the Lord will give in that day to those who are looking, longing for, and loving His appearing.

VERSE 11

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him.

The phrase 'faithful saying' can be translated 'faithful is the Word.' If we die together with Christ, we shall also live together with Him. Christ's blood secured our salvation, and our home in heaven is for all eternity. His precious shed blood covers all our sins and makes it possible for us to live with Him. Everyone who has accepted the Lord Jesus will live with Him because of Him. This is a gift from our Savior to all believers. It is nothing that can be worked for or earned. He gave us this gift freely because of His great love for us. The Romans didn't take His life on the cross - He willingly gave His life for us. How beautiful that the gift He gave to all of us who have accepted Him as Savior can never be taken from us.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

VERSE 12

If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us:

Everyone born again in Christ becomes a child of God and an heir of God. We are babes when we are first born again. If we want to reign with Him we will have to grow up in Him to become mature overcoming Christians. Christ won't marry baby Christians, so growing up in Him is essential if we want to become part of His bride. If we want to enter into matrimony with Christ, we will be willing to suffer with Him. If we deny the suffering, He will deny us the crown. This is speaking to reward for the eternally secure in Christ. It does not mean He casts us out or that we would lose our salvation.

John 6: 37

All that the Father gives me shall come to me; and him that comes to me I will in no wise cast out.

Deuteronomy 31: 6 tells us clearly that Jesus will never leave us or forsake us. He loves us, and He is the seed that remains. He isn't going anywhere once we are His.

VERSE 13

If we believe not, yet He abides faithful: He cannot deny himself.

There are Christians who once believed, but for some reason they turn away from God's truth. Even though they no longer believe, God remains faithful. They may deny Him, but He cannot deny himself. Once we become children of God we are in His family forever. When we got saved the seed of Christ's life was planted in us, and it is remain in us forever.

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.

Once we are saved we are in God's family forever, because the blood of Jesus bought us and we are not our own. We can't change who we are by our natural birth, and we certainly can't change who Christ made us in our new spiritual birth. When God looks at His children who were redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, He sees His son living in us, and He can't deny himself. Now we are the sons of God, and the sons of God we shall forever be. Thank you Jesus!!

VERSE 14

Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

Put them in remembrance

Paul encouraged Timothy to remember the things of the gospel he told him. He told Timothy to heed the Word, and to consider it.

Charging them before the Lord

This is not charging them before the congregation, but rather before the Lord. This is charging those who, like Timothy, are preachers and teachers that they preach the true and beautiful message of the gospel, and not for profit or contention.

To no profit

This would be a waste of time, and God wants us to redeem our time. We need to give the more earnest heed to the gospel, lest at any time we let those things slip. We need to

encourage ourselves in the Lord, and stand strong in believing. 'To no profit' shows these words are meaningless and distracting.

Subverting of the hearers

Subverting of the hearers shows there would be no grace. Subverting means 'to undermine the power and authority,' i.e. to undermine the truth and power of the gospel. The hearers would be misled hearing any preaching other than the Word God has called us to. We are to follow Paul as he followed Christ.

VERSE 15

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.

Study to show thyself approved

We don't need the approval of men. It is God's approval we should be seeking. We should study the Word and grow up in it to become that vessel set aside for the Master's use. Studying the Word will present us pleasing to God. This could be rendered as "Endeavor to be revealed as a treasure to God." This is how we get to know the love of Christ.

Workman

A laborer is a workman who labors thankfully, and is fulfilled in the task that God has called him to. Christ in us can cause us to be content in all things. It doesn't matter what task God has called us to because these are the before-ordained good works that we should walk therein.

Need not be ashamed

By God's grace we will not be ashamed to see our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Some will have to have tears wiped from their eyes, but not those running the race to apprehend the prize of God's high calling and finish their race with a full joy. It is all by God's grace, and by us apprehending His mercy and grace that we please God our Father. He put it all in His Son Christ Jesus, the precious Lamb of God.

Rightly dividing the Word of God

Rightly dividing means 'to make a straight cut; to dissect correctly.' This is like a plumb line because the Word of God stays perfectly straight and doesn't deviate.

Hebrews 4: 12

The Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Christ Jesus is the Word of God. We grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ Jesus to attain Him as the prize of God's high calling. We need ears to hear the Word, and a heart willing to run the race. We need a heart that will say "I will go" and come to a full, exact, complete, and intimate knowledge of our Savior Jesus.

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.

God desires everyone to do this. Believing in this starts a transformation in us from glory to glory into Christ's very likeness.

2 Corinthians 3: 18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

VERSE 16

But shun profane and vain babblings; for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

Paul warned Timothy to stay away from profane and vain babblings which have no spiritual profit but rather lead to more and more ungodliness and cause people to stray farther and farther from the truth. Those who preach those things are simply talkers who have nothing to say unto edification. They are like clouds with no water which offer no refreshment at all. This is a red flag Paul gave to Timothy to hold that fast that no man take his crown. We should never entertain things that are not the truth. We have to stand and withstand for the gospel, because the enemy swerves many a Christian from the truth of Paul's gospel. He who wills to know will know of all of God's Word because He won't withhold any of it from us.

VERSE 17

And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

Canker

A canker is like an ulcer, and like an ulcer the words of vain babblings just get worse and worse.

Hymenaeus and Philetus

These two turned away from preaching the truth to preach vain babblings, and their faith became shipwreck. They no longer wanted to hear God's Word, and they put away faith from their lives. It seems that some want to be led around by the enemy and hear ear-tickling gospels. The spiritual canker they cause hurts the body of Christ.

VERSE 18

Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

The message of Hymenaeus and Philetus was certainly missing the mark. Sinful preaching begets more sinful preaching and does harm to the body of Christ. They erred in the truth saying the resurrection was past. This message damaged the faith of some believers, and it

made them shipwreck concerning their faith. The resurrection is our hope when Christ comes back again.

VERSE 19

Nevertheless the foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knows them that are His. And, Let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

God's foundation

The foundation of God will never be moved. It will stand firm and sure not matter what. False preachers cannot change it or alter it.

1 Corinthians 3: 9-10

- 9) For we are laborers together with God; ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.
- 10) According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another builds thereon. But let every man take heed how he builds thereupon.

Paul laid the foundation of God's building by the gospel given to him by Christ Jesus, and there will be no other foundation. We are to build on that foundation gold, silver, and precious stones. Gold speaks of deity, silver speaks of redemption, and precious stones speak of the fiery trials and pressures in our lives.

1 Peter 2: 5

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, and holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Christ Jesus.

Those who build with wood, hay, and stubble will see that burn up at the first fiery trial that comes along. Their lives will suffer loss, but they are still God's children. They won't lose their salvation, but their reward in heaven will be greatly diminished.

The Lord knows them that are His

He knows His Children and never loses track of any of His children. He has sealed us unto the day of redemption; heaven is our home. We are citizens of heaven before we ever leave this earth whether in death or if Christ comes before we die.

VERSE 20

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor.

Great house

The great house represents Christendom, i.e. the whole church.

Vessels of gold and silver

This speaks to the time we live in now. All of God's many vessels are of gold and silver. Even if they are heated and melted down they remain gold and silver. This assures us that a child of God will never burn. When our name is written in the Lamb's book of life it will never be removed.

Vessels of honor

These vessels of honor magnify the grace and mercy of God's Son. These vessels of honor also magnify the blood of Jesus. The vessels of wood and earth are of dishonor.

VERSE 21

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

We are to purge ourselves from vessels of wood and earth that are of dishonor. This is also referring to false doctrines and teachings. We aren't to separate ourselves from fellowship with our brothers, but we do separate ourselves from the things they do that don't honor God.

2 Corinthians 6: 14

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?

If we purge ourselves from these things we will be honored vessels set aside for the Master's use.

VERSE 22

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

This is an encouragement to grow up in the Lord. We are to pass by those who want nothing to do with God. The brothers in Christ who have swerved from the faith but came back, we are to forget those things that are behind and restore such a one. We are to follow righteousness and God will meet our every need. We do this by following Jesus who is the righteousness of God.

VERSE 23

But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strife.

Leave foolish questions alone and don't try to answer them. We are to remove ourselves from things that cause strife.

VERSE 24

And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient.

Those who are servants of the Lord should not strive, which speaks of struggle. These servants should be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, and patient.

VERSE 25

In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.

In meekness means 'gentleness.' Oppose means 'to set themselves opposite.' Some preaching the truth will find opposition from those who are against the truth.

VERSE 26

And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Those who turn to the truth are taking themselves out of the snare of the devil, and are set free by the truth they opposed. Maybe, at some future time, the truth could make them see the truth they opposed. Recover means 'to awaken.' This refers to awakening out of the devil's snare.

CHAPTER 3

The signs we read about in this chapter are very special, but they are not signs for the world as far as wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes in diverse places, etc. The signs we read about here are in people and in society. The people mentioned in this chapter are in our world today, and the signs surrounding them are abundant. We are living in the 'last days', and in light of that Jesus Christ could come at any moment.

VERSE 1

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

This know

This is not guessing, but knowing. This is having the mind of Christ, the Word of God, and He is true and faithful.

Perilous times

This is written to us today. Perilous means 'difficult; dangerous; ferocious; fierce; savage-like.' Many people are looking for and praying for a revival in the last days just before the Lord comes.

2 Thessalonians 2: 3

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

There will not be another great revival, because the day of the Lord will not come unless there is first a great falling away (also called apostasy). It isn't the world that will fall away; it will be Christians who fall away. This will be due to the apostasy that will set in to the church. The evil connected to these perilous times will become worse and worse, and hatred will become stronger and stronger as man becomes more and more encouraged by the prince of the power of the air, Satan himself. Christians shouldn't be entangled in these things, nor should they fear them. We can look up and believe God because Christ will take us up soon.

VERSE 2

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Ezekiel 28: 13-17 and Isaiah 14: 12-15 show how Lucifer exalted himself above God. The devil hasn't been fully unleashed at this time, but when he is unleashed he will go forth as a roaring lion, and he will seek whom he may devour. Signs that the devil is getting more freedom from God to do as he wills are already beginning. Some of the proof is that many people are acting like the devil himself. In verses 2-4 men are taking many downward steps that signal the end times. These traits come in groups of four because the number four is the earthly number of human weakness. These downward steps begin when men become lovers of their own selves. They end when men are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.

The first four signs:

1) Covetous.

The plague of covetousness is alive and well in our society today, and all over the world. Covetousness means 'wanting what doesn't belong to you.' The devil will cause people to think that everything belongs to them. We live in a me, me, me society where self is all important.

Exodus 20:17

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbors wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

Colossians 3:12 tells us covetousness is idolatry. We either love ourselves, or we love God. When we covet we are going after things that God never intended for us to have. Everything He gives us is good, and is always exactly what we need.

2) Boasters.

Coveting leads to boasting. Boasting is like pretending, but God isn't fooled because He sees the heart.

3) Proud.

God sees the proud afar off.

4) Blasphemers.

Those who are covetous, boasters, and proud end up as blasphemers of God. These become vicious against anything in Jesus' name. They are nonbelievers. Not every man is good. Without Christ there is none righteous, no not one.

The next four signs:

1) Disobedient to parents.

Not all people (even some Christians) raise their children in reverence to God as they should. There are many things attacking today's youth. They need to know about Christ, how much He loves them, and how much they need His protection and guidance.

2) Unthankful.

We are in a generation of unthankfulness, and most are not even thankful for the natural things God has given or for the freedom enjoyed in this country. Those who are unthankful just want what they think is theirs, and never stop to count the cost someone had to pay for what they have. This is especially true of the cost that has been paid, and is still being paid, for the freedom we have in this country.

3) Unholy.

This speaks of people being unholy in their actions. Christians are belittled and despised without a cause. We should rejoice in this because it is the evidence of Christ in our lives. We should not do anything to hinder our testimony of the Word of God. We should want to seek peace with all men as much as possible and live Godly lives.

VERSE 3

Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good.

4) Without natural affection.

The result of being disobedient, unthankful, and unholy is being without natural affection. There is so much dysfunction in families today, and their homes are in disarray. When the Lord isn't served in a home there is dysfunction and disarray, love and understanding of the Lord is missing in that home.

The next four signs:

1) Trucebreakers.

There is no honor in them, and most are liars.

2) False accusers.

The general consensus today is that no one is at fault, and no one is accountable for anything. Factors such as one's upbringing or environment can contribute to this. We are in a time of 'I take no blame or responsibility.' Christians have a lot of responsibility, because we have been given the blood of Jesus.

3) Incontinent.

This means out of control in this world. There are people uprising fiercely in hatred and disrespect.

4) Despisers of those that are good.

The out of control people go after Christians. But we have a consolation: if God be for us, who can be against us?

1 John 4:4

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.

The Christians who profess their faith in Christ Jesus are attacked, and they are often made a mockery of. The despisers want more than anything to chew Christians up and spit them out. These people know not what they do, because they don't know the Word of God and they are led of the enemy.

VERSE 4

Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.

The next four signs:

1) Traitors.

These people are against everyone but themselves. They are against all that is good. What was established, they want to tear down.

2) Heady.

This is because of pride.

3) High minded.

This also comes because of pride.

4) Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.

All of these traits are leading to the antichrist and a one world government. Our world is at a point where this could take place quickly. Christians need not fear,

they can look up and know their redemption draws nigh. God is still on the throne, and He always will be.

In the book of Romans we see how man got into the condition he is in today:

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.

When their imaginations were darkened, apostasy set in. Verses 2- 4 are not referring to the world or infidels, because they have always been in the dark. This is referring to some of those in the body of Christ who become like infidels. The church has always had the responsibility of standing for the true gospel, but the church is becoming more worldly as they swerve farther and farther from God's truth and let the enemy darken their understanding.

VERSE 5

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away.

Having a form of godliness

This sums up all the downward traits in verses 2- 4. These are Christians who have a form, or an outward appearance, of godliness but deny the power thereof. Denying the power is denying the new creation life that Christ has put in us. These are born-again believers, but they are carnal and walk in the flesh. They never accepted:

Romans 6:11

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

From such turn away

Paul told Timothy to avoid all of these. We are in a day of good God, good devil, good everybody. This is a day of everything is good but Jesus. People today think any religion is good as long as Jesus isn't involved. The name of Jesus causes the greatest emotion, and those that love Him can only express that love through the Holy Spirit. The ones that hate Him, hate Him to the extreme. There are those neither hot nor cold that God will spew out of His mouth.

VERSE 6

For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, lead away with divers lusts,

These are those who have itching ears for anything but the Word of God. Those who have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof creep around and lead silly people captive, and this is their purpose. They don't give freedom or break chains. Silly speaks of weak and

spiritually-dwarfed people. These silly ones are laden with sin, which shows they are not born again.

VERSE 7

Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Ever learning

These people have an insatiable desire to learn or hear anything that is new and sensational. They will listen to anyone who will teach them, and they learn and respond to half truths. They go to church but they don't want to hear doctrine anymore. Most churches in our time are more interested in drawing big crowds and having entertainment than teaching people about the true gospel.

Never come to a knowledge of the truth

Filling people with current events or entertaining them seems to be more important than reading and studying the bible, and this culminates in never knowing God's beautiful truth. When the truth is taught it cuts on the flesh, so the flesh will respond more readily to error and half truths than the Word of God. Those who don't like the cutting will depart from the truth, and they will never come to a full knowledge of it.

VERSE 8

Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

Jannes and Jambres

In Exodus chapter 7, Jannes and Jambres are two of Pharaoh's magicians who were called to match the miracles of Moses and Aaron. The name Jannes means 'he opposes.' Jambres' name means 'foamy healer.' They both figure a false position and false prophets. Jannes and Jambres had miraculous power, but far inferior to the power Moses and Aaron had, because Moses and Aaron were empowered by God. Pharaoh's magicians were fraudulent, and their power was satanic power.

God allowing these two fraudulent magicians to counterfeit what Moses did, also speaks of what God will allow Satan to do in the antichrist and false prophet to completely deceive people in the tribulation.

Resist the truth

When Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, they also opposed the truth. They were men of corrupt minds and counterfeit faith.

Reprobate concerning the truth

Reprobate means 'unapproved; rejected.' These were cast away because they cast away the truth of God. They wanted no part of God's truth, and even the power of God displayed through Moses didn't make them repent.

VERSE 9

But they shall proceed no further; for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

Men like these will not get very far because their folly will be made plain to all. These false prophets not only reject the truth, they resist it by counterfeiting it.

VERSE 10

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience.

My doctrine

Paul's doctrine is the true doctrine, and it was given to him by Christ Jesus himself. This doctrine contains the deeper things of God, the bridal message. Paul was given this message to preach mainly to the Gentiles, but also to all who would embrace the full counsel of God and be willing to suffer for Christ's sake to be part of His bride. The secrets of men will be judged according to Paul's gospel.

Romans 2:16

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

Any doctrine that deviates from Paul's gospel is not true doctrine. Even swerving a little from the truth waters it down.

Manner of life

Some Christians are privileged to know the depths of Paul's gospel. We know how he lived his life, his faith, charity, longsuffering and patience. Paul's life produced a mighty testimony of being despised, persecuted, and afflicted for Christ's sake. We can live this same testimony as well, and that is when we finally know and understand the doctrine Paul preached. Through his gospel we can know the very love of Christ and have an intimate relationship with Him. We can know Him in the power of His resurrection, in the fellowship of His suffering, and be made conformable unto His death. If the testimony of faith and all the fullness of God would rest in our lives, it will have to come by Paul's gospel. Paul's testimony was not in word only, but in deed and in truth. A life that is anchored in Paul's gospel and running for the prize of God's high calling is a life that grows from glory to glory unto His very image.

Purpose

Paul's purpose wasn't to build big churches or to make himself well-known. Paul's purpose was to preach the gospel, and to decrease as Christ increased in him. It was his purpose to magnify Christ in all things. Paul's gospel strips our old man away so that our new spiritual man can grow up in Christ Jesus and make us mature enough to be His bride.

Faith

Paul's faith was unwavering, and he was confident in knowing that Christ was able to do more abundantly above all he asked or thought. Our faith should also be in Christ for our own lives, and we should look to Him and trust Him for everything.

Longsuffering

Paul endured hardness as a good soldier because he wanted the whole counsel of God to be manifest. Jesus kept nothing from us, and he gave this gospel to Paul to pass along to all Christians.

Patience

Paul waited on God, and he was content in whatsoever state he was in. Paul knew it was the grace of God that was with him that made it possible for him to be content regardless of his circumstances.

VERSE 11

Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Paul was a pattern for endurance. We learn this when we see how he lived his life. He was persecuted, beaten, shipwrecked, put in prison, etc., but Christ Jesus always delivered him out of every trial and tribulation he faced. Suffering for Christ's sake is the price of the throne. If we want to reign with Christ, we will also suffer for His sake.

VERSE 12

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Suffer means 'to pursue; to press toward.' If we pursue the godly life it is guaranteed that we will suffer persecution. Suffering is not a popular thing to the flesh, and so many who are not willing to suffer for Christ's sake move away from the gospel. All those who will live godly will be those living in Christ Jesus. Just because we are Christians doesn't mean we live godly. Doing religious acts or good deeds doesn't mean we live godly, because it is Christ in us that is the hope of glory. Living godly is all about growing in grace and in the knowledge of Christ Jesus. Paul received and endured suffering, but because of Christ in him he learned to be content in whatsoever state he was in. Godliness only comes through Christ.

VERSE 13

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Doctrine has left today's church. Many of God's people have swerved from the truth and no longer wish to endure sound doctrine. Because of this the world is not getting any better, and it won't get any better. This world is getting more evil by the day, with deception being manifest at every turn. This trend will continue until the Lord comes.

VERSE 14

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned, and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

Paul encouraged Timothy to continue in the things he had learned, and to be an expert in rightly dividing the truth; a workman not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Paul wanted Timothy to be aware and to know from whom he learned them.

VERSE 15

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Thou hast known the holy scriptures

Timothy was brought up in the scriptures by his mother and grandmother.

Wise unto salvation

Knowing the scriptures is the only way to be wise in the things of God – to understand what full salvation is and what Christ wants us to see in it. Growing up in it will lead us into the very midst of the throne. This is what makes salvation a complete salvation.

VERSE 16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Unless we are inspired of God when we read scripture we are just reading words. Scripture works effectually in those that believe. The only place doctrine can be found is in scripture, not in the mind of man. The entire Word of God vividly pops once our eyes of understanding have been enlightened by the Holy Spirit to see Paul's gospel.

VERSE 17

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

God has given us everything we need to be perfect and complete. Men of God are His children who have the opportunity to be perfect, fully mature, and complete. This would be a vessel solely set apart for the Master's use. These men and women of God are tried in every way, and filled with the fullness of God as a bride adorned.

CHAPTER 4

VERSE 1

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom;

Paul charged Timothy before God and Christ Jesus, who will be on the throne to judge the quick and the dead. 'I charge' means 'I earnestly testify; it is a solemn oath.' This charge was made before God and the Lord Jesus, and there could never be more sufficient witness. Paul could never have made this charge before God without the encouragement of the Holy Spirit.

This is the eighth of eight charges that Paul gave to Timothy in the two letters he wrote to him. Eight is the number of new creation and the bride, and this is encouragement to those running the race to win Christ, and to reign with Him for all eternity.

VERSE 2

Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Preach the Word

Paul told Timothy to preach as if judgment were at hand, regardless of the opposition of those who distort the gospel. Paul told Timothy to preach God's Word, not the vain babblings and thoughts of men. Paul wanted him to preach the Word without hesitation or reservation and to proclaim the whole counsel of God.

1 Timothy 6:20

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

Paul's gospel is the only gospel that is the whole counsel of God. His gospel is the rightly divided Word. If even small parts of this true gospel were withheld from us, then growing up in Christ and attaining the crown could not be possible.

Be instant in season, out of season

To be instant means 'to stand upon.' In season means 'when the opportunity is there.' Out of season means 'be ready always.' Reprove means 'to admonish; reprimand.'

Rebuke

Rebuke means 'express sharp disapproval; criticism.' A little leaven leavens the whole lump. Always speak the truth in love, in gentleness and in kindness.'

Exhort

We are to encourage those who are in the Word, and keep encouraging them. We should always be ready to complement the grace of God by having sweetness for others within us. We are to cheer and encourage our fellow race runners with all longsuffering.

Doctrine

This is not enticing words that are made up mostly of man's ideas. Doctrine is that which is the Word of God's grace, the only way to grow up in Christ in all things.

VERSE 3

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

The time will come

That time is now. Many of God's dear people are becoming more and more reluctant to hear sound doctrine. Sound doctrine is being watered down so much that it is almost nonexistent in so many churches. Many people back away from Paul's gospel because they don't want to suffer to win Christ. This is a matter of choice to follow Paul as he followed Christ, or shrink back from it. It takes great grace to endure suffering like good soldiers. We won't endure it until we see the love Christ has for us and how light the affliction is when compared to the glory that will be revealed in us if we win Him.

Their own lusts

The reason some people can't endure sound doctrine is because of their fleshly lusts. Two of the biggest lusts are self-pleasure and selfishness. They have itching ears and only desire to hear a watered-down version of the truth, not the real truth found in Paul's gospel. When the gospel isn't preached, error and darkness begin to set in.

VERSE 4

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

When people refuse sound doctrine they turn to fables. Doing this causes them to miss out on so many things God wants them to have. It results in a shipwreck of faith that will unfortunately have them in the innumerable multitude rank, not in the throne room. Ticked ears are ears that lull people to sleep spiritually. This is what has happened to a large portion of today's churches because they have forsaken the truth for fables. They don't want to hear about any suffering; they want a "prosper and be in health" message.

When God put Adam to sleep, He took one of Adam's ribs in order to fashion a bride for him, and she was a fully mature and grown up woman, not a babe. We need to stand in defense of the true gospel so as not to turn to fables. Fables will not only rob us of growing up in Christ, but we will be robbed of the throne God wants us to have with His Son Jesus. Our hearts and our fellowship should be in the gospel of Christ only, and our aim should be focused on winning Christ as Bridegroom

VERSE 5

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Watch thou

To watch speaks of being alert. The four living ones in Ezekiel chapter one are full of eyes round about. They have a 360-degree range of vision, and they are intensely watchful.

Endure afflictions

To endure afflictions is to undergo hardships. Afflictions are all around us. The Lord tells us over and over that just as Paul suffered, we will also suffer for Christ's sake if we are to win Him. We can rest and have confidence that, by God's grace, He will finish the good work He began in us. When we glory in our infirmities the very power of Christ rests upon us.

Do the work of an evangelist

The work of an evangelist is to preach glad tidings to those who haven't heard them or don't know of them. It is also the work of an evangelist to not only talk the talk, but also to walk the walk.

Make foolproof

To make foolproof means to prove by teaching and conduct. This was how Paul was to fulfill his calling. This does not refer to just speech, but also in the way we live our lives. All of these should be in truth and love that will cause the ministry to be shown to the fullest. Nothing should be withheld when preaching God's full counsel. The true worshipper worships Him in spirit and in truth. If true love is missing in a life, glory is missed too.

VERSE 6

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand,

Ready to be offered

Paul confesses he is ready to be poured out as a drink offering. A drink offering shows life as a sacrifice.

The time of my departure is at hand

With this statement Paul let Timothy know that it was time for him to step in and be the one who carried the gospel forward from where he left off. Paul passed the mantle of responsibility to Timothy. This is the mantle that causes us to run, and hopefully to inspire others to be single of purpose as well.

VERSE 7

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

I have fought a good fight

What a wonderful testimony Paul had! He had fought and conquered by the rules under the Lord Jesus Christ and by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

I have finished my course

By grace Paul ran his race, fought a good fight, and finished his course.

1 Corinthians 9: 24-25

9) Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receives the prize?

So run that ye may obtain.

10) And every man that strives for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible.

Paul's race is the same race we are to run. He knew he was not a shoe-in because he had to qualify. The whole church will not be the bride, but to qualify to be in the bride one will have to run well to attain the ultimate prize of God's high calling in Christ Jesus. By grace, Paul kept the faith all through his race and finished with a full joy.

VERSE 8

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

Laid up for me

Paul was informed of God that his race was over and that he had won the ultimate prize. Paul wasn't yet sure he had attained the crown when he wrote 1 Corinthians 15, or Philippians 3:12. But by the time he passed the baton to Timothy, he knew the crown was his. What an incredible, unspeakably joyous and glorious situation to be in!

By God's grace, those who are looking for, longing for, and loving Christ's appearing can experience all that joy and glory too. Even so come Lord Jesus!!! Hallelujah!! Paul is undoubtedly rejoicing still about what the love of God made possible for his life. He knows the little bit of suffering is in not even comparable to what he attained.

Although Paul's faith was offered and finished to the height of heights, he won't receive his crown until the day of the Lord, which is when Christ Jesus will be crowned KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS. This glorious day will begin with a blast from the first trumpet calling the bride away to heaven. She will be beside her Bridegroom when He is crowned. We must hold fast our crown lest we miss the chance to share all the glory of our Bridegroom. Holding onto our crown is the good fight of faith going on within us as we run on, by grace, to finish the race like Paul did.

A crown of righteousness

Paul had a testimony of this exalted rank of righteousness, and all who follow Paul as he followed Christ can take part in this exalted rank. We can fight the good fight of faith to win Christ, and we can run the race to finish with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Only the grace of God can bring this about. Everything comes from grace and it all flows down. Our heavenly Father withholds nothing good from us. We need the Holy Spirit to take us through to the end of the race. He takes the things of Christ and makes them ours and He sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts. Then we grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ Jesus. The entire Trinity is involved in bringing this glorious plan of God to fruition in our lives. Paul reigned in life because he received the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness which is counted unto us as the very righteousness of Christ.

Loving His appearing

Loving His appearing does not necessarily refer to the day when we see Jesus. Loving His appearing is happening right now in the saints. The exalted rank of righteousness will not be given to every Christian. It will only be given to those that are running the race to win Christ, to those who are looking for, longing for, and loving His return to claim them as His bride.

VERSE 9

Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:

Paul longed to see Timothy and he wanted him to come quickly. Paul was ready to pass the mantle God gave to him to Timothy because Paul knew his departure was at hand. He wanted to be with a brother of like precious faith before he departed. Being with others of like precious faith is encouraging. It stirs up the hope we have in Christ and raises our faith.

VERSE 10

For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica, Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Demas

The name Demas means 'of the people; popular.' Demas represented the people and he liked popularity. Unfortunately, Demas forsook Paul and the true and glorious gospel for a watered-down version of a popular teaching. Demas' doctrine appealed to the people. Even today people want that watered-down gospel instead of Paul's gospel.

Demas was a Christian. Even when he stopped preaching Paul's gospel he still loved the Lord. Unfortunately he chose to preach a gospel that wasn't the 'first love' gospel. Because of that he was no longer in the running for God's best.

Crescens

His name means 'growing,' and he went to Galatia. Galatia means 'milky.' He didn't forsake Paul, but went to preach the milk of the Word to baby Christians who were in infancy of spiritual development. He preached Paul's gospel to help them to grow up in the Lord.

Titus

Titus means 'honorable,' and he was another faithful brother who didn't desert Paul. He went to Dalmatia to preach the gospel. Dalmatia means 'a priestly robe.' All those who continued to preach Paul's gospel preached it to Christians. The true gospel was given to Paul by Christ for those in the Church age, the age that Christ's bride will come out of.

VERSE 11

Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Only Luke is with me

We should all want to be like Luke and stay with Paul's gospel. Luke's name means 'light,' and the light stayed with Paul. Luke wasn't ashamed or disturbed about Paul's situation, and he certainly wasn't ashamed of the grace and the glory gospel. Paul wasn't a prisoner of Rome, he was a prisoner of Christ's love. When we are prisoners of Christ's love, the light is always with us.

Mark

The name Mark means 'the shining one.' Paul called for him, and he was the brother who was the focus of the falling out between Paul and Barnabas. Paul didn't want to take Mark on a missionary journey with them because he thought Mark was not spiritually mature enough to go, and Barnabas took exception to that. Fortunately Mark stayed with the gospel, and became profitable by preaching the gospel that aided the growth and maturity of many Christians.

VERSE 12

And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus,

Tychicus means 'good fortune' and Ephesus means 'fully purposed.' It is a great thing to be around those that are fully purposed. The enemy is always busy getting us to sway away from enduring hardness as good soldiers. We should not dwell on the imperfections of others, but dwell instead on what is beautiful about those around us. The three brothers mentioned in verses 11 and 12 were Paul's yokefellows.

VERSE 13

The cloak that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou come, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.

The cloak

Winter was coming and Paul needed a coat. The coat he wanted was a heavy coat meant for enduring storms in the dead of winter. The coat is like the gospel that warms us through every storm. Paul had left his coat with Carpus in Troas. Carpus means 'fruitful,' and Troas means 'Trojan' and speaks of a warrior. Paul had taken that coat (gospel) to Troas (good soldier) and they embraced that glorious gospel. This particular coat will only be worn by those that love Christ's appearing, and are fighting the good fight of faith.

Parchments

If Paul wanted the Word of God, an Old Testament scroll could have been supplied by the Roman government. But Paul was most interested in receiving the writings the Holy Spirit had penned using his own hand. Paul was the vessel chosen to receive and to write the gospel of glory. He needed that glorious gospel just like we do. He wanted the written message of God's high calling in Christ Jesus. Paul wanted these precious scriptures to read over and over, and to study for fellowship in the gospel of Christ. He did these things to hold fast his crown.

VERSE 14

Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil; the Lord reward him according to his works.

Alexander

Alexander means 'man's defender; the helper of men.' Being man's defender and helper no doubt made Alexander popular. Alexander was one of Paul's converts, but he made shipwreck of his faith, and also the faith of others. He swerved so much from the faith that Paul points him out. When Alexander put away faith and a good conscience and made shipwreck, he cast away the Word of God.

1 Timothy 1:19-20

- 19) Holding faith and a good conscience; which some have put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:
- 20) Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander: whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

A coppersmith

A coppersmith is a worker of iron, and iron always speaks of judgment. Man in his self-defense can only equate to one thing: judgment.

Reward according to his works

Paul wrote that Alexander would be judged according to his works. Though a Christian will never burn in hell, the bible tells us the works of self-righteousness, evil, and all such things that work apart from the workings of God will burn like wood, hay, and stubble. The word reward means 'payback; payday.' The payday waiting for the grace and glory doctrine saints will be a full reward. The payday pertaining to Alexander is a tragic burning of wood, hay, and stubble.

VERSE 15

Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.

Paul gave Alexander over to Satan because he stood against the gospel Christ Jesus gave to him. He didn't just ignore it, he fought against it. How sad that people still do this today and thereby miss out on God's best. But for the grace of God there go you or I. We need to stand for the gospel, not against it. We also need to let the gospel work effectually in us. Paul's conflicts were his arena, and that is also true of us. Our conflicts are the arena we use to fight the good fight of faith wearing the full armor of God.

VERSE 16

At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me. I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

No man stood with me

Paul was in prison in Rome, and most everyone had forsaken him. Most of the brethren who stood with Paul before his imprisonment were no doubt discouraged and afraid about the circumstances surrounding his incarceration. They didn't want the same thing to happen to them. Sometimes the ones closest to us in our walk won't go with us when the heat is on. We should love them and pray for them anyway. Those who finish with a full joy will not have a life that swerves or draws back from Paul's gospel.

Paul gave his all, and it would seem that all he got for his dedicated walk was a jail cell and ridicule. If we go on in Paul's gospel we too will face trials, and it will seem the enemy is gaining great ground on us. Christ should have been finished when He died on the cross, BUT GOD. Instead of being finished by death, He brought eternal life to an uncountable number of people who would have otherwise been doomed. It seems that God likes to let the enemy think he can win, but He only allows him to think that for a very short time. God likes to make a way out of a no way. He always has the final say in everything.

Not laid to their charge

Paul possessed the heart of God which is a very tender, loving, and forgiving heart. Paul didn't want God to hold those who didn't stand with him accountable. There was no desire in Paul's heart for God to severely punish those who had failed him. Those who are ornery and hateful towards us are to be prayed for and loved just as God expects us to do. God will handle them His way, so we need not worry about making them sorry or seeking retribution.

VERSE 17

Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

The Lord strengthened me

Our faithful Lord was the one who stood with Paul and gave him strength. The Lord is sufficient for all our circumstances and needs. Paul knew the Lord loved him, and that His desire was toward him. He knew Christ was sufficient for all circumstances and that Christ's very power rested on him. By grace Paul stood, and the Lord stood with him. God has promised He will never leave us or forsake us. His promises are yea and amen.

All the Gentiles

God's purpose in all that Paul and others who preached the gospel endured was so that the Gentiles might fully know the gospel of grace and truth. We are without excuse because Paul's gospel has been preached to every creature under heaven. Paul was the vessel God prepared to

receive this glorious gospel, and this was so that he could pass it on to those of us who have a heart to receive it and believe it.

Delivered out of the mouth of the Lion

The lion written of here is most likely speaking of the all powerful Roman government. The Roman empire was the greatest empire the world has ever known up to now. Paul was put in Rome for a purpose, and they couldn't touch him unless God allowed it. The Lord kept Paul on this earth until his purpose was fulfilled. We, like Paul, should be willing to suffer all things such as loneliness, being despised, persecuted, ridiculed, misunderstood, etc. Nothing we will suffer is worthy to be compared to the glory that will be ours if we finish with a full joy. Happy are we when we suffer for Christ as we yield to Him more and more.

VERSE 18

And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Lord shall deliver me

Paul's faith was strong, and he fully trusted the Lord to deliver him from every evil work. It may seem at times He is taking too much time to deliver us, but He is always right on time. We need to live by faith knowing that He will deliver us when the purpose of that trial we are in has been fulfilled. God is making us beautiful diamonds, and it will hurt sometimes when He has to cut us deeply. If we let Him have His way in molding and making us after His will, the result will be absolutely stunning. Paul knew that if he didn't partake of the suffering he wouldn't be part of the heavenly reigning.

Will preserve me

This means we will be safe and sound for all we endure for His sake. The trials we have are necessary to finish us, and they are designed to make us that readied wife for Christ Jesus. He will go into the furnace with us, and He will always be with us in all that we endure. He will make it possible for us to come out of the fiery furnace not even smelling of smoke.

Unto His heavenly kingdom

His heavenly kingdom is what is at the end of our earthly suffering. The heavenly kingdom and the heavenly reigning are what await those who are looking, longing, and loving His appearing while they suffer for His sake. The heavenly kingdom and the suffering for Him are the reward for those seeking God's best in Christ Jesus. The bridal saints will be in the midst of the throne with Christ while the innumerable multitude will be standing before the throne waving palm fronds.

To whom be glory forever and ever

This is the height of praise that can only be uttered by God's grace.

Revelation 7: 11-12

- 11) And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God.
- 12) Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.

This is the four living ones and the twenty four elders summing it all up.

VERSE 19

Salute Priscilla and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

Salute

Paul was saluting Priscilla and Aquila, a precious couple who meant so much to him. This salute means more than just acknowledging one another; it means to draw to oneself. This shows there is no division in the great love they had for one another. This love is the true yokefellow love in Christ Jesus. The yokefellows operate fully with 'Christ in us, the hope of glory.' Paul was getting ready to depart, and he wanted to encourage them to run on to win Christ.

Priscilla means 'ancient one' and Aquila means 'nourished, eagle, immovable.'

1) Eagle.

These two were eagle saints that soared in the heavens and whose battles were fought on God's turf.

2) Nourished.

They nourished and fed others in the natural, but most importantly they gave others the living water so they would never thirst again spiritually. More than merely sustaining men, they were about sustaining and feeding the New Man so that those receiving the true gospel could grow up in Christ in all things.

3) Immovable.

Priscilla and Aquila are mentioned all throughout Paul's gospel, and they didn't move from it. This shows they stood and withstood and never swerved.

4) Ancient one.

The Word of God speaks about fathers who nurture. This brings to mind the Ancient of Days in Daniel chapter 7. The Ancient of Days is a reference to the Lord.

Onesiphorus

His name means 'bringing prophet.' We read of him in 2 Timothy 1: 16, where it was said of him that he was not ashamed of Paul's chains, and that he refreshed Paul. Many became ashamed and backed off because of the situation Paul was in because they didn't want to bear his reproach.

VERSE 20

Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.

Erastus

His name means 'beloved.' Paul uses the word beloved 31 times, and beloved means 'offspring.' Paul saw Timothy as his offspring in the faith. There were many beloveds that Paul had the privilege of being used to bring God's whole counsel to. These also were the offspring of the faith.

Trophimus

His name means 'nourishment.' This speaks of feeding the hungry with the Bread of Life and preaching the Word. Trophimus was ill and Paul left him in a place called Miletum, which means 'cared for.' God always works these things out perfectly in our lives. This man was one of the ones that traveled with Paul, and who wasn't ashamed of Paul's gospel.

VERSE 21

Do thy diligence to come before winter: Eubulus greets thee, and Pudens, and Limus, and Claudia, and all the brethren.

Do thy diligence

Paul is telling Timothy to make haste in coming, and to come before winter sets in. Paul wanted to see Timothy before he departed this life to go to heaven. He wanted the joy of fellowship with his beloved son in the gospel. Paul had a deep love for all those who wanted God's best and who followed Christ as he did.

Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, and Claudia

Paul told Timothy that these final four, just as the four living ones in Revelation, are in harmony with the gospel. All four of these men knew that Timothy was the one that God had appointed for care of the churches when Paul got called to heaven.

Eubulus

Eubulus means 'good counsel.' When we seek counsel we should turn to other yokefellows to get good counsel. We need to seek those grown up in the Lord, not the immature ones of the world.

Pudens

His name means 'modest.' The modest saints always and only give glory to the Word of God. They are not puffed up and arrogant.

Linus

His name means 'linen.' This speaks of the righteousness of the saints. We are only found in Christ's righteousness because everything is about the blood of the Lamb. Except for the grace of God, there is no good thing in any of us. We are wicked heathens apart from God.

Claudia

His name means 'lame.' This speaks of glorying in our infirmities. When we are weak we are strong in Christ. He always knows what we need in order to bring us to the finish line with a full

joy. He sends the buffeting we need in our lives, and then He becomes our strength so we can endure hardness like good soldiers. We need to learn to trust in Him, rest in Him, and submit to Him fully. We need His strength because our strength could never accomplish what Christ can easily accomplish in His strength.

VERSE 22

The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

We have been endowed with the gospel and enjoined to it. Christ enables us so we can walk throughout the Promised Land. This can only happen by the renewing of our minds, and this is how we prove that good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. The grace of God is always with us. The question is: what are we going to do with it? We can take all we want of His grace, and then abound to every good work, and run the race to win Him as Bridegroom.