

2 TIMOTHY

1. This is the Apostle Paul's second epistle to Timothy, his "son" in conversion and ordination.
 - A. Paul had begotten Timothy unto his (Paul's) ways in Christ. **ACT 16:1-3 c/w 1CO 4:14-17.**
 - B. Paul had ordained Timothy into the office of the ministry. **2TI 1:6.**
 - C. Paul had charged Timothy with the oversight of the church at Ephesus. **1TI 1:3.**
 - D. This epistle follows up on the fatherly guidance and order of the first epistle relative to ministerial rule in the church. **1TI 3:14-15.**
 - E. This epistle was also Paul's farewell address. **2TI 4:6.**
2. Paul had at some point fought with beasts at Ephesus. **1CO 15:32.**
 - A. These "beasts" may have been wild animals against which Christians were sometimes pitted in mortal combat in the heathen theaters.
 - B. Or, these "beasts" may have been men, per **2PE 2:12.**
 - C. Beasts and men alike may be perilous and cruel. **LAM 4:3 c/w JOB 39:13-17.**
 - D. Gospel work may include wilderness and human perils. **2CO 11:26.**
3. The city of Ephesus had been a stronghold of occult practice. **ACT 19:13-20.**
4. The city of Ephesus was also renowned for idolatry and the worship of Diana. Her temple there was considered one of the seven wonders of the world. **ACT 19:23-41.**
 - A. In general, pagan religions sought by sympathetic magic and ritual to entice the deity(ies) to fructify the earth and otherwise bring prosperity.
 - B. The superstitions of the heathen were conveniently lucrative to the promoters of those superstitions. c/w **ACT 16:16.**
 - C. Diana (loosely) corresponds with Juno, Isis, Astarte, etc.: a pagan concept of a nourishing female principle with an eternal son.
 - (1) Paganized Jews worshipped such a goddess known as the "queen of heaven." **JER 44:16-19.**
 - (2) Much of Catholicism holds that Mary was bodily assumed into heaven and so is the "queen of heaven."
 - (3) Catholics pray to Mary in the rosary ritual in which the "Hail Mary..." is repeated 53 times.
 - (4) **ACT 19:34** describes a similar repetitious invocation for Diana.
 - (5) Christians are not to mimic heathen prayer habits. **MAT 6:7.**
 - (6) "What agreement hath the temple of God with the temple of Diana?"
The Catholic answer must be, "Plenty."
5. Paul had been called of God to minister to the Gentiles "To open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God..." (**ACT 26:18**). That a gospel church should be built in Ephesus is a testimony to the

transforming power of grace!

- A. The church at Ephesus was not the result of a simple weekend crusade meeting but of much labor. **ACT 19:8-10; 20:31.**
 - B. Even years after the constitution of the church at Ephesus, Paul labored with them from bonds in Rome. **EPH 6:20.**
 - C. Paul was truly a labourer with Christ! **1CO 3:9; 15:10; 2CO 11:28.**
 - D. In this epistle Paul advises Timothy, "The husbandman that *laboureth* must be first partaker of the fruits" (**2TI 2:6**).
 - E. When all was said and done, the temple of Diana had met with serious competition from the temple of God! **EPH 2:19-22.**
 - (1) Diana's temple only upheld myths and lies.
 - (2) God's temple was the pillar and ground of the truth. **1TI 3:15.**
 - (3) The rival temples at Ephesus were therefore a microcosm of the great battle of the universe: God's truth v. Satan's lies!
6. Ephesus demonstrates that there is one gospel to Jew and Gentile alike and that the gospel of grace is the gospel of the kingdom.
ACT 20:21, 24-25; EPH 2:16-17; 3:6; 4:4 c/w ACT 15:8-10.
- A. The Ephesian church was a blend of Jews and Greeks.
ACT 19:8-10, 17-18.
 - B. Timothy was himself a blend of Jew and Greek (**ACT 16:1**) and so was well matched to a church which received some of the clearest information in the New Testament concerning the bringing together of Jews and Greeks under grace. **EPH 2:11-22.**
7. Ephesus shows that churches must ever be on guard for heresies from without and within. **ACT 20:29-30.**
- A. In view of this, Paul told Timothy to emphasize doctrine. **2TI 4:2-4.**
 - B. Also, Timothy was to "charge some that they teach no other doctrine" (**1TI 1:3**) and even rebuke unsound elders as necessary. **1TI 5:19-20.**
 - C. Accordingly, Ephesus was commended for the virtues of discernment and intolerance. **REV 2:2.**
8. Ephesus also shows that a sound, commendable, well-taught church overseen by effective leadership can still fall away from God and lose its identity.
REV 2:4-5.
9. The foregoing is the backdrop of Paul's letters to Timothy.
- A. It is possible that Timothy had moved on from Ephesus by the time that Paul wrote this second epistle to Timothy.
 - (1) Writing from bonds in Rome, Paul here advises Timothy that he has sent Tychicus to Ephesus. **2TI 4:12.**
 - a. Also from Rome, Paul advised the Ephesians that he had sent Tychicus to them. **EPH 6:21-22.**
 - b. If Tychicus was sent by Paul's authority to Ephesus while Timothy was still at Ephesus, why would Paul need to advise

- Timothy that he was sending Tychicus there?
- c. If Timothy was still at Ephesus when Paul wrote them, it seems strange that Paul would not have somewhere greeted his "dearly beloved son..." (**2TI 1:2**) in that epistle.
 - (2) **2TI 4:13** suggests that Timothy was at Troas.
 - (3) At some point, Timothy was expected to not be at Ephesus while Paul was in Rome. **PHIL 2:19**.
- B. Ministerial work includes doing "the work of an evangelist" (**2TI 4:5**) which may mean it is appropriate to establish (render stable or firm) a church, train and ordain someone to take the oversight of that church, and move on as God directs and opens doors. **2TI 2:2; TIT 1:5; ACT 19:9-10, 20:17**.
10. This second epistle to Timothy is not only instructional but touchingly personal.
- A. Timothy was to Paul a "*dearly beloved son...*" (**2TI 1:2**).
 - (1) By contrast, Paul calls Titus (another of Paul's appointees), "...mine own son after the common faith..." (**TIT 1:4**).
 - (2) Paul deemed Timothy peerless in the care of disciples. **PHIL 2:20**.
 - (3) David had many "friends" (**1SAM 30:26**) but one dearly beloved friend. **1SAM 18:1; 2SAM 1:26**.
 - a. Scripture speaks of "familiar friends" (**JOB 19:14**).
 - b. Scripture speaks of "inward friends" (**JOB 19:19**).
 - c. Scripture speaks of "chief friends" (**PRO 16:28**).
 - d. Scripture speaks of "near friends" (**ACT 10:24**).
 - e. Jesus had a special closeness to Peter, James and John. **MAR 5:37; 9:2; 14:33**.
 - (4) It is not wrong to have a special closeness to someone in the church while regarding all members as equals in Christ.
 - B. Paul was mindful of Timothy's tears. **2TI 1:4**.
 - C. Paul longed to see Timothy again and encouraged him to come to Rome quickly. **2TI 1:4; 4:9-13, 21**.
11. This is a pastoral epistle first. But there is benefit here for church members in that:
- A. a pastor is to be an example of the believers. **1TI 4:12; 1PE 5:3**.
 - B. church members are better familiarized with the work for which sake they are to highly esteem their pastor. **1TH 5:12-13; PHIL 2:29**.
12. Consider the circumstances under which Paul wrote this epistle. He was:
- A. facing death. **2TI 4:6**.
 - B. lonely. **2TI 4:9, 11**.
 - C. disappointed. **2TI 4:10**.
 - D. without his cloke or books. **2TI 4:13**.
 - E. persecuted. **2TI 4:14**.
 - F. forsaken of men. **2TI 4:16**.
 - G. nevertheless, as Eleazar of old (**2SAM 23:9-10**) still swinging his sword, giving no ground to heretics and warning of perilous times.

- H. looking past his own troubles and needs and providing help for Timothy and future generations of ministers and members.

Chapter 1

v.1.

1. Paul announces himself as "...an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God..."
 - A. This emphasizes that his ministry had divine authority. He was not made an apostle by the will of man or of Satan, as certain others.
2CO 11:13; REV 2:2.
 - B. Paul was certainly not made an apostle by his own will. **ACT 26:9-11.**
 - C. There was even a prophetic basis for his apostleship.
ISA 49:6 c/w ACT 13:47; EPH 4:8-11 c/w PSA 68:18.
 - D. His gospel was similarly of a divine authority. **GAL 1:11-12.**
2. The office of an apostle was the primary church office. **1CO 12:28.**
3. The qualifications for the apostolate are given in **ACT 1:21-23.**
 - A. Following the death of the Bible apostles, the next appearing of the true Christ would be His second coming that would be witnessed by all.
MAT 24:30; REV 1:7.
 - B. These requirements disqualify the Mormon notion of a modern apostolate.
 - C. The validity of Paul's apostleship is confirmed by the fact that he had seen the resurrected Christ as "one born out of due time." **1CO 9:1; 15:5-8.**
4. Originally there were twelve apostles. **LUK 6:13.**
 - A. These apostles are of a particular class who continued with Christ during His earthly ministry. **LUK 22:28.**
 - (1) These apostles were promised twelve thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel. **LUK 22:29-30 c/w MAT 19:28.**
 - (2) The heavenly city's foundations have in them the names of the twelve.
REV 21:14.
 - (3) Judas Iscariot's apostleship was filled by Matthias, whom the Holy Ghost acknowledged as one of the twelve. **ACT 1:15-26; 2:14.**
 - B. Other apostles were noted later.
 - (1) Paul was called as a special apostle unto the Gentiles. **ROM 11:13.**
 - (2) Barnabas is later identified as an apostle in **ACT 14:4, 14.**
 - (3) Silas (Silvanus) and Timothy may also have been apostles.
1TH 1:1 c/w 1TH 2:6.
 - (4) Andronicus and Junia may also have been apostles. **ROM 16:7.**
 - C. Christ is called an apostle in **HEB 3:1.**
 - D. Thus, there are certainly at least sixteen apostles identified for us: the original twelve, Matthias, Paul, Barnabas and Christ. If Silas, Timothy, Andronicus and Junia are allowed, there would be twenty.
5. Paul's apostleship was "...according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus."

- A. According to: "In a manner agreeing with, consistent with, or answering to; agreeably to."
- (1) Paul's apostleship was consistent with the promise of life which was in Christ Jesus: a gracious bestowal upon an unworthy recipient.
1TI 1:13-16; 1CO 15:9-10.
 - (2) Paul preached God's promise of eternal life. **TIT 1:1-3 c/w 1JO 2:25.**
 - (3) Paul preached that eternal life was in Christ Jesus *alone*.
1TI 6:13-16; GAL 3:21-22 c/w 1JO 5:11-12.
- B. The promise of eternal life is *in* Christ Jesus.
- (1) This promise is *not in* the Scriptures magically. **JOH 5:39.**
 - (2) This promise is *not in* law-keeping / good works. **GAL 3:10; TIT 3:5.**
 - (3) This promise is *not in* Jewishness / pedigree. **LUK 3:8; JOH 1:12-13.**
 - (4) This promise is *not in* fleshly circumcision. **GAL 6:15.**
 - (5) This promise is *not in* the sinner's will. **JOH 1:13; ROM 9:16; 6:20.**
 - (6) This promise is *not in* the sinner's faith. **JOH 10:26-28; 5:24.**
- C. The promise of eternal life is *in* Christ Jesus.
- (1) God promised eternal life unto a people chosen in Christ. **EPH 1:3-4.**
 - (2) Christ promised to lose none that the Father gave Him to save.
JOH 6:37-39; 10:28.
 - (3) Christ satisfied the demands of the law for the elect and exchanged their sin for His righteousness. **GAL 3:13; 2CO 5:21.**
 - (4) The elect in Christ are appropriately called *the children of promise*.
ROM 9:8; GAL 4:28; 3:29.
 - (5) Since the promise of life is *in Christ*, it is certain to all the elect.
ROM 11:27-29; 8:33-34; 2CO 1:20.

v.2.

1. Paul here calls Timothy his dearly beloved son.
 - A. This is obviously a case where something other than the primary, ordinary definition of the word "son" is intended. **ACT 16:1.**
 - B. Paul is not implying that Timothy was his son in an intercessory or regenerative sense. Only God has that honor. **MAT 6:9; 23:9.**
 - C. Timothy was Paul's "son in the faith" (**1TI 1:2**).
 - D. Timothy had served in gospel work under Paul as a "son with the father" (**PHIL 2:19-22**).
 - (1) He had served "as a son *with* the father."
 - (2) He had not served "as a son *independent of* the father."
 - (3) He had not served "as a son *against* the father."
 - (4) Qualifications for ordination demand:
 - a. that a candidate be not self-willed. **TIT 1:7.**
 - b. that a candidate should adhere to faithful fatherly instruction.
2TI 1:13; 2:2; TIT 1:9.

(5) A wise son will attend prudently to his father's instruction.

PRO 13:1 ct/w 1SA 8:1-5.

2. Paul bids Timothy, "Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

- A. This formula differs from Paul's other epistles by the addition of *mercy*. This phrase is exclusive to Paul's addresses to ministers. **1TI 1:2; TIT 1:4.**
- B. *Mercy* is especially needed of ministers who are held to a higher standard than other saints and are of necessity hypocrites since they must as imperfect men preach a perfect order for men. **JAM 3:1; ECC 10:1.**
- C. Given that the awesome task of the gospel is committed to weak men, ministers are of themselves insufficient for the work. Therefore *grace* must be their sufficiency. **2CO 2:15-16; 3:5-6; 4:7; 1CO 15:10; 2CO 12:9.**
- D. Where *grace* may be found, *mercy* may also be found. **HEB 4:16.**
- E. And to offset the warfare of ministry for Christ, the appropriate antidote from Christ is *peace*. **2TI 2:3-4 c/w JOH 14:27; PHIL 4:6-7.**
- F. This grace, mercy and peace comes "from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

(1) These spiritual blessings come from the Father. **JAM 1:17.**

(2) These spiritual blessings come from the Lord Jesus Christ since the Father has blessed believers "with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (**EPH 1:3**).

(3) The appeal to the Father contemplates God as the Eternal Spirit Who is the Father of all things, of Jesus Christ, of His children and to Whom we pray, "Our Father which art in heaven..." (**MAT 6:9**).

(4) The appeal to Christ Jesus our Lord contemplates God Incarnate as the Mediator Who is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities;in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (**HEB 4:15**) by Whom we may approach God the Father.

JOH 14:6; 1TI 2:5; 1JO 2:1; HEB 10:19-22.

(5) That grace, mercy and peace be from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ implies that Christ is as the Father.

JOH 10:30; 5:17-27; 15:23 c/w 1JO 2:23.

v.3.

1. Paul thanked God that he had continual remembrance of Timothy in prayers.

A. He gave God the glory for his prayer life. **ROM 8:15; PHIL 2:13.**

B. Prayer should be a constant priority of ministers. **ACT 6:4; 1SAM 12:23.**

(1) Such a priority requires self-sacrifice, a *giving* of oneself to prayer.

(2) For such reasons, ministers must be particularly cautious about unscriptural burdens, business, excesses, distractions or entanglements. **2TI 2:4.**

(3) Saints should also be steadfast in prayer. **1TH 5:17; ACT 12:5.**

- C. It is a cause for thanksgiving that one minister remembers another in prayer.
- (1) This act reflects the ministry of Jesus Christ to His ministers. **LUK 22:32 c/w JOH 17:9, 11, 15.**
 - (2) Such continual prayer implies that a minister is not a castaway who has sinned unto death and out of prayer. **1JO 5:16 c/w 1TI 1:20.**
 - (3) Paul's remembrance of Timothy in prayer was tied to his remembrance of Timothy's unfeigned faith. **v.5.**
 - (4) As ministers age, it may be noted that it is a cause for thanksgiving that they remember anything.
2. Paul marks that he served God from his forefathers. He continued that service.
- A. How could this be, given that the traditions of his Pharisee fathers were so patently antiChrist? **GAL 1:13-14.**
 - B. Not all that the Pharisees taught was wrong. **MAT 23:2-3.**
 - (1) The Pharisees taught the doctrine of the resurrection. **ACT 23:6; 24:14-16.**
 - (2) Paul heartily preached the resurrection also. **1CO 15; 2TI 2:16-18.**
 - (3) He thus advanced the historical hope of the twelve tribes of Israel. **ACT 26:6-8.**
 - C. Paul's forefathers went much further back than the Pharisees. **1CO 10:1.**
 - (1) Paul had the same faith as his father Abraham. **ROM 4:1, 16, 20-25.**
 - (2) Paul was looking for the same kind of continuing city as did Abraham and the Hebrew fathers. **HEB 11:8-10, 16; 13:14.**
 - (3) Paul preached Moses' doctrine. **ACT 26:22-23.**
3. Paul served God from his forefathers with a *pure conscience*. c/w **ACT 23:1.**
- A. Conscience: "I. Inward knowledge; consciousness; inmost thought, mind. II. Consciousness of moral right and wrong; moral sense. The internal acknowledgement or recognition of the moral quality of one's motives and actions; the sense of right and wrong as regards things for which one is responsible; the faculty or principle which pronounces upon the moral quality of one's actions or motives, approving the right and condemning the wrong."
 - B. Conscience is basically the soul's court where guilt or innocence is decided. It is a witness testifying as to the rightness or wrongness of our behavior. **ROM 2:15; 9:1; 2CO 1:12; JOH 8:9.**
 - C. Conscience evaluates our actions according to the standard of right and wrong that we have.
 - (1) The conscience is not infallible and is thus not to be equated with the law of God.
 - (2) Because of ignorance of law or truth, the conscience may fail to accuse us of a sin. **LEV 4:27-28; PSA 19:12.**
 - (3) In ignorance and unbelief, Paul actually was persecuting the saints with a pure conscience. **ACT 26:9.**
 - (4) This shows how desperately our consciences need the standard of the

- word of God so as to correctly judge our actions. **PSA 119:104.**
- D. Paul *always* strived to have a conscience void of offence. **ACT 24:16.**
- (1) Remember that Paul is our example and pattern. **PHIL 4:9.**
 - (2) Let none therefore put off dealing with issues of conscience.
 - (3) A good conscience is an approving conscience, a consciousness that we have offended neither God nor men (where men should NOT be offended. See **MAT 15:12**).
 - (4) By contrast, a violated conscience is defiled. **1CO 8:7.**
 - (5) God is obviously to be served with a pure conscience. c/w **1TI 1:5.**
 - (6) A good conscience is maintained by obedience to the word of God. **1PE 3:14-16; HEB 13:18.**
 - (7) The mystery of the faith is held in a pure conscience. **1TI 3:9.**
 - (8) If a good conscience is not maintained, one will make shipwreck concerning faith. **1TI 1:19.**
 - a. Bad behavior will breed bad doctrine.
 - b. Transgressors tend to disbelieve the convictions of their consciences in order to silence the voice of conscience.
 - c. Ministers obviously must be especially on guard against this.
 - d. Let all strive to be able to declare **PSA 26:1.**

v.4.

1. Paul greatly desired to see Timothy and the sooner the better. **2TI 4:9, 21.**
2. Face-to-face interaction in fellowship and ministry yields the greatest benefit. **1TH 3:6-10; 2JO 1:12.**
3. Seeing Timothy again would fill Paul with joy.
 - A. There is a fullness of joy that comes via the gospel. **1JO 1:4; ROM 15:13.**
 - B. There is a fullness of joy that comes from being reunited with loved ones. **JOH 16:22; 1TH 4:13-18.**
 - C. How full therefore should be the joy when those of like precious faith are reunited in this world or the next!
 - D. May this kind of companionship be preferred and frequent. **PSA 119:63; MAL 3:16-17.**
4. Paul was mindful of Timothy's tears.
 - A. Tears are part of the ministry. **ACT 20:19, 31; 2CO 2:4.**
 - B. Given the propensity of men to be given to pleasure, a call to weeping was/is appropriate. **ISA 22:12-13.**
 1. This world is addicted to pleasures. **2TI 3:4; TIT 3:3.**
 2. Living in pleasure hardly promotes spirituality. **1TI 5:5-6; LUK 8:14.**
 3. Believers should be grieved over the wickedness around them. **PSA 119:53, 136, 158 c/w EZE 9:4.**
 4. Godly sorrow has its place. **ECC 7:2-4; JAM 4:8-10; 2CO 7:10.**
 - C. God records the tears of His people. **2KI 20:5; ISA 63:9; HEB 4:15.**

- D. God rewards the tears of His people.
LUK 6:21; JOH 16:20-24; PSA 126:5-6; REV 21:4.

v.5.

1. Timothy possessed an *unfeigned* faith.
 - A. Unfeigned: "Not feigned, pretended, or simulated; sincere, genuine, true, real."
 - B. Timothy's faith was not "form only" (c/w **2TI 3:5**), an outward shew of piety with no basis in the heart. c/w **MAR 7:6**.
 - C. Timothy's faith was not devoid of good works. **JAM 2:17 c/w TIT 1:15-16**.
 - D. Timothy's faith was not a sham pretext for gaining influence amongst the saints. **ACT 15:5 c/w GAL 2:4**.
 - E. Timothy's faith was obviously based upon conviction of the word of God. **2TI 3:15 c/w ROM 10:17**.
 - (1) Timothy must have believed that the *copy* of the Scriptures from which he was instructed was not the word of men but the very word of God! c/w **1TH 2:13**.
 - (2) In other words, Timothy was not one who claimed that his faith was based upon the infallible word of God while actually holding that the word of God was only in lost original autographs!
 - (3) God has indeed ordained that His word be preserved in copies. **DEU 17:18-20; JOS 8:32; PRO 25:1**.
 - F. An unfeigned faith is an integral part of the fulfilling of the law. **1TI 1:5**.
2. Timothy's faith dwelt (abode, continued) first in his grandmother and mother.
 - A. This implies that Timothy's Greek father was not a believer. **ACT 16:1**.
 - (1) Timothy's father was likely not even a convert to the religion of the Jews since the Jews "...knew all that his father was a Greek" and he had not seen to Timothy's circumcision. **ACT 16:3**.
 - (2) That his mother should marry a Gentile was contrary to the law of Moses. **DEU 7:3**.
 - (3) Timothy did not let the blots and disadvantages of his upbringing impede him from following Christ and doing right!
 - B. At some point, Timothy's mother had become a believer.
 - (1) Believers in a divided marriage are not at liberty to abandon their unbelieving spouse. **1CO 7:12-13**.
 - (2) Timothy's mother's belief was his father's sanctification and Timothy's holiness. **1CO 7:14**.
 - (3) Since faith cannot properly be distinct from obedience (**JAM 1:22; 2:17**), Timothy's mother would have been responsible to impart the knowledge of God and holy living to Timothy. **PRO 1:8; 31:1**.
 - (4) Timothy's mother started his Bible lessons early. **2TI 3:15**.
 - (5) Let the believing parent of an unequally yoked marriage take note:

the training of children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord defaults to you!

- C. Timothy's mother and grandmother had obviously lived a life of faith that was a good model which Timothy could respect and imitate.

v.6.

1. Paul reminds Timothy to stir up his gift that was in him by the putting on of hands.
 - A. This is the second such encouragement. c/w **1TI 4:14**.
 - B. Elders need other elders' exhortations. **ACT 20:28; 1PE 5:1**.
 - C. To stir up means to "set in motion, to rouse from indifference or sloth." **SON 2:7; PSA 35:23**.
 - D. All believers need reminders to stir them up. **2PE 1:13; 3:1**.
 - E. Failure to stir up a gift is evidence of sloth. **PRO 12:27**.
 - F. Failure to stir up a gift incurs severe judgment. **MAT 25:24-30**.
 - G. **1TI 4:13-16** and **2TI 4:2** teach a minister how to stir up his gift.
2. The laying on of hands is the act of ordaining (appointing) an elder. **TIT 1:5**.
 - A. **1TI 4:14** describes this function as the "laying on of the hands of the presbytery." This does not demand a plurality of elders in ordination.
 - B. Presbytery: "The office of a presbyter; eldership or priesthood."
 - C. One elder can perform this function of the ministry. **TIT 1:5**.
3. The pastoral gift is a gift of God in that God gives certain men the ability to fill it. **EPH 4:8-11; 2CO 3:6**.
4. The gift is given by the laying on of the hands of an elder in that this process puts one whom God has called into that office.

v.7.

1. Having exhorted Timothy to stir up the gift of God, Paul points to the resource of the indwelling Holy Spirit to perform this duty. c/w **v.14**.
2. The spirit of fear generates bondage. **ROM 8:15; HEB 2:15**.
3. The Spirit of God produces power, which is "the ability to do or effect something or anything, or to act upon a person or thing." **ACT 1:8**.
 - A. This power stands in contrast to the spirit of fear.
 - (1) Fear debilitates a man in that it causes faintness and cowardice. **DEU 20:3, 8; PRO 24:10**.
 - (2) Being led by the Spirit of God, Paul did not fear death; he rather courageously fulfilled his ministry. **ACT 20:22-24; PSA 23:4**.
 - (3) Courage is needed in the ministry inasmuch as it involves confrontation with evil. **MIC 3:8; JER 1:17-19**.
 - (4) He who is afraid to speak the truth is not being led by the Spirit of God.
 - (5) It was fear that caused the slothful servant to bury his talent. **MAT 25:25**.
 - (6) NOTE: Expressed fear is sometimes just a mask for slothfulness.

PRO 22:13.

- B. When a man of God is preaching by the Spirit of God, his ministry will be effectual. **1TH 1:5; 2:1, 13; 2CO 2:14-16.**
4. The Spirit of God produces love. **ROM 5:5.**
- A. This love constrains (forces, compels, obliges) a minister. **2CO 5:14.**
- B. Love is obedience to God. **1JO 5:2-3.**
- C. Love is in keeping with bold confrontation. It is the opposite of fear. **LEV 19:17.**
- D. Love casts out fear. **1JO 4:16-18 c/w 2:5.**
5. The Spirit of God produces a sound mind.
- A. When one is delivered from the spirit of the devil and is controlled by the Spirit of God, he is put in his right mind. **MAR 5:15.**
- B. A sound mind contrasts with fear which causes torment. **1JO 4:18.**
- C. A sound mind will heed sound doctrine. That which is contrary to sound doctrine is obviously unhealthy. **1TI 1:9-11; 6:3; TIT 2:1-10.**
- D. Repentance from ungodliness is coming into one's right mind. **LUK 15:17-21; DAN 4:34-36.**
- E. The truly sound mind is judged insane by the world. **JOH 10:20; ACT 26:24-25.**
- F. **ISA 26:3** and **PHIL 4:6-8** are God's prescription for maintaining a sound mind.

v.8.

1. Because Timothy had the spirit of power and not of fear (v.7), Paul exhorts him "therefore" to not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord.
- A. Testimony: "Personal or documentary evidence or attestation in support of a fact or statement; hence, any form of evidence or proof."
- B. Those who saw Jesus Christ gave the personal evidence of Him and His claims. **ACT 10:37-43; 1CO 15:5-8; 1JO 1:1-4.**
- C. The Scriptures are the documentary evidence of Jesus Christ. **REV 19:10; 2PE 1:20-21; JOH 16:13-14; 5:39; 20:30-31.**
- D. The testimony of Christ is so evident that no one need be ashamed of it. **GAL 3:1.**
- E. It is perfectly in keeping with a sound mind (v.7) to accept the testimony of Jesus Christ. **ACT 26:24-26; 2PE 1:16.**
- F. This verse shows that being a partaker of the afflictions of the gospel contrasts with being ashamed of the testimony of the Lord.
- (1) The testimony of the Lord IS the gospel!
- (2) The gospel sets forth a saving hope (**ROM 8:24**) and "...hope maketh not ashamed" (**ROM 5:5**).
- (3) Why should we therefore be ashamed of the good news and certain hope of salvation by the power of Jesus Christ? **ROM 1:16.**

- G. Soundness in God's word is antidotal to being ashamed of it or by it. **PSA 119:5-6, 80 c/w 2TI 2:15.**
- 2. Timothy was not to be ashamed of Paul even though Paul was a social outcast.
- 3. Paul was the prisoner of Christ.
 - A. It was for Christ's sake that Paul was a prisoner. **2TI 2:8-9; ACT 28:20.**
 - B. The Lord loves HIS prisoners. **PSA 69:33.**
 - C. We should love His prisoners. **HEB 13:3 c/w MAT 25:34-40.**
- 4. Because the world, the flesh, and the devil hate the gospel; there will be afflictions to be endured in being identified with the gospel. **REV 12:17.**
- 5. The power of God is the resource for a bold defense of the gospel. **MAT 28:18-20; COL 1:28-29; 1CO 3:6-7, 9.**
 - A. This power is active through the putting on of His armor. **EPH 6:10-17.**
 - B. This power is accessed through prayer. **EPH 6:18-20.**

v.9.

- 1. GOD has done the saving! Salvation is of the LORD. **JON 2:9.**
- 2. God HAS DONE the saving. Scripture declares the eternal salvation of the elect to be a finished work.
 - A. "...we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son..." (**ROM 5:10**).
 - B. "...when he had by himself purged our sins..." (**HEB 1:3**).
 - C. "...having obtained eternal redemption for us" (**HEB 9:12**).
 - D. "...he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself" (**HEB 9:26**).
 - E. "...he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified" (**HEB 10:14**).
 - F. "...which delivered us from the wrath to come" (**1TH 1:10**).
 - G. "...who hath delivered us from the power of darkness..." (**COL 1:13**).
 - H. "...I have finished the work..." (**JOH 17:4**).
 - I. "...It is finished..." (**JOH 19:30**).
 - J. A false savior is commonly taught who saved nobody at his first advent but only made salvation a possibility by his blood, death and resurrection.
 - (1) Promoters of this savior scorn the doctrine of a limited atonement.
 - (2) Who is really limiting the atoning blood of Christ: those who say that it actually, fully, finally saved all and only all that the Father gave to Christ to save, OR those who say that it actually saved nobody?
- 3. God calls those whom He saves.
 - A. This call is by means of Jesus Christ. **1PE 5:10.**
 - B. This call is effectual. **JOH 5:25.**
 - C. This is a holy calling.
 - (1) God's call is a call to holiness. **1TH 4:7.**
 - (2) The recipients of this call are made holy. **ROM 8:30; TIT 3:5; EPH 4:24.**
 - (3) God does not save His people TO sin, but FROM sin. **MAT 1:21.**
- 4. Paul had personal assurance of salvation in that he said God "HATH saved us and

called us..."

- A. Christ loved the church (**EPH 5:25**). That Christ loved ME makes it personal. **GAL 2:20**.
 - B. God has chosen His people (**EPH 1:4**). That God chose Rufus makes election personal. **ROM 16:13**.
 - C. The fact that Christ died is history; the fact that Christ died for me is salvation.
4. God's salvation and calling are not according to (in a manner agreeing with, consistent with, or answering to) man's works.
- A. Sinners have no good works. **ROM 3:10-12**.
 - B. In salvation God does not cooperate with or respond to man's good works.
 - C. Salvation does not agree with man's works; it rather destroys his works. **COL 1:21-22; HEB 9:14**.
5. Salvation is God's response to His OWN purpose. **ROM 8:28-29; EPH 1:5, 11**.
6. Grace was given to God's people in Christ before the world began.
- A. God chose His people IN CHRIST before the world began. **EPH 1:4**.
 - B. Grace was then given to them IN CHRIST, their representative.
 - C. IN CHRIST, the elect received saving grace BEFORE the world began!
7. A sinner is vitally saved when he is regenerated or quickened (**TIT 3:5; EPH 2:5**), but his salvation was PLANNED before the world began.
- A. **PRO 22:3** says, A prudent man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself..."
 - B. Our prudent God foresaw the evil of our sin and hid US in Christ! **COL 3:3**.
8. The gospel is the declaration of God's plans for God's glory. **EPH 1:5-6, 11-12**.
- A. The gospel does NOT magnify the will and ambition of men. **1CO 1:26-31**.
 - B. God does not save sinners because of anything of worth in them; but because of what is in HIMSELF, because of His OWN purpose.
 - C. In the face of perilous times when "men shall be lovers of their own selves (**2TI 3:2**)," Paul recommends a bold defense of the self-abasing gospel.
 - D. The gospel commands self-denial, NOT self-esteem. **MAT 16:24**.
 - E. Satan's gospel magnifies self rather than God. **2CO 11:4; GEN 3:5; EZE 28:17**.
 - F. When one properly perceives God for whom He is, self-esteem is effectively quashed. **ISA 6:1-5**.

v.10.

- 1. At His appearing, Christ executed that which God planned before the world began.
- 2. Jesus Christ is designated Saviour; He is the God Who hath saved us. **ISA 43:11**.
- 3. Jesus Christ HATH abolished death.
 - A. He overcame death Himself; it has no power over Him. **ROM 6:9**.
 - B. He has removed the sting of death. **1CO 15:55-57**.
 - C. He destroyed him that had the power of death (the devil). **HEB 2:14**.
- 4. Immortality is the condition of not being subject to death.

- A. Being raised from the dead, Jesus Christ is no longer subject to death.
ROM 6:9; ACT 13:32-34; REV 1:18.
 - B. When the mortal bodies of the saints put on immortality, they shall never be subject to death again. **1CO 15:53-54.**
5. Jesus Christ brings life and immortality *to light* by means of the gospel.
- A. To bring to light means to reveal, to make known, to publish.
 - B. The gospel reveals life and immortality; it does not give it. **ROM 1:16-17.**
 - (1) **v.10** needs to be understood in light of **v.9** which declares that the work of salvation for the elect *has been* accomplished.
 - (2) Those who publish the good news (gospel) are but declaring the fact of eternal life perfected in Jesus Christ. **1JO 1:2.**
 - (3) To Christ's ministers is committed the *word* of reconciliation: the announcement that God *has reconciled* sinners unto Himself in Jesus Christ. **2CO 5:18-19.**
 - (4) Therefore, whatever salvation comes of receiving the gospel must be supplemental to the completed salvation for the elect unto eternal glory which the gospel declares! **2TI 2:10.**
 - C. When the gospel shines *unto* a redeemed soul, it assures that soul of its possession of life and the promise of immortality.
2CO 4:3-4; 1JO 5:13; ROM 8:10-11.
 - (1) Contrarily, when the gospel shines light on the reprobate, it only manifests his enmity and destruction.
JOH 3:19-20; 1CO 1:18; 2CO 2:15-16.
 - (2) The gospel is to eternal salvation as light is to gold veins in a dark cave: it reveals what is already there awaiting discovery.
 - (3) The gospel is to reprobation as light is to roaches: it exposes and repels.
 - D. The working out of salvation that God has worked in the elect is the shining *forth* of eternal life and the gospel in the life of the believer: the gold is mined and brought to the surface where it becomes serviceable.
PHIL 2:12-16.
 - (1) The shining forth of life and immortality's light is not to be kept under a bushel. **MAT 5:14-16.**
 - (2) How blessed are they who shine forth that light now---they shall shine it forth forever. **MAT 13:43; ROM 6:22; 2PE 1:8-11.**

v.11.

- 1. Apostles were preachers and teachers of the gospel.
 - A. Preachers are to be "apt to teach" (**1TI 3:2**). Their fitness for ministry is not measured by their skills as song leaders, social directors, fundraisers, etc., nor by their charisma.
 - B. Preachers should be teachers of THE gospel, not social gospel, false gospels,

lost gospels, gnostic gospels, philosophic gospels, phony science gospels, etc.

2. Paul's ministry was particularly to the Gentiles. **ROM 11:13.**
 - A. By Paul's gospel, the elect amongst the Gentiles (**2TI 2:10**) were provided forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among sanctified believers. **ACT 26:18 c/w EPH 2:13-18.**
 - B. By Paul's gospel, the Gentile believers were delivered from the bondage of service to non-gods. **GAL 4:8-10 c/w 1CO 10:20.**
 - C. By Paul's gospel, the Gentile believers' sacrifices were made acceptable to God. **ROM 15:16.**
3. Other apostles were particularly ministers to the circumcision. **GAL 2:7-9.**
 - A. This is helpful in understanding texts like **2PE 2:1-3, 17.**
 - B. There was only one gospel to Jew and Gentile alike (**EPH 4:5; ACT 15:7-11**) but specialized application of that gospel according to circumstances.
 - (1) Paul's method of preaching to Jews who were familiar with the Scriptures was different from the method he would use in preaching to the heathen. **ACT 17:1-2 c/w ACT 14:11-18.**
 - (2) There were carryovers of the O.T. law which could still apply to N.T. Jewish Christians only. **ACT 18:21; 21:26 c/w COL 2:16-17.**

v.12.

1. Paul suffered for the cause of the gospel.
2. Paul's sufferings did not make him ashamed of the gospel. He set a good example for Timothy in light of the exhortation of v.8.
 - A. There is cause for shame owing to ignorance of the gospel when its information is readily available. **ACT 2:37-38; 3:17 c/w 1CO 15:34.**
 - B. There is cause for shame owing to lack of study of the gospel for its defense. **1PE 3:15; 2TI 2:15; HEB 5:12.**
 - C. There is cause for shame when a lack of application of the gospel is manifest in poor discernment. **1CO 6:1-5; REV 3:17-18.**
 - D. There is cause for shame when a believer walks contrary to the gospel. **GAL 2:11-14.**
 - E. There is cause for shame when a believer apostatizes from the gospel. **HEB 10:29.**
 - F. But sufferings for the gospel's sake are not cause for shame. They are cause for rejoicing. **1PE 4:14-16; LUK 6:22-23.**
 - (1) The apostles rejoiced to be counted worthy to suffer for the gospel's sake. **ACT 5:41-42.**
 - (2) The faithful Hebrews joyfully suffered the loss of their goods for the gospel's sake. **HEB 10:33-34.**
 - (3) This kind of rejoicing about sufferings for the gospel's sake speaks of great rewards. **HEB 10:35; 1PE 4:13.**

- (4) There is another kind of rejoicing about sufferings for the gospel's sake that speaks of something else. **JDG 16:25-30; REV 11:10-11.**
3. For the cause of the gospel, Paul suffered "...these things."
- A. These: "Demonstrative adjective. Indicating things or persons present or near (actually, or in thought, esp. as having just been mentioned): plural of THIS."
- B. "These things" would first be relative to his Roman imprisonment. **v.8.**
- (1) He suffered "...trouble as an evil doer, even unto bonds..." (**2TI 2:9**).
- (2) He was chained. **2TI 1:16.**
- (3) He was cold. **2TI 4:13, 21.**
- (4) He was ready to be offered. **2TI 4:7.**
- (5) He was abandoned. **2TI 1:15, 4:10, 16.**
- C. "These things" that he was then suffering were the end of what he had already been suffering for the gospel's sake. **2CO 11:23-33.**
- D. Being thought strange for not celebrating Christmas seems pretty trivial by comparison.
4. The basis for Paul's shameless sufferings for the gospel's sake was: "...for I know whom I have believed..."
- A. Paul knew the God in Whom he believed, unlike the Athenian philosophers on Mars Hill. **ACT 17:23.**
- (1) It is a general tenet of false religion that its god is unknowable or inscrutable or incomprehensible.
- (2) Freemasonry's god is the Unknowable, Concealed of all concealed En Soph.
- (3) "When we consider the incomprehensible nature of the Godhead..." (Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, p.478)
- (4) One system is particularly adept at shrouding its god with shifting and contradictory declarations. **REV 17:7.**
- (5) The true God is knowable, being declared, revealed and manifest (*clearly revealed to the eye, mind, or judgement; open to view or comprehension; obvious*) in and by Jesus Christ. **JOH 1:18; MAT 11:27; 1TI 3:16.**
- (6) The ability to know God is life eternal. **JOH 17:3 c/w 1JO 5:20.**
- (7) Paul shows that it is proper to glory in the fact one knows the true God. c/w **JER 9:24.**
- B. Mind that Paul did not say that he knew OF WHOM he believed, but that he knew WHOM he believed. This speaks of an intimate acquaintance with God.
- (1) Do you have a personal relationship with God as with a friend? **JAM 2:23.**
- a. If we would know Christ as a friend, we would believe in Him as Abraham. **HEB 11:17-19; JOH 8:56.**

- b. If we would know Christ as a friend, we must obey His commandments. **JOH 15:14-15.**
 - (2) Are your prayers an empty form or a conscious speaking to God? **PSA 5:1-3.**
 - (3) Do you read the Bible as though God is speaking to YOU? **HEB 12:5.**
 - (4) Can you say that the Lord has heard you and that the Lord has been with you? **PSA 116:1; 2TI 4:16-17.**
 - (5) Do you walk WITH God? **MIC 6:8; GEN 5:22, 24; 6:9.**
 - C. Paul desired to know Christ at all cost. **PHIL 3:8.**
 - (1) In comparison with Him, we must count all else but dung.
 - (2) If you are not personally acquainted with Christ or if you are not growing in the knowledge of Him, you are counting something dear that you should count as dung.
5. Because Paul knew and trusted God, he was persuaded (*prevailed upon; convinced; having an assured opinion*) that God was faithful and powerful to keep what he had committed unto Him.
- A. Paul's God promises that faithful living has an end of eternal life. **JOH 5:24, 28-29; ROM 2:6-7.**
 - B. Paul's God promises that present sufferings for His sake speak of future glory that far outweighs them. **ROM 8:17-18.**
 - C. Paul's God promises that the death of the body is the entrance to true life. **2CO 5:1, 8 c/w PHIL 1:21-23.**
 - D. Paul's God promises that faithful duty and sacrifice in this life is remembered for the next. **LUK 14:13-14; MAT 25:21.**
 - E. Paul's God proved His power to keep by the resurrection of His Son. **LUK 23:46 c/w ACT 2:23-36.**
 - F. Paul's persuasion of God's power to keep what he had committed unto Him was owing to God's unretractable love. **ROM 8:38-39.**
 - G. Like Abraham, Paul was *fully persuaded* of God's power and promises. c/w **ROM 4:21.**
 - H. Like the patriarchs, Paul was persuaded that God's promises are grounded in heaven, not earth. **HEB 11:13.**
 - I. When one is fully persuaded of some thing or cause, it is much easier to suffer for that cause!
6. What Paul committed unto the Lord to keep is explained in **1PE 4:19.**
- A. Paul committed the keeping of his soul to the Lord in well doing even though he suffered in so doing. **1PE 2:20-23.**
 - B. "Keep" in this passage denotes guarding, defending, preserving and saving. **GEN 28:15; 1CH 4:10; PSA 19:13; 140:4; 2TH 3:3; JUDE 1:24.**
 - C. Remember, God has abundantly proved that He has the best interest of His children at heart. **ROM 8:31-39.**
 - D. The child of God can safely commit himself to the Lord since he is assured of

good in the outcome. **PHIL 1:6; PSA 37:3-11.**

- E. In his sufferings Paul focused with assurance upon the power of God to keep him.
7. "That day" is the day of the appearing of Jesus Christ. **2TI 4:1, 8.**
- A. We should not expect perfect justice until that day.
 - B. We should not expect full compensation for duty until that day.
 - C. We should therefore entrust our affairs, concerns, sacrifices and duties to God in prayer until that day and have peace now. **PHIL 4:6-7.**

v.13.

1. Paul commands Timothy to hold fast (firmly) the *sound* words that *he had* heard.
- A. Here a second-generation minister is being charged to stick to the apostolic doctrine.
 - (1) This hardly supports the idea of continuing and novel prophecy.
 - (2) This opposes the introduction of extra-biblical knowledge, *ex cathedra* utterances, philosophies or "...oppositions of science falsely so called" (**1TI 6:20**).
 - (3) "...the SAME commit thou to faithful men" (**2TI 2:2**).
 - (4) Embellishments, alterations and corruptions of Paul's gospel (even if by Paul himself) would merit a curse. **GAL 1:8-9.**
 - B. As an apostle, Paul received these words directly from Jesus Christ by revelation. **GAL 1:11-12; EPH 3:1-5; 1CO 2:12-13.**
 - C. Timothy and ministers of future generations receive these words from Paul.
 - D. No new words are to be sought in respect of a completed revelation. **REV 22:18-19.**
2. Sound: "In full accordance with fact, reason, or good sense; founded on true or well-established grounds; free from error, fallacy or logical defect."
- A. The Christian religion is not idiotic, mythical, fabulous; it is not in contradiction with genuine science or history nor is it self-contradictory.
 - (1) It reasons from the only valid premise (there is a Creator God) to the only valid conclusion: Jesus Christ is Lord and God with Whom men have to do. **HEB 4:13-14.**
 - (2) According to the definition, *sound* doctrine will be free from logical defect. A certain mark of heresy is that it condemns itself by illogical arguments and inconsistency. **TIT 3:10-11.**
 - (3) Of all the writers of Scripture, Paul sets forth the most logical presentations of doctrine.
 - (4) It is very appropriate for gospel ministers (like Timothy) to hold fast the form of Paul's sound words.
 - (5) Pauline logic derived from the revelation of Jesus Christ is the setting

- forth of truth and soberness to a lunatic world. **ACT 26:24-25**.
- B. Consider how often Paul affirms the importance of sound words.
1TI 1:10; TIT 1:9, 13; 2:1-2, 8.
 - C. Sound words were emphasized to Timothy against the time when men would not endure sound doctrine. **2TI 4:3**.
 - D. Sound words must not only be heard; they must be held fast.
PSA 119:31; PRO 4:4-5, 13, 20-22; 6:20-22; 7:1-2; 1CO 15:2; HEB 2:1.
3. Timothy was to hold fast the *form* (shape, arrangement of parts) of the sound words.
 - A. Ministers must hold fast to the arrangement of the words of Scripture, for it is in the grammar (syntax) of words that the soundness (logic) is presented and preserved.
 - B. Christ argued from the grammar of **EXO 3:6** to counter the Sadducees' error.
MAT 22:23, 29-32.
 - C. Christ contended for the minute jots and tittles of the Law. **MAT 5:18**.
 - D. The punctuation marks of Scripture are importantly arranged parts of the language of Scripture which establish consistent truth and doctrine.
 - (1) The syntax and punctuation of **EXO 12:40** is critical to a proper reconciliation of O.T. chronology. c/w **GAL 3:17**.
 - (2) The apostrophe in "Christ's" in **GAL 3:29** is the difference between pagan Gnosticism and grace!
 - E. For a minister to abandon or denigrate the form of sound words is *bad form*.
 4. The form of sound words must be held fast in faith. They are to be constantly believed without wavering. **JAM 1:6 c/w HEB 10:23**.
 5. These words must be held fast in love (**PSA 119:97, 113, 163, 167**); one will not hold tightly to that which he does not love. **2TH 2:10**.
 6. Faith and love are located in Christ Jesus; one cannot have genuine faith and love outside of Christ.
 7. By grace within and the faithful, loving reception of the form of sound words from without comes a sound mind. **2TI 1:7**.

v.14.

1. This charge to keep connects to the previous charge to hold fast.
2. Timothy was charged to keep the good thing that was committed unto him.
 - A. Paul's first epistle to Timothy was a charge committed to him; it entrusted a responsibility or commission to Timothy. **1TI 1:18; 6:20**.
 - B. This good thing committed unto Timothy was the ministry of the gospel with all the responsibilities attendant upon it. **1TI 1:11; 2CO 5:19 c/w 2CO 1:1**.
 - C. God is faithful to keep that which ministers commit unto him (v.12); ministers should be faithful to keep that which God has committed to them.
 - D. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant..." (**MAT 25:21**) is what ministers

who have kept that which was committed unto them may hear in the day of Christ.

3. Timothy is to keep this good thing BY the indwelling Holy Ghost.
 - A. The Holy Ghost indwells the believer. **ROM 8:9; 1CO 6:19.**
 - B. The Holy Ghost enables reception of the doctrine. **1CO 2:14.**
 - C. The Holy Ghost is needed to keep the doctrine.
 - D. The grieving of the Holy Ghost (**EPH 4:30**) is a certain means to departing from the doctrine. **1TI 4:1.**
4. The power of the indwelling Holy Ghost is utilized by the following steps.
 - A. The Spirit's power is experienced IN obedience to His word.
GAL 5:16 c/w REV 19:10; PSA 119:1-3.
 - B. However, believers must trust in God's power, not in their own performance.
1JO 5:4.
 - (1) A conquering Israel trusted God in their military campaigns; they were but His instruments by which He conquered Canaan.
PSA 44:1-7 c/w HEB 11:30; PRO 21:31.
 - (2) Paul labored in the gospel but his trust was in the Lord and not in his labors. **2CO 3:4-5; 12:9.**
 - (3) Peter could only succeed in obeying Christ's command to walk on the water when his faith was fixed on the Lord. **MAT 14:28-31.**
 - C. Believers must pray for divine enablement.
ROM 10:13; EPH 3:16; MAT 26:41.

vs.15-18.

1. The close of this first chapter is a call to faithfulness in relationships.
 - A. As a good minister, Paul deserved better treatment than abandonment in a time of tribulation by those to whom he had ministered.
 - B. Onesiphorus stood apart from others and set a good example of fidelity.
 - C. What applied here in a relation to a minister would also apply in a general sense in everyday relationships.
2. All those in Asia who had once identified with Paul had turned away from him.
 - A. Paul had labored diligently and faithfully to the people of that area.
ACT 19:8-10; 20:17-21.
 - B. Therefore, this was a particularly hurtful “thank you.” Paul was elsewhere witness to the fact that the greatness of his love for brethren was not reciprocal. **2CO 12:15.**
 - C. The reason for their turning away was that, unlike Onesiphorus, they were apparently ashamed of Paul's chain (his bonds). They were ashamed of the prisoner of the Lord. ct/w v.8.
 - D. Theirs was not exactly a remembering of someone in bonds. **HEB 13:2.**

- E. There is a tendency to distance ourselves from even close acquaintances when they are unpopular or when troubles come upon them lest their grief rub off onto ourselves. **PSA 38:11 c/w JOB 6:21.**
- (1) Job's closest acquaintances became strangers in his affliction. **JOB 19:13-19.**
 - (2) Christ witnessed many disciples' desertion even before His betrayal. **JOH 6:66.**
 - (3) At His arrest, the eleven abandoned Him. **MAT 26:56.**
 - (4) Peter then denied Him thrice. **MAT 26:69-75.**
 - (5) Under the guilt of our sin, even the Father turned away from Christ. **MAT 27:46.**
 - (6) When Paul first answered the charges against him, he was very alone. **2TI 4:16.**
 - (7) The godly should take note. There will be times when principles or tribulation will leave them very alone with nobody but God for comfort. **2TI 4:17; PSA 27:10; 1SAM 30:6.**
- F. Paul specifically mentioned Phygellus and Hermogenes as deserters.
- (1) It is not an unbiblical thing to warn against specific individuals or groups by name. **MAT 16:6; 2TI 2:17; 4:10, 14; TIT 1:12; 3JO 1:9-10; REV 2:6.**
 - (2) Warnings against wrong must be specific as well as general and such specific warnings are NOT hate speech.
 - (3) This passage is the only place where Phygellus or Hermogenes is mentioned in Scripture.
 - a. This is their epitaph by which men remember them to this day!
 - b. Contrast this epitaph with the singularly mentioned people in **ROM 16:5-15** or that of Onesiphorus.
 - c. If we may only leave one thing to the world, let it be a good name. **PRO 22:1.**
3. In contrast to the Asians, Phygellus and Hermogenes, Onesiphorus did not shrink from identifying with Paul even in his chain. **vs.16-18.**
- A. Onesiphorus' kindness to Paul was not a one-time effort to satisfy the form or letter of charity's demands and soothe his own conscience.
- (1) He OFT refreshed Paul in MANY things.
 - (2) Christian duty is more than what one must do, it extends to zeal and forwardness in doing good. **2CO 8:1-5.**
- B. Onesiphorus may well have been putting himself under Roman scrutiny for being so attached to Paul, or even subjecting himself to similar tribulation.
- (1) There is a time for discretion when under an ungodly regime. **JDG 6:11-12; 1KI 18:2-4.**
 - (2) But there are also times for open frankness even with risk. **1KI 18:11-16; EST 4:15-16.**

- (3) Paul's chain was owing to the hope of Israel, which was/is the resurrection. **ACT 28:20; 26:6-8.**
 - a. Onesiphorus obviously shared in this hope by faith.
 - b. The hope of the resurrection has power to loose the fear of death. **HEB 2:14-15.**
 - c. Therefore, Paul's chain was nothing for him to be ashamed of.
- C. Onesiphorus did not abandon his family or his necessary duties elsewhere to go and spend all his time with Paul.
 - (1) "But when he was in Rome, he sought [Paul] out very diligently..."
 - (2) He had previously exercised himself thus for Paul at Ephesus. **v.18.**
 - (3) As he had opportunity, he did good and did so with diligent zeal. **GAL 6:10.**
 - (4) I am blessed to have had the faithful comfort and support of brethren like Onesiphorus who have stuck by me and refreshed me when many had turned away.
- D. Onesiphorus *diligently* (with care and persistency) sought Paul and found him. Men will accomplish a diligent search for that which means much to them. **PSA 64:6.**
 - (1) Comforting Paul meant enough to Onesiphorus that he would expend considerable effort to find him.
 - a. This is a proof of one's love for another. Charity endures, suffers and bears things for the welfare of that which it seeks. **1CO 13:4-7.**
 - b. Of what validity is a professed love for someone who is not worth any more effort finding than the dime you dropped?
 - c. One of the reasons that we love the Lord Jesus Christ is because He diligently sought us and bought us.
 - (2) Some spirit didn't mysteriously guide Onesiphorus to Paul so as to excuse him from having to make an effort.
 - (3) Nor do we read that because he wasn't in the first place Onesiphorus looked that he concluded it was not God's will for him to find Paul.
 - (4) Faithful men will be diligent to not allow obstacles to forbid good duty. **MAR 2:3-5.**
 - (5) God is a rewarder of them that *diligently* seek Him. **HEB 11:6.**
 - a. Precious stones require digging, mining, sifting. How much moreso the word of God? **PSA 119:72, 127; PRO 2:3-5.**
 - b. By desire, searching and studying one finds the reward of the knowledge of God. **1PE 2:2; ACT 17:11-12; 2TI 2:15.**
 - c. The depth of the believer's grace and knowledge is according to the depth of his digging in and through the word of grace and knowledge. **2PE 1:2.**
- E. Paul requited Onesiphorus' kindness by praying for mercy for him and his

household. c/w **2CO 9:12-14.**

- (1) One not only does well to himself when he is faithful, he does well for his household also. **HEB 11:7; 1CO 7:14.**
 - a. The household of Christ is blessed because of HIS faithfulness. **ROM 3:21-22; HEB 3:1-6.**
 - b. By contrast, consider the houses of Eli and Judas. **1SAM 3:13-14; PSA 109:8-13.**
 - (2) This is a prayer that is sure to be answered since it was guaranteed by Christ. **MAT 10:41-42 c/w HEB 6:10.**
 - (3) Ebedmelech realized a temporal mercy for similar kindness to a man of God. **JER 38:7; 39:15-18.**
 - (4) Those who show mercy to the Lord's brethren will receive mercy *in that day*, the day of Christ's appearing. **2TI 4:1, 8 c/w MAT 5:7; 25:31-46.**
 - a. Their deeds of kindness are not meritorious of everlasting life; they are the evidence of it. **HEB 6:9-10.**
 - b. Even this good man would need mercy in that day. **JUDE 1:21.**
- F. The Holy Spirit's commendation of Onesiphorus reminds us that it is scriptural to commend specific persons and groups by name. **ROM 16:1-15; 2CO 8:1-2; 9:1-2.**
- G. Paul's words about Onesiphorus' diligent constancy in coming to him would be a powerful stimulus for Timothy to diligently come to Paul! **2TI 4:9, 21.**

Chapter 2

v.1.

1. Timothy is here commanded to be strong in a particular manner, "...in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."
 - A. This is not an order for a rigid physical discipline so as to enable Timothy to be a better Christian and minister. **1TI 4:7-8.**
 - (1) Physical strength without God's blessing avails little. **JDG 16:20.**
 - (2) Physical strength does not impress God (**PSA 147:10**) but neither does foolish or wilful neglect of the body, albeit under pretext of a higher spiritual purpose. **1CO 9:25; COL 2:21-23.**
 - (3) There is a need for reasonable balance in all things. **PHIL 4:5.**
 - B. Neither is this an order for political strength or personal accomplishment as if Timothy should build a ministry so large and secure that none could ever challenge its "success." ct/w **2CH 26:15-16.**
 - C. Strength in grace is actually facilitated by personal weakness. **2CO 12:9-10.**
 - D. Gospel ministry is a burden requiring strength in grace.

- (1) The word of God entrusted to His ministers is a burden.
ZEC 9:1; 12:1; MAL 1:1 c/w 1CO 9:16.
 - (2) The care of a church is a burden upon a minister. **2CO 11:28.**
 - (3) God's ministers are likened to oxen which are beasts of burden and toil which profit by strength. **1CO 9:9; 1TI 5:18 c/w PRO 14:4.**
2. Mark that this verse and exhortation is introduced by a conjunctive adverb, "therefore."
 - A. This "*form* of sound words" (**2TI 1:13**) connects the previous thoughts with what follows and makes them the basis for what follows.
 - B. Paul knew that Timothy was burdened unto tears. **2TI 1:4.**
 - C. Paul had just reminded Timothy of his own sufferings and bonds as an example of faithful duty and bearing by grace. **2TI 1:12, 15-16.**
 - D. Paul had also encouraged Timothy about the power of God for the believer. **2TI 1:7-8.**
 - E. In view of all that, Paul exhorts Timothy to *therefore* be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
 3. Believers are in general commanded to be strong. **1CO 16:13.**
 4. This epistle shows that Christian life and ministry involve afflictions (**2TI 3:12**) and the Christian must *therefore* be strong! **PRO 24:10 c/w JER 12:5.**
 5. Here then is a command to utilize the strength that is available from the presence of God with the believer. **JOS 1:9; HAG 2:4; 2TI 4:17; EPH 3:20; 6:10.**
 - A. Paul had just pointed Timothy to the resource of God's power. **2TI 1:7-8, 12, 14.**
 - B. *Therefore* Timothy should be strong based upon the power of God.
 6. Timothy was to be "...strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."
 - A. Grace is "favour, favourable or benignant regard or its manifestation..." See **RUTH 2:8-10.**
 - B. This grace is IN Christ Jesus. **JOH 1:14, 16.**
 - C. This grace or favour is a source of strength that enables believers to withstand afflictions and do their duty. **2CO 12:9; 9:8; 1CO 15:10.**
 - D. Without this grace, the believer could not endure or obey and we therefore should exercise ourselves to not do "...despite [outrage, injury] to the Spirit of grace" (**HEB 10:29**). c/w **EPH 4:29-32.**
 - E. Without this grace, there would not even be believers to endure or obey! **ACT 18:27.**
 7. The following steps show how a believer may tap additional supplies of grace that will enable him to obey the command to be strong.
 - A. He must pray. **HEB 4:16; JAM 4:2.**
 - B. He must have faith. **ROM 5:2; HEB 11:6.**
 - C. He must take in the word of God.
 - (1) Growth in GRACE and peace is by the word of God. **2PE 1:2; 1PE 2:2-3.**

- (2) Growth in GRACE and knowledge is by the word of God. **2PE 3:18.**
- (3) God abounds toward His people IN grace by revealing His word.
EPH 1:8-9; 3:1-8.
- (4) Those who have the word of God abiding in them are accordingly strong. **1JO 2:14.**
- D. He must be humble, that is, he must submit to God.
JAM 4:6-10.
 - (1) This humility involves submission to God's commandments.
 - (2) It involves confession of sin and repentance.
 - (3) It involves soberness and gravity.
 - (4) It involves submission to God's will even though He wills sufferings and afflictions.
1PE 4:19; 2SA 15:24-26; JOB 1:20-21; 2CO 12:9.
 - (5) Without this submission, all of the intake of God's word may only condemn one as a hypocrite. **ROM 2:17-23.**
 - (6) Until one experiences sufferings and submits to the justice of God in allowing them, all of the intake of God's word is so much theory.

v.2.

- 1. Paul commands Timothy, a pastor, to train other men for the ministry.
- 2. God's order is for men to be trained for the ministry by men who are themselves in the ministry.
 - A. The ministry of the pastorate is a church office. **1CO 12:28; EPH 4:11-12.**
 - B. This is a directive for ministerial training in a church context by a pastor, not by manufactured and substituted ministerial academies.
 - C. Neither is this training for ministry meant to be understood as a justification of pseudo-ministries by which or for which someone is trained.
 - D. "Pastor" derives from the Latin *pastor-em* which means a "shepherd, lit. a feeder, giver of pasture..." and so biblically is "a shepherd of souls; one who has the spiritual oversight over a company or body of Christians, etc.; *spec.* the minister in charge of a church or congregation, with particular reference to the spiritual care of his 'flock'." See **1PE 5:1-3 c/w ACT 20:28.**
- 3. Paul taught Timothy who was to teach faithful men who were to teach others.
 - A. This establishes a succession of ministers.
 - B. Jesus promised to be with the gospel ministry until the end of the world.
MAT 28:18-20.
 - C. This demands
 - (1) that there would be a perpetuity of Christ's churches and ministers ordained in such churches throughout history.
 - (2) that a ministry is only valid if obtained from a validly ordained minister

of a preserved true church of Jesus Christ, which annuls any ministries derived from Romanism or those which “sprang up” like so many new gods, per **DEU 32:17**.

4. Timothy was to commit to faithful men THE SAME THINGS, not some of the things, or a version of the things, or less than the things, but “the same” that he had heard of Paul.
5. These things had been heard among MANY witnesses. These were not occult mysteries transmitted only to the initiated in secret places removed from church observation and scrutiny.
6. Only men are to be trained for the ministry who are faithful AND able to teach.
 - A. God gives a man the aptitude to teach. **2CO 3:6; EPH 4:8, 11**.
 - B. A pastor discerns whether one has that aptitude or not by proving him. **1TI 3:1-7, 10 c/w PHIL 2:22**.

vs.3-6.

1. In these verses Paul likens the ministry to soldiering, athletic competition and husbandry (care, cultivation and breeding of crops and animals).
 - A. These three comparisons underscore three facts about ministry and Christian life in general:
 - (1) There are *fight*s to be fought.
 - (2) There are *rules* that must be kept.
 - (3) There is *labour* that must be done.
 - B. As much as our flesh would like to avoid these, they are part and parcel of genuine Christianity. **MAT 7:13-14; ACT 14:22**.
2. Soldiering speaks of authority, discipline, arms and engagement.
 - A. A good soldier must both wield and yield to authority. c/w **MAT 8:9-10**.
 - B. A good soldier must be disciplined in study and under discipline to the word of God. **1TI 4:13-16; 2TI 2:15; JOH 8:31-32**.
 - C. A good soldier must be armed defensively and offensively. **EPH 6:11-17**.
 - D. A good soldier will not run from nor yield prematurely in a necessary battle. **JOH 10:12-13 c/w 2SAM 23:10**.
3. The most of the verses which speak of Christian warfare apply to the ministry. **1TI 1:18; PHIL 2:25; PHM 1:2 c/w COL 4:17**.
 - A. Ministers are warriors.
 - (1) The marginal note of **NUM 4:23** offers “war the warfare” as an alternative to “perform the service.”
 - (2) Godly prophets were deemed Israel's military power. **2KI 2:12; 13:14**.
 - (3) Ministers of Jesus Christ advance His ideas against an antiChrist world and those ideas have consequences.
 - (4) Secular powers know this very well. The British often referred to the

- American clergy as *The Black Regiment* during the Revolutionary Era.
- B. There is defensive warfare where the minister defends the church and the doctrine against corruption. **PHIL 1:17; GAL 2:4-5; TIT 1:9-11.**
 - C. There is offensive warfare where the minister strives to win souls to the truth. **2TI 2:14; 2CO 10:3-5.**
 - D. The weapons of this warfare are spiritual. **2CO 10:3-4.**
 - (1) The field of this battle is in the minds and souls of men.
 - (2) The “compelling” of men (per **LUK 14:25**) is by the force of argument, not the point of the sword or power of the state. **TIT 1:9.**
 - (3) It is a bankrupt and desperate theology that resorts to carnal or secular force to silence its opponents.
 - E. Christians in general are as soldiers in warfare. **EPH 6:10-17; 1PE 2:11.**
4. Paul's exhortation to *endure hardness* is introduced by the conjunctive adverb, “therefore.”
- A. As noted in the comments on **2TI 2:1**, this grammatical form links the command to endure hardness with the thoughts of the previous verse.
 - (1) Conjunctive adverbs are transition words that define the relationship between independent clauses.
(*English—Master the Basics*, by Jean Yates, p. 186)
 - (2) Conjunctive adverbs like *consequently*, *therefore* and *thus* indicate the consequence of a statement. (Ibid, p.188)
 - (3) Based upon the command to commit Paul's gospel to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also, Timothy should expect hardness that he is to endure.
 - (4) **Endure**: “To last; to suffer continuously. intr. To last, continue in existence. Also, to persist, 'hold out' in any action, etc.. Formerly also, to continue in a certain state or condition, remain in a certain place (with complement expressing the state or place).”
 - (5) **Hardness**: “The quality or condition of being hard; difficulty of penetration, solution, apprehension, performance, endurance; inflexibility, rigidity, stiffness, harshness; rigour, severity, cruelty; obduracy, obstinacy; hardness, etc.”
 - B. One of the great challenges of ministry is getting through to the people under one's care so as to get their thinking and conduct straightened out.
 - (1) Human nature being what it is, the minister will have to *endure hardness* of heart amongst his listeners. **MAR 3:5; 16:14.**
 - (2) “Dullness of hearing” makes some doctrine “hard to be uttered...” (**HEB 5:11**).
 - a. Remember that hardness is *difficulty of penetration or apprehension*.
 - b. “Is any of this getting through to you?”
 - c. A minister must expect and endure the hardness of getting

through to people whose minds are on their work, their family or their play or who are sleeping through the sermon.

- (3) In committing Paul's gospel to others, it should be noted that his gospel has "...some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest....to their own destruction" (**2PE 3:16**).
- (4) Even faithful men who are able to teach others can have their lapses when the word is committed unto them. **MAR 16:14-15**.
- C. One of the ways that God manifests men as approved is by allowing heresies to challenge the church and its pastor. **DEU 33:8-10 c/w 1CO 11:19**.
 - (1) A pastor may have to endure the hardness of agenda-driven members or their hard speeches (**JUDE 1:15**) against the truth or his person to "separate the men from the boys."
 - (2) Enduring such hardness can show a potential minister what the work can really be like and how a faithful minister must not waver from the doctrine even though it means great pressure or loss. It also provides an opportunity to show God's forwardness to stand with the right. **ISA 54:17; JER 1:8, 17-19**.
- D. In the context of perpetuating the ministry (**v.2**) a minister may have to endure the hardness that comes from having a trainee go stinko after ordination. **ACT 20:29-30**.
- E. The warfare of ministry will give the man of God plenty of opportunities to *endure* hardness. **2CO 7:5**.
 - (1) What he must be cautious of is not to allow those things to make him *become* hardness.
 - (2) God's people are worth enduring hardness for. **2TI 2:10**.
5. The soldier minister is to avoid entangling himself with the affairs of this life. **v.4**.
 - A. Entangle: "To involve, impede, cause to stick fast in coils, network or anything 'tangled' or interlaced. Hence, in wider sense: To involve in surroundings that impede movement, or from which extrication is difficult."
 - B. Affair: "What one has to do or has ado with; what has to be done; business, operation."
 - C. This verse does not prohibit a minister from ALL dealing with the affairs of life.
 - (1) A minister may marry, have children or pursue hobbies. **1CO 9:4-6**.
 - (2) A minister may work another job if necessary. **ACT 20:34**.
 - (3) This verse prohibits a minister from being ENTANGLED with the affairs of this life to where he is impeded from doing God's work.
 - D. If possible, he should not have to minister at his own charges. **1CO 9:6-14**.
 - E. Mind how this verse likens ministry to being drafted into military service. Woe unto draft evaders! **1CO 9:16**.
6. The soldier minister should concentrate on fighting the battles of His Captain's choosing, not those concocted by men or his own fancies.

- A. He need not preoccupy himself with self-willed engagements where God has not directed. c/w **2CH 35:20-24**.
 - B. Neither should he waste his energies on Quixotic missions against phantom enemies. **1TI 1:4; 2TI 2:23; TIT 3:9**.
 - C. God will suffer Satan to provide plenty of real enemies and battles that **MUST** be fought!
7. What applies here primarily to the ministry applies secondarily to believers in general.
- A. Believers must also endure hardness. **2TI 3:11-12; PHIL 1:29-30**.
 - B. Believers must also guard against entanglement with the affairs of this life. **LUK 8:14; 21:34; 1CO 7:29-32**.
8. The ministry is likened to an athletic contest. **v.5**.
- A. Mastery: “The state or condition of being master, controller or ruler; authority, sway, dominion; an instance of this. 2. Superiority or ascendancy in competition or strife; 'upper-hand'; victory...”
 - B. God has ordained the minister as the ruler (under Christ) of the church. **HEB 13:7, 17; 1TH 5:12-13**.
 - (1) This is a crown which must be achieved lawfully.
 - (2) Achieving such preeminence by carnal means invites judgment. **ACT 8:18-20**.
 - (3) Grasping for offices unlawfully is the gainsaying of Korah. **NUM 16:1-3**.
 - (4) Having the high podium also means one is the easiest target. **JAM 3:1**.
 - C. The minister strives to win souls. **1CO 9:19-27 c/w PRO 11:30**.
 - (1) Converted souls are a crown to be achieved. **1TH 2:19; PHIL 4:1**.
 - (2) This demands that the minister gain the mastery of himself. **1CO 9:25**.
 - a. Temperate: “Of persons, their conduct, practices, etc.: Keeping due measure, self-restrained, moderate....”
 - b. “Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself...” (**ROM 2:21**)?
 - (3) For a minister to truly achieve the objective he **MUST** strive according to the rules, i.e., lawfully. **1TH 2:3-4**.
 - (4) Souls are not to be gained by compromising the law of God!
 - (5) Such instruction may also apply to any Christian who is striving to be an effective witness for Christ. **PHIL 2:15-16; 1PE 3:15-16**.
9. The ministry is likened to husbandry. **v.6**.
- A. He who **LABOURS** has the first right to the fruit of such labours. **HEB 6:7**.
 - B. A minister should not expect fruit without labour. **PRO 13:4**.
 - C. A minister must labour patiently for the fruit; he should not count on instant results. **JAM 5:7; MAR 4:26-29**.
 - D. This instruction applies generally to Christians who must also labour patiently in sowing righteousness. **HEB 6:10-12; GAL 6:7-9; HEB 12:1**.

vs.7-10.

1. “Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things” (v.7).
 - A. Consider: “To view or contemplate attentively, to survey, examine, inspect, scrutinize.”
 - (1) Paul obviously did not intend that Timothy take his words lightly.
 - a. He used similar wording when he instructed believers to “...*consider* the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus” (**HEB 3:1**).
 - b. Ministers-in-training or inexperienced ministers ought to give due consideration to what their ministerial fathers have said. **2TI 3:14; TIT 1:9**.
 - (2) Paul was actually encouraging Timothy to scrutinize his words.
 - a. There is a certain nobility in scrutinizing what one hears. **ACT 17:11; 1TH 5:21**.
 - b. The truth and honest people can withstand scrutiny and therefore need neither secrecy nor a smokescreen of ambiguities.
 - i. Christ spoke openly. **JOH 18:20**.
 - ii. Paul renounced (gave up, resigned, surrendered) crafty and deceptive teaching in favor of openness, plainness and clarity. **2CO 4:2 c/w 2CO 1:13; 3:12**.
 - iii. It is deceptions and deceivers that avoid light. **JOH 3:20-21; EPH 5:11-13**.
 - iv. “Corruption in doctrine works best when it is unfettered by any explicit statement of that doctrine. Error loves ambiguities. It does not desire to state its position clearly, either because it has no distinct position to state, or if stated, it would stand convicted of iniquities in the eyes of all honest and God fearing men.”
(Martin L. Wagner; *Freemasonry, An Interpretation*)
 - c. There is scrutiny, and then there is *scrutiny*. **LUK 20:20**.
 - B. “...and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.”
 - (1) This is a prayer for another's understanding. c/w **EPH 1:16-18**.
 - (2) The Lord gives understanding. Apart from this, one may continually learn and yet not achieve understanding. **2TI 3:7**.
 - a. Understanding (of spiritual things) depends on one being “of God,” i.e., born again with a new heart and nature capable of understanding. **JOH 8:42-47; 1CO 1:18; 2:14**.
 - b. Being born again enables one to understand. But the regenerate man must be illuminated by God for that ability to be fruitful. **LUK 24:45; EPH 1:17-18**.

- c. God provides light to the upright. **PSA 97:11; JAM 1:5-6.**
 - d. God withholds light from the disobedient. **JER 13:16.**
 - (3) Mind that Paul says, “Consider *what I say*; and the Lord give thee understanding...” Due consideration of Paul's words especially promotes understanding. **EPH 3:1-4.**
 - C. It is the believer's part to *consider* God's word (**PSA 119:95**) and it is God's part to give the *understanding*.
2. Paul then instructed Timothy to remember that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead *according to* Paul's gospel. **v.8.**
 - A. According to: "In a manner agreeing with, consistent with, or answering to; agreeably to."
 - (1) Paul's gospel declared that Christ's resurrection was altogether necessary for the salvation of sinners. **ACT 13:37-39; ROM 4:25.**
 - (2) Paul's gospel was a declaration of an accomplished eternal salvation. **HEB 1:3; 9:12; 10:14.**
 - (3) Paul's gospel was a declaration of righteousness by the obedience of one. **ROM 5:19.**
 - (4) Paul's gospel was of a “one-time-only” death of Christ that was guaranteed by His resurrection to never again be repeated in any form. **ACT 13:34; ROM 6:9-10; HEB 9:26-28.**
 - (5) Paul's gospel was of an elective predestinating purpose of God to fully save only some of Adam's race according to God's will, not man's. **ROM 9:10-16; EPH 1:3-6.**
 - (6) Paul's gospel was of pure grace without works. **ROM 11:6; GAL 2:21.**
 - (7) Paul's gospel was of covenantal saving grace even for God's elect who don't believe the gospel. **ROM 11:27-29.**
 - (8) Paul's gospel was of a presently occupied Davidic throne by virtue of Christ's resurrection. **ACT 13:30-37; HEB 6:20-7:2.**
 - (9) Paul's gospel taught that Christ “...rose again the third day *according to the scriptures*” (**1CO 15:4**), which scriptures demanded three days and three nights in the tomb. **MAT 12:39-40.**
 - (10) If Jesus Christ was raised from the dead *according to* Paul's gospel, He was NOT raised from the dead *according to* an Arminian gospel, a Calvinist gospel, a Catholic gospel, a premillennial / dispensational gospel or “...any other gospel” (**GAL 1:8-9**).
 - B. Preachers do well to keep the resurrection of Christ before them.
 - (1) It is the central fact of the gospel they are to preach. **1CO 15:1-6; ACT 13:32-33.**
 - (2) Gospel ministry, faith and hope are in vain without it. **1CO 15:13-19, 32.**
 - C. Christ's resurrection is the promise of the resurrection of all that are Christ's. **1CO 15:20-23.**

- D. Mind that Paul emphasized that Christ is the SEED OF DAVID that rose from the dead.
- (1) The promised Messiah was to be of the seed of David. **MAT 22:42.**
 - (2) If Jesus is not risen from the dead, he is NOT *that* Christ because God promised *that* Christ would live forever.
JOH 12:32-34 c/w PSA 89:3-4.
 - (3) Christ's resurrection fulfills God's promise to David. **ACT 2:30-33.**
 - (4) The resurrection of Christ declares His Lordship in fulfillment of God's promise to David. **ISA 9:6-7; PSA 89:27; EPH 1:22.**
- E. The remembering of Jesus Christ's resurrection would save Timothy and his hearers to a certain hope that speaks of power, not fear.
2TI 1:7; HEB 2:14-15.
- F. The remembering of Jesus Christ's resurrection as the fulfillment of God's promise to David would also save believers from being led to support the notion of an earthly, materialistic and political kingdom of God yet to come.
3. Paul's gospel of the resurrected seed of David, Jesus Christ, caused him to suffer trouble AS an evildoer. **v.9 c/w ACT 24:5-6.**
- A. There is suffering for righteousness' sake that is to one's glory and is cause for rejoicing. **1PE 3:14; 4:16; LUK 6:22-23.**
- (1) That a person suffers trouble in this world does not in and of itself prove that a person is doing so for righteousness' sake.
PSA 107:17; 1PE 4:15.
 - (2) That a person suffers trouble in this world does not in and of itself prove that he is being chastened or punished because of specific sin.
JOH 9:1-3.
 - (3) May the troubles we suffer at other's hands be for good causes.
1PE 2:20; 3:17.
- B. Proclaiming the fact and the implications of Christ's resurrection brought on much trouble from the Jews.
ACT 9:23-24; 13:49-50; 14:2, 19; 17:13; 18:12; 20:19.
- (1) The hope accruing to Christ's resurrection which Paul preached was a decidedly different hope than the Jews looked for.
ACT 24:14-15; 26:6-8; 28:20.
 - (2) The resurrection of David's seed, Jesus Christ, was the opening of the door of faith unto the Gentiles and the inclusion of believing Gentiles into the commonwealth of Israel (**EPH 2:11-13**)---a repulsive thing to the unbelieving Jews. **ACT 22:21-22; 1TH 2:14-16.**
 - (3) Paul's suffering of trouble for the gospel's sake was not only from Jews: unbelieving Gentiles also caused him much grief.
ACT 16:19-24; 19:23-28.
 - (4) The true gospel is very universal: it has the marvelous capacity for upsetting people of any nation!

- C. Paul was in bonds for the gospel's sake but the word of God was not thus bound. **PHIL 1:12-14; 4:22.**
- (1) The authorities of the seven churches in Asia are referred to as the seven stars in **REV 1:20.**
 - (2) The *influences* of the seven stars cannot be bound! **JOB 38:31.**
 - (3) Paul preached boldly IN his bonds. **EPH 6:20; ACT 26:1-29.**
 - (4) While in bonds Paul wrote epistles which have convicted and fed men's hearts throughout the world for almost 2000 years!
4. Because of the power of Christ's resurrection and the value of that gospel, Paul *therefore* endured "...all things for the elect's sakes..." **v.10.**
- A. Ministers must endure sufferings not only for Christ's sake but also for the sake of Christ's people. **EPH 3:13; 2CO 1:5-7.**
 - B. Mind that the gospel ministry is for the sake of the ELECT since they are the only ones who can receive it. **ACT 13:48 c/w 1CO 1:18; 2CO 4:3-4.**
 - C. Through the gospel ministry, the elect may ALSO obtain a salvation WITH eternal glory.
 - (1) The salvation mentioned here is something to obtain in addition to eternal glory.
 - (2) All the elect obtain eternal glory by Jesus Christ independent of the gospel. **ROM 8:29-30; EPH 1:3-6; 1PE 5:10.**
 - (3) Some, but not all, of the elect will obtain the salvation of the gospel. **1CO 9:22; ROM 11:25-29.**
 - (4) This salvation is IN Christ Jesus: only those in Christ can obtain it.
 - a. There is salvation *from* disunity, ignorance, immaturity and deception. **EPH 4:11-15.**
 - b. There is salvation *from* ignorance about salvation. **1JO 5:13.**
 - c. There is salvation *from* an untoward generation. **ACT 2:40.**
 - d. There is salvation *from* chastening. **LUK 12:47-48.**
 - e. There is salvation *to* fellowship and fullness of joy. **1JO 1:1-4.**
 - f. There is salvation *to* assurance of one's election and an abundant future. **2PE 1:10-11.**
 - D. By thorough knowledge of the gospel, Timothy, like Paul, could facilitate this salvation for God's elect. **1TI 4:16.**

vs.11-13.

1. These verses comprise the faithful saying that Paul introduces.
 - A. Faithful: "Full of or characterized by faith, believing. 5. Of persons and their actions: That may be believed or relied upon; trustworthy, veracious. Also of things: Reliable. 6. True to the fact or original, accurate."

- B. This saying sums up the scheme of salvation including those aspects that are not conditioned upon the believer's obedience and those that are.
- C. This faithful saying is divided into four circumstances with each circumstance having a certain consequence. Hence, "it is a faithful saying."
2. "...For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him" (v.11).
- A. These words declare the eternal salvation of everyone represented in the death of Christ.
- B. Christ took on the nature of the elect and bore their sins in His body.
HEB 2:13-17; 1PE 2:24.
- C. He died under the curse of the law FOR the elect representatively. **GAL 3:13.**
- D. The elect are thus reckoned by God as dead with Christ.
GAL 2:19-20; ROM 7:4; 6:6; 2CO 5:14.
- E. The crucifixion of the elect with Christ is stated just as factually as His own crucifixion. **ROM 6:6 c/w LUK 23:33.**
- F. Those who are dead with Christ SHALL also live with Him.
- (1) There is no equivocation, condition or doubt about it. They shall live with Him or God would not be *faithful* and this saying would be *faithless*.
- (2) They are quickened together with Christ.
JOH 5:25; EPH 2:4-5; COL 2:13.
- (3) They, therefore, shall live forever. **JOH 11:26.**
- (4) Their bodies also shall be made alive forever at Christ's return.
ROM 8:10-11; 1CO 15:51-54.
- G. The elect shall live WITH CHRIST!
- (1) Apart from Christ, there is no life. **1JO 5:11-12; 1TI 6:16.**
- (2) The elect shall live forever with Christ, in His presence. **JOH 14:2-3.**
- (3) How blessed shall be the constant presence of Christ instead of the now constant presence of sin! **ROM 7:21.**
- H. Those who live unto righteousness give proof that they are dead with Christ unto sin; these are they who can claim this promise.
ROM 6:10; 2CO 5:15-17; 1PE 2:24.
3. "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him..." (v.12).
- A. "Suffer" is in the present tense. This is addressing the believer's present experience.
- B. This refers to suffering for righteousness' sake, not for the sake of sin or poor judgment. **1PE 3:17; 4:15-16; PRO 19:29.**
- C. Thus, this passage treats of the believer's obedience for which he SHALL suffer. **2TI 3:12.**
- D. Obedient believers who suffer are assured of future glory: "...we SHALL reign with him." **ROM 8:17; REV 2:10; 22:5; 2CO 4:17.**
- E. Those who disobey to avoid suffering for obedience remove themselves from the comfort of this promise.

4. “...if we deny him, he will also deny us” (v.12). c/w **MAT 10:32-33**.
- A. There is a denying of Him that the wicked do and they shall certainly be denied by the Lord. **1JO 2:22-23; MAT 7:21-23; TIT 1:15-16**.
 - B. A child of God may also deny the Lord as in the case of Peter. **LUK 22:54-62**.
 - (1) Such will not be denied eternal salvation. **ROM 8:29-39**.
 - (2) He will, however, be denied fellowship with God. **1JO 1:6-7**.
 - (3) He will be denied answers to his petitions. **1JO 3:22 c/w PSA 66:18**.
 - (4) In Peter’s case, denying that he was one “of them” (Jesus’ disciples) was denying the Lord Himself. Ponder this soberly.
 - C. They who confess Christ and identity with His disciples remove themselves from the threat of this verse.
5. “If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself” (v.13).
- A. Scripture gives examples of children of God who do not believe. **MAR 4:40; 16:14; ROM 11:26-31; HEB 3:17-19**.
 - B. However, God’s faithfulness remains unmoved by their unbelief. **ROM 3:3; PSA 89:29-34**.
 - C. “...it may be understood of true believers, whose faith sometimes is very low, as to its exercise on Christ, and with reference to their future glory and happiness; but Christ is faithful to all his covenant engagements for them, to bring them to glory, and to every word of promise concerning their happiness, and to every branch of the faithful saying above mentioned; and he is ever the same in his love to them, and in the efficacy of his blood, righteousness, and sacrifice; and his salvation is an everlasting and unchangeable one; nor do the saints' interest in it, and security by it, depend upon their acts of believing, or their frames, but upon the firmness and unchangeableness of Christ, the object of faith.” (John Gill)
 - D. Were God to revoke His promise of eternal life to His elect because of their unbelief, He would deny Himself! **TIT 1:2; HEB 6:17-19**.
 - E. There are certain promises of God we are to believe which are not conditioned upon our faith but rather His faithfulness. **HEB 9:27-28 c/w 1TH 4:14**.

v.14.

- 1. Timothy had been instructed to commit *the things heard from Paul* to faithful men who would be able to instruct others. **2TI 2:2**.
 - A. Paul here instructs Timothy to remind them about *these things*.
 - B. This shows that they had previously been taught these things.
 - C. It is negligence to NOT remind saints of things which they have previously heard. **2PE 1:12**.
 - D. Bringing former lessons to remembrance is a profitable method of stirring up

the minds of the saints. **2PE 1:13; 3:1-2.**

(1) Saints can forget even the most basic instruction.

2TH 2:5; HEB 12:5; JUDE 1:5.

(2) There is salvation in the remembering of gospel facts. **1CO 15:1-2.**

(3) In the interim between previous and current instruction, other light is often gained which puts that same lesson in better perspective.

PRO 4:18.

E. A wise scribe makes good use of things old and new. **MAT 13:52.**

2. Timothy was to *charge them before the Lord*.

A. Charge: “To load; to cause to bear, hold, or receive. 14b. To lay a command or injunction upon; to command, order, enjoin; to exhort authoritatively; to give charge...”

B. The instruction that Paul intended Timothy to deliver to those men (v.2) was not to be delivered as a suggestion but as a solemn burden by command.

C. That Timothy was to charge them before the Lord shows that both Timothy and his hearers were under the scrutinizing eye of God. **HEB 4:13.**

D. Ministers must give an account to God of their charge. **HEB 13:17.**

3. Specifically, they were to *strive not about words to no profit...*

A. Ministers are not forbidden to strive (be in a state of variance...) about words for any reason since that would forbid them from contending for the faith of the gospel itself. **PHIL 1:27; COL 1:29.**

B. This is a charge to avoid striving about words which are unprofitable.

C. Profitless strifes of words would include fables. **1TI 1:4; 4:7; TIT 1:14.**

D. Profitless strifes of words would include striving about things not taught in Scripture. **1TI 6:3-5 c/w 1PE 4:11.**

E. Profitless strifes of words would include foolish questions, genealogies, etc. **2TI 2:23; TIT 3:9.**

F. Profitless strifes of words would include enticing words of man's wisdom. **1CO 2:4-5; COL 2:8.**

G. Profitless strifes of words would include profane (not pertaining or devoted to what is sacred or biblical) and vain (devoid of real value...unprofitable) babblings (incoherent talk, idle chatter). **2TI 2:16.**

H. Profitless strifes of words are seen here to be basically whatever detracts from the subverting of the hearers.

4. Ministers are obviously to strive to the subverting of the hearers.

A. Subverting: “The action of overturning or overthrowing.”

B. This is speaking of conversion which is a *casting down* of imaginations. **2CO 10:5.**

C. This term is also used to describe the demise of Sodom, Gomorrah and Babylon. **ISA 13:19.**

(1) Those cities were strongholds of ungodly thought and conduct.

(2) The conversion of souls to repentance is as awesome as the

overthrowing of those cities and requires also the great power of God.
EPH 1:19-20; 2TI 2:25 c/w PRO 22:12.

- D. Ministers subvert souls by instruction and example, not by force.
1TI 4:11-16; 2TI 2:24-26; 4:2-4; 1PE 5:1-3.
- E. The preaching of sound doctrine both facilitates the subverting of the unconverted and counters the subverting of the converted.
ACT 15:24; 2TI 2:18 c/w TIT 1:9-11.

v.15.

1. A chief priority and attribute of an effective gospel minister is that he should be a man of study so as to avoid being ashamed.
 - A. Study: “To apply the mind to the acquisition of learning...”
 - (1) The studying in context is that of the word of truth, the Scripture.
 - (2) Not all studying is profitable for godliness and godly wisdom.
PRO 24:2; COL 2:8, 18; PRO 19:27; ROM 16:19.
 - (3) Christian faith need not fear rational inquiry and investigation of non-Scriptural disciplines but of necessity must draw the line at pseudo-science which pretends to be wiser than God's word. **1TI 6:20.**
 - B. It is with this in mind that the apostles deemed it unreasonable to be burdened with tangible business that others could do. **ACT 6:1-4.**
 - C. To the same end, Paul had advised against ministers being entangled with the affairs of this life. **2TI 2:4.**
 - D. The man of God's study which best prevents shame is study of the law of God which is a thorough furnisher. **PSA 119:80 c/w 2TI 3:16-17.**
 - (1) The minister who does not study Scripture ought to be ashamed.
 - (2) The minister who does not study Scripture is apt to be ashamed when he cannot render a Scriptural answer to an inquirer.
1PE 3:15 c/w PRO 15:28; 22:20-21.
 - (3) A minister of Christ may be excused for not being a dedicated studier of nature, commentaries, religious books, secular knowledge, etc., but he may not be so excused for not studying Scripture which sets forth the wisdom of God which PRECEDED all disciplines. **PRO 8:23.**
2. The minister of Christ is a *workman*.
 - A. Workman: “A man engaged to do work or (usually) manual labor, esp. one employed upon some particular piece of work; an operative; often (contextually) a skilled worker...”
 - B. Study is laborious. **ECC 12:12.**
 - C. A minister who studies is a labourer worthy of reward.
1TI 5:17-19; MAT 10:10.
3. The minister is to study to shew himself approved *unto God*.
 - A. Approved: “Proved or established by experience, tried, tested.”

- B. God is interested in beholding the performance and mettle of His people. **GEN 22:12; DEU 8:2; JAM 2:18.**
- C. A minister should also study to shew himself *approved unto God*, i.e., to manifest to his hearers that he is indeed a called and studied man of the word. **1TI 4:13-15.**
- (1) Saints may be looking for a proof of a man's ability and calling. **2CO 13:3.**
 - (2) The studied man is manifestly approved by standing strong against the winds of heresy. **1CO 11:19.**
4. The study of a man of God which approves him is realized in *rightly dividing the word of truth*.
- A. This verse assumes that there is such a thing as the word of truth for a minister to rightly divide. This hardly harmonizes with the notion that ministers today have at best a word of part-truth, part-error.
- B. That the word of truth is to be rightly divided implies that it may also be wrongly divided. This command stands against wrongly dividing the word of truth as much as it stands for rightly dividing it.
- C. The word of truth is the gospel of salvation. **EPH 1:13.**
- (1) This gospel was witnessed by the law and the prophets. **ROM 1:1-2; 3:21-22; GAL 3:8.**
 - (2) This gospel is unveiled by the apostles. **EPH 3:4-6; 2PE 1:19.**
 - (3) The word of truth is the gospel of salvation from Genesis to Revelation, the Holy Scriptures as a body.
- D. Divide: "To separate a thing into parts, or (a number or collective body) into smaller groups, to split up, cleave; to break or cut asunder."
- (1) The reading of Scripture must be broken down, read distinctly (in a distinct or separate manner, separately, individually, severally). **NEH 8:8.**
 - a. Attention must be given to the component parts of the Scripture, word for word.
 - b. Attention must be given to word definitions, grammar, context and parallel passages.
 - c. Diligent usage of the Bible's rules for understanding Scripture results in the proper application of Scripture (see below).
 - (2) Rightly dividing the word of truth also includes basic divisions of doctrine (separating into smaller groups, per the definition).
 - a. There is a need to distinguish between the Old and New Testaments and their respective inheritances. **ROM 8:3-4.**
 - b. Some law was unique to Israel. **EXO 31:16-17.**
 - c. Salvation may be eternal or temporal. **2TI 2:10.**
 - d. Identity with Christ may be of sonship or fellowship. **PHIL 2:15.**
 - e. There is a natural Israel/circumcision and a spiritual

Israel/circumcision. **ROM 2:28-29.**

- f. There is an earthly Jerusalem and a heavenly Jerusalem.
GAL 4:24-25.

- (3) There is another sense in which a man of God should rightly divide the the word of truth.
- a. Divide: “8a. To distribute among a number; to deal out, dispense.” See **MAR 6:41; ACT 13:19; 1CO 12:11.**
 - b. A faithful and wise steward gives his lord's household their portion of meat in due season. **LUK 12:42.**
 - c. When Paul preached to ignorant idolaters, he tailored his message according to their situation. **ACT 17:22-31.**
 - d. Word-milk may be needed instead of word-meat.
1CO 3:1-2 c/w HEB 5:13-14.

vs.16-18.

1. In contrast with a shameless right dividing of the word of truth, Paul here warns against cancerous words which spring from wrongly dividing the word of truth.
2. Hymenaeus and Philetus acknowledged the biblical doctrine of the resurrection but they had erred from the truth and wrongly divided it.
 - A. The doctrine of the resurrection includes the resurrection of Jesus Christ (a past event, **v.8**), the similar future resurrection of His seed (**ROM 8:11**) and the simultaneous resurrection of the wicked dead (**JOH 5:28-29; ACT 24:15**).
 - B. By improper division of the words of Scripture according to definition, grammar, context, parallel passages, etc., they had wrongly divided the doctrine of the resurrection.
3. Timothy is told to shun profane and vain babblings (of which Hymenaeus' and Philetus' heresy is an example).
 - A. Profane: “Not pertaining or devoted to what is sacred or biblical, esp., in profane history, literature; unconsecrated, secular.”
 - B. Vain: “Devoid of real value, worth, or significance; idle, unprofitable, useless, worthless; of no effect, force or power; fruitless, futile, unavailing.”
 - C. Babbling: “Incoherent talk, idle chatter.”
 - D. Profane and vain babblings are here seen as unbiblical doctrines.
 - (1) Timothy must shun that which is not the word of truth. c/w **1TI 6:5.**
 - (2) Remember that Paul is prescribing things against the perilous times to come. **2TI 3:1.**
 - (3) If there is one thing that is desperately needed to counter perilous times, it is sound Bible teachers who insist on Scripture ONLY!
 - (4) That there will come a time when sound doctrine will not be endured does not mean that it should not be preached! **2TI 4:2-3.**

- E. Shun: “To abhor, detest, loathe.”
- (1) The primary definition (according to the OED) was obsolete by the end of the 13th C. However, such a strong emotion against heresy is biblical. **PSA 119:104, 128; REV 2:6, 15.**
 - (2) A subordinate definition is: “3. To avoid (in mod. prose use always to avoid persistently or habitually).... c. with obj. a mode of action, expression, or behaviour, an occupation, employment, subject of conversation, a mental condition or the like.”
 - a. The underlying Greek here for shun, *periistemi* (SRN #4026), denotes the concept of “avoid” and is translated “avoid” in **TIT 3:9.**
 - b. Compare **1TI 6:20.**
 - (3) We generally *avoid* what we *detest*.
 - (4) Mind that the best thing for a minister to do with profane and vain babblings is shun them, not entertain or tolerate them. Serpents and babblers may only be charmed to a point. **ECC 10:11 c/w PSA 58:4-5.**
- F. Contrast “*shun* profane and vain babblings” with **ACT 20:27.**
4. Paul is here equating profanity with false doctrine (heresy).
- A. It is common to uniquely equate profanity with “pungent” descriptive words, some of which the Holy Spirit relies upon to make a point. **1KI 14:10; MAL 2:3.**
 - B. How many churches in the name of *godliness* decry what they consider to be profanity while preaching false doctrine which IS profanity and then condemn the believer who dares to describe their false doctrines as “damnable heresies” (**2PE 2:1**)?
 - (1) Since profane and vain babblings (heresies) increase unto MORE ungodliness, they themselves must BE ungodliness.
 - (2) See **ISA 5:20.**
 - C. Given that heresies underly division in the church/body (**1CO 11:18-19; ACT 20:30; 2PE 2:1-2**) and heresy is profanity, it is interesting that the word *schism* (which denotes a division or departure from an accepted standard) evidently has the same etymology as common equivalent of “dung.” Both carry the concept of “to separate from the body.” (Ayto, Dictionary of Word Origins, p. 416)
 - D. Pharisaical heresy especially needs to be put in its proper context. **PHIL 3:8.**
5. Mind that babbling is “incoherent talk or idle chatter.”
- A. It is as useless as the slurred stupid speech of a drunk. **PRO 23:29-30.**
 - B. Incoherent: “Of thought and mental phenomena, language, literary compositions, etc.: Without logical connexion or natural sequence of ideas; inconsistent, rambling, disjointed.”
 - C. Babbling is characterized by inconsistency and illogic. This is typical of and a giveaway of heresy that should be shunned. Examples:

- (1) “Our only rule of faith and practice is the infallible inspired Scriptures (which are only the lost original autographs which we have never seen).”
 - (2) “Eternal life awaits you. There's nothing you can do to obtain it. All you have to do is...”
 - (3) “Belief of the gospel is an indispensable requirement for entrance into heaven (unless you are a Jew, underaged, handicapped or have never heard it).”
 - (4) “God can forgive all sins except unbelief so repent and believe so that you may be forgiven of all sins including unbelief.”
- D. Another form of babbling that is doubly condemned would be the false gift of “angel's tongues” as exercised by some charismatics.
- (1) It is affirmed that their ecstatic, incomprehensible gibberish that is not an identifiable human language is the *tongues of angels* that Paul mentioned in **1CO 13:1** and is “Holy Spirit language” by which they speak to God, per **1CO 14:2**.
 - (2) The Holy Spirit does speak to God for us, but “...with groanings which CANNOT BE UTTERED” (**ROM 8:26**).
 - (3) “Though I speak with....tongues of angels...” (**1CO 13:1**) is one of a number of illustrative hyperboles Paul uses in **1CO 13:1-3** to emphasize the superiority of charity to any conceivable gift.
 - a. If the language of **1CO 13:1** is a prompt for Christians to speak in an unknown tongue of angels, the same language must also be a prompt in **v.3** to give everything away to the poor and give one's body to be burned.
 - b. Compare **1CO 13:1** with **ECC 6:6; AMO 9:2; JOH 21:21-23**.
 - (4) “Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain” (**PRO 25:14**). Neither produce anything of real value.
6. “...they will increase unto more ungodliness” (**v.16**).
- A. False doctrine breeds ungodliness in that it gives occasion to ungodly behavior. **ROM 1:25-32; 6:1; 1CO 15:33**.
 - B. By contrast, sound doctrine encourages godliness. **1TI 1:9-10; PRO 2:10-17**.
7. “And their word will eat as doth a canker...”
- A. False doctrine corrupts other doctrine. Hymenaeus' and Philetus' denial of the future resurrection was the denial also of Christ's resurrection. **1CO 15:16-18**.
 - B. Canker: “An eating, spreading sore or ulcer; a gangrene...”
 - C. A very practical reason why unbiblical doctrine should be shunned early is that it has a propensity for spreading and infecting others. **GAL 5:9 c/w MAT 13:33**.
 - D. For this cause, a minister of Christ must exhort and convince gainsayers by sound doctrine before their speech subverts others. **TIT 1:9-11**.

8. Hymenaeus and Philetus had already spread their infection to others and overthrown their faith. **v.18.**
- A. “Who concerning the truth have erred...” This implies that they had once believed the truth but had apostatized.
- (1) Such an heretic is himself first subverted before subverting others. **TIT 3:10-11.**
 - (2) The record of such as Hymenaeus and Philetus may be summarized as: Perverted, Converted, Subverted, Subverter.
 - (3) Perhaps a vigilant brother could have spotted such a trend at its onset and worked to prevent it. **JAM 5:19-20.**
- B. It is interesting that Hymenaeus and Philetus were not satisfied with simply adopting an unbiblical doctrine and quietly withdrawing.
- (1) They made sure they affected others instead to develop a following. c/w **ACT 20:29-30.**
 - (2) A dutiful minister of Christ will therefore encourage elders he has trained to be vigilant, even as Paul was here doing to Timothy. **ACT 20:31.**

v.19.

1. In spite of the false teachings and the overthrowing of the faith of some, “...the foundation of God standeth sure...”
- A. God's truth stands unmoved against the errors of men. **PRO 19:21.**
- B. God's faith is not made ineffectual by the unbelief of men. **ROM 3:3.**
2. Seal: “A device (e.g. a heraldic or emblematic design, a letter, word, or sentence) impressed on a piece of wax or other plastic material adhering or attached by cords or parchment slips to a document as evidence of authenticity or attestation; also, the piece of wax, etc. bearing this impressed device; fig. something that authenticates or confirms.”
 3. The foundation of God is known by its seal, which consists of two parts.
- A. “The Lord knoweth them that are his.”
- (1) God knows all men in sense of cognition. **JOB 36:4; PSA 147:5.**
 - (2) God knows His people in the sense of acceptance of them and special favor towards them. **AMO 3:2; JOH 10:27-28; ROM 8:28-29.**
 - a. This sense is used with regard to the knowledge of men. **GEN 4:1.**
 - b. God does not know some men in this sense. **MAT 7:23.**
 - (3) God showed special favor towards His elect before the world began; He *foreknew* them. **EPH 1:4.**
 - (4) This part of the seal suggests the doctrine of election. **1PE 1:2.**
- B. “And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”
- (1) To name the name of Christ and not to depart from iniquity is to

essentially take His name in vain. **LUK 6:46; PRO 30:9; LEV 20:3.**

- (2) Jesus Christ's workmanship is to deliver sinners not only from hell but from sin. **MAT 1:21; EPH 2:10; TIT 2:14.**
- C. The foundation of God is sealed not only by the doctrine of God's sovereignty in salvation but also by the doctrine of practical godliness.
4. If a man's ministry is being built upon God's foundation, it will be recognized by the seal: he will preach what the seal states.

vs.20-21.

1. These verses draw from the illustration of a great house to demonstrate a need in Christianity to identify undesirable elements and separate from them.
 - A. The gold and silver are vessels unto honor; the wood and earth are vessels unto dishonor. **LAM 4:2; 1CO 3:11-15.**
 - B. Note that even in a great house not everything is gold, silver or honorable. There is bound to be some wood and dirt also.
 - C. There is some comfort in this on an individual basis. The best of men are men at best and subject to vanity which our loving, merciful God well knows. **PSA 39:5; 103:10, 13-14.**
 - D. There is wisdom in this on an individual basis. People that seem too good to be true are likely too good to be true. The greatest of men have their Achilles' heel, some skeletons in their closets. Mighty Samsons can have ungoverned eyes. **JDG 14:1; 16:1.**
 - E. There is some comfort in this on a corporate basis.
 - (1) The church is God's house. **1TI 3:15.**
 - (2) There are bound to be some bad fish in it from time to time. **MAT 13:47-48; 1CO 5:1; REV 2:14-15.**
 - (3) There may be a Hymenaeus, Philetus (v.17) or a Diotrephes (**3JO 1:9**) that dishonor the name and doctrine of Jesus Christ.
 - F. There is some wisdom in this on a corporate basis. New converts may tend to look at their church as being virtually flawless and then become disillusioned when they find out it is not.
 - G. The greatness of the house is not according to its lack of vessels unto dishonor but according to how it deals with them. **1CO 5:7.**
 - H. The suitability of a minister for the master's use is likewise according to how he deals with vessels unto dishonor in his own life and doctrine as well as the lives and doctrines of others. He must "...purge himself from these..." (v.21).
 - (1) Purge: "1. To make physically pure or clean; to cleanse; to rid of whatever is impure or extraneous; to clear or free of, from. 2. a. To make figuratively or ideally pure or clean, to free from moral or spiritual defilement; to rid of or free from sin, guilt, fault, error, or evil of any kind; to rid of objectionable, alien, or extraneous elements or

members. In recent use, to rid of persons regarded as politically undesirable; = purify..."

- (2) Purged ministers are purified ministers. **MAL 3:3.**
- I. Mind that according to **v.21**, a vessel unto honor is identified as one who purges himself from vessels unto dishonor.
 - (1) The person who insists on companionship and fellowship with vessels unto dishonor is obviously NOT a vessel unto honor!
 - (2) This stands against the notion of unqualified toleration of all persons and positions.
 - (3) The Levites were vessels unto honor in God's house because they stood apart from the vessels unto dishonor. **EXO 32:26-29.**
 - (4) God honors those who honor Him, not those who honor those who dishonor Him. **ISA 2:30 c/w 2CH 19:2; REV 2:6 c/w REV 2:15-16.**
2. A minister should purge himself from the vessels of wood and earth.
 - A. He should pursue personal purification through the subduing of the old man and its interests, a general rule for all believers. **1JO 3:2-3; 1CO 9:27.**
 - B. He must purge himself of all false doctrine. **2TI 2:16; TIT 1:14; 3:9.**
 - C. He must purge himself from those who teach and practice error. **1TI 6:3-5; 2TI 3:5; TIT 3:10.**
 - D. The purged minister is a vessel of gold and silver or a vessel unto honor and meet (suitable, fit) for the master's use. **JER 15:19; PRO 25:4.**
 - (1) Finer: "One who or that which fines or refines, a refiner."
 - (2) Christ is the finer. **MAL 3:3.**
3. The minister who purges himself is sanctified.
 - A. Sanctify: "To set apart as holy; to make holy, to purify or free from sin."
 - B. By purging he manifests that he is indeed one of the sanctified of Christ. **HEB 10:10 c/w 1JO 3:3.**
 - C. This is practical sanctification where the regenerate believer purifies his life from the practice of sin by obeying the truth. **2CO 7:1; 1TH 4:3-7; 1PE 1:22.**
 - D. This is inward purging and sanctification, not the outward cleansing for appearance's sake as the Pharisees. **MAT 23:25-27.**
4. Being a vessel unto honor is being a man fit for God's use.
 - A. There is no greater honor than being an instrument of God for the advancement of His cause. **ACT 9:6, 15; ISA 6:1-8.**
 - B. Such a minister need not expect that the world is going to honor him even as God does. **1CO 4:9-13.**
 - C. The love of man's praise and honor more than God's is a problem for both unbelievers and believers. **JOH 5:44 c/w JOH 12:42-43.**
 - D. Christianity is not me using God for my purpose; it is God using me for His.
5. The purged minister is also prepared unto EVERY good work.
 - A. He is distanced from the vessels of wood and earth which confound his time,

proficiency and understanding in the Scripture which is given to furnish him *unto all good works*. **2TI 3:16-17**.

B. He is able to do everything that Scripture teaches is a work of the ministry.

(1) He needs not the perceived advantaged of age.

1TI 4:12; JOB 32:9 PSA 119:100.

(2) He needs not the approval of those who preceded him. **PSA 119:99.**

(3) He needs not the approval of a church or of a board of deacons to do what Scripture has empowered and commanded him to do.

(4) He can teach all necessary doctrine, defend that doctrine, evangelize, baptize, build churches, and train and ordain men to the ministry.

6. The minister who thus purges himself is an example to those who hear him to purge themselves. **1TI 4:12; 2CO 6:14-7:1.**

v.22.

1. Timothy is to flee youthful lusts. c/w **1TI 6:9-11.**

A. Youthful: "Having or characterized by youth; that is still young."

B. This is not specifically referring to the sins of youth (**JOB 20:11; PSA 25:7**) but to lusts that are new and immature before they become sin.

C. If lust is indulged it will bring forth sin. **JAM 1:14-15.**

D. One must FLEE these lusts early, at their inception before they have a chance to mature to sin.

2. In fleeing lusts, one must follow righteousness, faith, charity and peace.

A. When one is following these things he is not following lusts. They are the antidote to youthful lusts.

B. The more one follows good the faster he flees evil. **GAL 5:16.**

3. To follow righteousness, faith, charity and peace is to allow these things to direct the course of life.

A. Following righteousness is being guided by the word of God which is the standard of righteousness. **PSA 119:128, 172; 2SA 22:21-25.**

B. Following faith is doing only what can be done in faith and avoiding doubtful things. **ROM 14:22-23.**

C. Following charity is striving for a character that bears the marks of charity as given in **1CO 13:4-7.**

D. Following peace is striving after things that make for peace and avoiding strife if possible. **ROM 12:17-20; 14:19-21.**

4. These things are to be followed WITH THEM that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

A. This perfectly describes what church fellowship should be.

B. A believer should seek to be with other believers.

ACT 9:19, 28; PSA 119:63.

C. A distinguishing mark of the Lord's disciples is that they call on the name of

the Lord. **ACT 9:14; 1CO 1:2.**

- D. Those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart are those who are sincere and without hypocrisy. **PSA 17:1; 66:18; 58:2; MAT 15:8.**

v.23.

1. Timothy is to avoid foolish and unlearned questions.
 - A. Avoid: “To keep away from, keep from, keep off. To leave alone, keep clear of or away from, shun; to have nothing to do with, refrain from: a. a person or place. b. a thing, course of action, etc.”
 - B. These are to be avoided as are improprieties in handling gifts, profane and vain babblings, oppositions of science falsely so called, genealogies, contentions and strivings about the law. **2CO 8:20-21; 1TI 6:20; TIT 3:9.**
 - (1) These are more important things for a minister to avoid than a beer, a theater or a Bible topic that offends someone.
 - (2) A beer or a movie MAY be avoided; a touchy subject should NOT be avoided.
2. Mind that this verse opens with the conjunction, “But.”
 - A. The command for Timothy to avoid foolish and unlearned questions is thus tied back into the previous thoughts.
 - B. Paul had just told Timothy to “...follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, *with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart*” (v.22).
 - C. A minister may expect sincere fellow disciples to occasionally proffer a foolish or unlearned question that is best avoided, not entertained.
ACT 1:6-7.
3. Foolish: “Fool-like, wanting in sense or judgement.”
 - A. Fools despise wisdom and instruction. **PRO 1:7; 18:2.**
 - B. Fools love to argue. **PRO 18:6.**
 - C. Foolish questions are wisdom-deprived questions that only generate heat but no light.
4. Unlearned: “Not possessed of learning; uninstructed; untaught; ignorant.”
 - A. An unlearned question would be pertaining to a subject about which the inquirer and/or the respondent is ignorant (without knowledge).
 - (1) This could involve non-Scriptural topics which are unproven or conjectural.
 - (2) This could involve Scripture which is far beyond the questioner's level of discernment. **2PE 3:16 c/w ROM 14:1.**
 - B. Such questions deal not with facts, but only opinions.
 - C. Since everyone thinks his opinion is best (**PRO 18:17; 21:2**), strife follows.
 - D. Pride is an underlying cause of such questions and strifes. **1TI 6:4.**
5. It is not a matter of opinion that foolish and unlearned questions gender (give rise to, produce, bring about) strifes. The Holy Spirit says, “...KNOWING that they gender

strifes.”

- A. **Strife:** “The action of striving together or contending in opposition; a condition of antagonism, enmity, or discord; contention, dispute.”
- B. Where strife is, divisions, confusion and evil work set in.
1CO 3:3; JAM 3:16.
- C. The destruction of a church of sweet fellowship could begin by giving place to a foolish or unlearned question like, “What would Jesus drive?” or “What all is written in the book of Jasher?” or “Could Ezekiel's wheel be a UFO?”
- D. That Timothy should avoid foolish and unlearned questions which gender strifes is most appropriate in view of **v.24.**
- E. NOTE: Not all strife is wrong.
 - (1) Saints are to strive for the strait gate. **LUK 13:24.**
 - (2) Saints are to earnestly contend for the faith. **JUDE 1:3; PHIL 1:27.**
 - (3) Saints are to strive together in prayers. **ROM 15:30.**
 - (4) Saints are to strive against sin. **HEB 12:4.**
 - (5) It is argumentative strife over opinion or against the truth that is wrong.

vs.24-26.

- 1. In these verses Paul sets forth the method and purpose of effective witnessing and preaching.
 - A. What is here directed to the minister is appropriate also to the other church members.
 - B. The Biblically-oriented minister is one who is an example to his hearers as to how to present the gospel. **TIT 2:7.**
 - C. All believers, to the degree of light and ability that God gives them, are responsible to present the gospel. **EPH 6:15.**
 - (1) This includes doctrinal knowledge which is able to persuade those within and without the church.
1PE 3:15; HEB 5:11-14; ROM 15:14; JAM 5:19.
 - (2) This includes doctrinal living which shows forth the work of Christ in the soul. **1PE 2:12; 3:1-2.**
- 2. The phrase, “And the servant of the Lord must not strive...” is obviously a qualified proscription, as noted earlier. c/w **ROM 15:20; COL 1:29.**
 - A. Jesus Christ is the model of His ministers. **1CO 11:1.**
 - B. Jesus Christ did strive for His truth against its enemies. **MAT 23.**
 - C. Jesus Christ did not strive carnally. **MAT 12:18-20.**
- 3. These verses connect with **v.23** and so point out that the primary objective of teaching is not to argue for the sake of arguing.
 - A. As with striving's qualification, there is appropriate and necessary arguing.
 - (1) The gospel's message is set forth by reasoned argumentation.
ACT 15:2, 7; 17:17; 19:8-9.

- (2) Dispute: “To contend with opposing arguments or assertions; to debate or discourse argumentatively; to discuss, argue, hold disputation; often, to debate in a vehement manner or with altercation about something.”
- B. Witnessing and teaching is striving and arguing in the sense of subverting souls with the truth. **2TI 2:14.**
- C. It is not striving in the sense of being nothing more than an ego-boosting battle.
- D. Witnessing and teaching is confronting souls with TRUTH that they might be recovered from Satan's snare.
- E. Any argument should be with the truth or within the hearer himself, not with the person presenting the truth.
4. These verses set forth certain characteristics of an effective teacher or witness.
- A. He must be the servant of the Lord, not of men or his own interests.
1TH 2:3-6; GAL 1:10 c/w 1CO 4:3.
- B. He must be gentle, not rude and impetuous. c/w **ISA 40:11; 2CO 10:1.**
- (1) Gentle: “Having the character appropriate to one of good birth; noble, generous, courteous; Mild in disposition or behaviour; kind, tender.”
- (2) Gentleness should especially characterize initial witnessing.
1TH 2:1, 7-9.
- (3) God's wisdom is manifest in purity, peace and gentleness. **JAM 3:17.**
- C. He must be apt to teach.
- (1) Apt: “Suited, fitted, adapted (*to* (obs.) or *for* a purpose); having the requisite qualifications; b. of persons: Fit, prepared, ready.”
- (2) The minister of Christ is fitted for the work of teaching by divine enablement, faithfulness and study. **1TI 1:12; 2TI 2:2, 15.**
- (3) Being apt to teach is a distinguishing qualification for a preacher since he continually teaches all things that are commanded. **MAT 28:20.**
- (4) **PRO 22:17-21** gives the formula for developing aptitude to teach.
- Hear wise teaching.
 - Apply the heart to the pursuit of knowledge.
 - Retain what is learned.
 - With all of this, knowledge will be fitted in the lips.
ISA 50:4.
- D. He must be patient.
- (1) Patient: “Bearing or enduring (pain, affliction, trouble, or evil of any kind) with composure, without discontent or complaint; having the quality or capacity of so bearing; exercising or possessing patience. b. Longsuffering, forbearing; with to, towards, lenient towards, bearing with (others, their infirmities, etc.).”
- (2) He must bear with the person even though he is in error, up to a point.
LUK 13:6-9 c/w NUM 14:27-29.
- (3) He must not expect too much too quickly. **MAR 4:26-29.**

- (4) He must strive to retain composure.
- E. He must instruct in meekness.
 - (1) Meekness is a state of lowliness; it is the opposite of haughtiness. **MAT 21:5 c/w ZEC 9:9.**
 - (2) Meekness is characterized by gentleness. **TIT 3:2-6.**
 - (3) Meekness is characterized by submissiveness to authority. **ZEP 2:3; JAM 1:21; 1PE 3:4-5.**
 - (4) But meekness is NOT weakness. **NUM 12:3 c/w EXO 32:19-20; MAT 11:29 c/w JOH 2:13-17.**
 - (5) Consider how Paul demonstrated gentleness, patience and meekness to some who opposed themselves. **ACT 18:6-7.**
 - (6) Striving for meekness does not argue against reproving and rebuking. **2TI 4:2.**
 - a. Christ our meek model is also a minister's rebuking model.
 - b. Christ openly rebuked His own disciples for their unbelief. **LUK 24:25-26; MAR 16:14.**
 - i. Upbraid: "To bring forward, adduce or allege (a matter) as a ground for censure or reproach."
 - ii. Upbraid translates *oneidizo* (SRN #3679), which means "to defame, i.e., rail at, chide, taunt: cast in teeth, (suffer) reproach, revile, upbraid."
 - iii. Revile: "To subject to contumely or abuse; to assail with opprobrious or abusive language."
 - iv. At the very least, this implies that Christ was not pussy-footing around when He upbraided men.
 - c. Christ openly rebuked Peter in the presence of the other disciples. **MAR 8:33.**
- F. Gentleness, patience, and meekness are to characterize the presentation of the truth; they do not mean compromising or altering truth to spare feelings!
- 5. The person who is caught up in an error *opposes himself*.
 - A. This can mean that he thwarts his own well-being. **PRO 8:36.**
 - B. This can also mean that he affirms irreconcilably contrary positions. **1CO 15:29.**
 - (1) NOTE: A heresy is immediately recognized as such if its position is self-contradictory.
 - (2) "To hold a thing as true while simultaneously holding something completely contradictory as equally true is not being tolerant; it is being idiotic." (Ted Byfield, publisher, Alberta Report magazine)
- 6. The erring soul in this passage is in the snare and captivity of the devil; this is a form of possession by the devil.
- 7. Gospel teaching's purpose is to turn men from Satan's captivity. **ACT 26:16-18.**
- 8. The unregenerate cannot recover themselves from Satan's snare. **EPH 2:1-3.**

9. A child of God can resist the devil. **1JO 4:4; JAM 4:7.**
10. While a child of God may resist Satan, he may also NOT resist Satan. **2CO 11:3.**
11. The devil can never deprive a child of God of his eternal salvation. **ROM 8:34-39.**
12. Being in the captivity of the devil has various effects.
 - A. Some effects are erratic behavior, self-abuse, and physical infirmities. **MAR 5:4-5, 13; 9:18, 22; MAT 12:22; LUK 13:11.**
 - B. Occult practices are an effect. **ACT 16:16.**
 - C. Doctrinal deception and disobedience are also effects. **2CO 4:4; GAL 3:1; 1TI 4:1-3; ACT 5:3.**
 - D. Emphasis on the more grotesque forms of possession has led to overlooking more obvious and sophisticated forms of possession!
13. In apostolic times a soul could be released from Satan's power by a special sign gift. **MAR 16:17-20; HEB 2:3-4.**
14. These verses provide a formula for dealing with devil possession today.
 - A. The PERSON in Satan's power is to be addressed so that he may recover HIMSELF.
 - B. Be wary of trying to address a devil in a person. **ACT 19:13-16.**
15. Three parties are involved in a person being recovered from Satan's power.
 - A. The TEACHER presents the truth in the proper manner.
 - B. GOD gives the person repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.
 - C. The PERSON acknowledges the truth and recovers himself.
16. God gives the repentance (**ACT 5:31**); but the person must exercise the gift in recovering himself.
17. God PERADVENTURE (perchance, maybe) gives repentance. The teacher does not know for sure if God will give the person repentance or not. **ACT 8:22.**
18. The teacher's responsibility is fulfilled in presenting the truth as he ought; beyond that it is up to God and the person he is teaching. **ACT 20:26-27.**

Chapter 3

v.1

1. Paul here warns Timothy of perilous times that shall come in the last days.
 - A. Perilous: "Fraught with peril; causing or occasioning great danger; full of risk; dangerous; hazardous."
 - B. The last days are the days since the first advent of Jesus Christ. **HEB 1:2; 1PE 1:20; ACT 2:16-17; 1CO 10:11; 1JO 2:18.**
 - C. What would be the point of Paul here teaching Timothy how to cope with the perilous times of the last days if there was no chance of Timothy living in them?
 - D. Time has been divided and marked by the coming of Christ.

- E. Mind that Paul was not guessing about these things.
 - (1) Since Paul was speaking about these things as yet to come, he was doing so by the “more sure” word of apostolic prophecy. **2PE 1:19**.
 - (2) Therefore, Timothy was not to simply “suspect” but rather “This KNOW also...” When one receives apostolic direction, it should be accepted as fact, not speculation.
 - F. Great reform had come with the New Testament but Paul is here making clear that its era would see its share of perils.
2. Mark some things about these perilous times which are characterized in this chapter.
- A. The warning is not against famine, depression, poverty, nuclear radiation, war, disease, communism, eroding liberties, global warming, pollution, the environment, etc.
 - B. The warning is not expressly against idolatry, murder, drunkenness, theft, etc.
 - C. The warning is not against atheism, but contrarily treats of pseudo-religion that competes with pure religion for the minds of men:
 - (1) “...having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof” (**v.5**).
 - (2) “...as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth” (**v.8**).
 - (3) There is a strong warning against religious-appearing corruption of personal and social morals.
 - D. These perilous times would be occasioned by great deception. **2TI 3:6-7, 13; 2TI 4:2-4; 1TI 4:1**.
3. Paul is preparing Timothy to face these times, not retreat from them.
4. Since deception is the source of all the perils that are listed in this chapter, Paul continues to commend Timothy to the Scriptures and the preaching of truth as the antidote. **2TI 3:14-4:5**.
- A. It is not wealth, arms or policies that make men free. It is truth. **JOH 8:32**.
 - B. Wherever truth is received, Satan's deceptive programs are to that extent thwarted. **2TI 2:25-26**.

vs.2-5.

- 1. These verses speak of gross character deficiencies which have a common thread: the preeminence of self instead of the preeminence of God.
- 2. The tendency is to assume that these are irreligious people but **v.5** shows that Paul is speaking of religious people.
- 3. The description of perilous times highlights many marks of a dangerous age.
 - A. *Men shall be lovers of their own selves*. Paul here warns of the self-love theory.
 - (1) God is to be loved first above self or neighbor. **MAT 22:37-39; 10:37**.
 - (2) This self-love is the basis of the other faults in this list.
 - (3) Self-love is seen here to be realized in *love of pleasure* (which gratifies

- self) more than *love of God*.
- (4) God and others will be trampled upon where the love of self is the rule.
 - a. Self-love can corrupt religion by transforming it from a service of submission to God's will to a means of getting one's way.
 - b. Faith and prayer then become a way of getting God to do what the individual wants rather than a means for doing and accepting the will of God.
 - c. Convincing oneself that God is obliged to the individual when He is only obliged to His own word sets one up for disillusionment with faith.
 - (5) Self-love, self-esteem, self-image, and self-confidence are the bywords of our generation.
 - a. All human relationships are supposedly based on this psychological cornerstone.
 - b. The promotion of the self-love theory is not something that is limited to secularists. Religious ministers also promote it.
 - c. God assumes that men have adequate self-love anyway.
MAT 22:36-39; EPH 5:28-29.
 - (6) The path to fullness, according to Scripture, is not through an excess emphasis of love of self but a recognition of the greatness of God and the sinfulness of self. **EZR 9:6; JOB 42:1-6; ISA 6:5.**
 - a. Self-love brought Satan down. **EZE 28:17.**
 - b. Eve's occupation with what would benefit her brought her down.
GEN 3:6.
 - (7) The gospel calls for self-denial. **LUK 9:23.**
- B. *Covetous*. Paul warns of an adjunct of self-love.
- (1) Self-lovers tend to consider anything or anyone as fair game in order to satisfy their lust.
 - (2) Covetousness may manifest itself in theft, extortion, fraud, murder, adultery, etc.
 - (3) But it may also be manifest in a lack of giving to God, lack of saving, increased debt, or an intellectual approval of debt.
 - (4) It may also be seen in depression, frustration, envy, murmuring, etc.
 - (5) The "name it and claim it" theology of many preachers is wide-spread. Jesus did not die "to get your stuff back."
 - (6) It is idolatry. **COL 3:5.**
- C. *Boasters*. Paul warns of when men would be forward to praise themselves.
- (1) It should be no surprise that self-love walks hand in hand with boastful conceit.
 - (2) Consider some of the phrases of our culture:
 - a. "I am the greatest." Muhammad Ali
 - b. "We're bigger than Jesus Christ." John Lennon

- c. “We're #1.”
 - d. “The future holds no bounds for us.” See **PRO 27:1**.
 - e. “We're going to take back the culture for Christ.”
- D. *Proud*. Paul warns of men being characterized by pride.
- (1) This is a necessary and logical consequence of self-love.
 - (2) Pride corrupted God's most perfect creature (**1TI 3:6**) and is #1 on His list of hated sins. **PRO 6:17**.
- E. *Blasphemers*. Paul warns of profane speaking of God or sacred things.
- (1) When men's interests are paramount, they will blasphemously reject anything that crosses their will. **ACT 13:35**.
 - (2) Consider the marketability of blasphemy with the likes of “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Oh God,” “The Last Temptation of Christ,” “The Da Vinci Code,” etc.
- F. *Disobedient to Parents*. Paul warns of a widespread breakdown in authority.
- (1) Wholesale violation of the first commandment with promise would characterize the perilous times.
 - (2) This again is a self-love issue on two fronts.
 - a. Disobedience to parents stems from wilfulness: one will not submit himself to legitimate authority. The child loves himself more than God or parent.
 - b. Parents may be opposed to disciplining their child in keeping with God's will because they fear the loss of a child's love or a culture's approval. Again, love of self is the problem.
 - c. Parents who refuse to discipline their children as necessary are actually encouraging them in this ungodly self-love by making the child's will supreme. How will that fare for a child when other authorities or God Himself crimps his style?
 - (3) Disobedient children are oppressive. **ISA 3:4-5, 12**.
 - (4) Parental authority is the first authority relationship of life. When it crumbles, the rest soon follow.
 - (5) Disobedience to parents is the work of the reprobate mind and grounds for church exclusion. **ROM 1:28-30**.
- G. *Unthankful*. Paul warns of an ungrateful generation.
- (1) Love of self is only concerned with getting and takes all for granted.
 - (2) Being thankful is commanded of God. **1TH 5:18; PHIL 4:6**.
 - (3) Unthankfulness is a rejection of God the Giver and the first tumble down the slippery slope to sodomy in society. **ROM 1:21-27**.
 - (4) Consider the implications of atheistic evolution: what's the point of being thankful?
- H. *Unholy*. Paul warns of an impious, profane, wicked generation.
- (1) Self-lovers who are unthankful will also become unholy. **ROM 1:21-23**.

- (2) Mind that this unholy character is part and parcel of those who have a *form of godliness*. **v.5 c/w LUK 11:39.**
 - (3) MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT answers to such a description. **REV 17:3-6.**
- I. *Without natural affection*. Paul warns of corruptions of men's affections.
- (1) Those who are driven by self-love will not even be bound by nature.
 - (2) Sexually, this condemns sodomy, bestiality, necrophilia, pedophilia, transvestism, etc.
 - a. We are living in an age that rivals ancient pagan cultures for debauchery.
 - b. Religious organizations and their ministers are too often guilty of promoting some of these aberrations and legitimizing them.
 - (3) Loss of natural affection is also manifest in such things as:
 - a. abortion.
 - b. child abuse.
 - c. wife-beating.
 - d. effeminacy amongst men.
 - e. butchness amongst women.
 - f. inordinate love of animals or nature.
- J. *Trucebreakers*. Paul warns of a generation who would violate covenants.
- (1) Breaking a truce is a dishonest violation of a covenant of peace.
 - (2) Self-lovers have only their interests at heart, not peace or honor.
 - (3) Consider **PSA 55:12-21.**
- K. *False accusers*. Paul warns of a generation given to malicious slander.
- (1) Where self-love is all important, disrespect and resentment of others follows. Good reputations will be trashed without blushing.
 - (2) Compromised religionists may accuse the true believers of being a cult or mentally unstable. **ACT 28:22.**
- L. *Incontinent*. Paul warns of a generation lacking self-restraint.
- (1) Ultimately, self-love knows nothing of self-restraint.
 - (2) Incontinence primarily concerns unfettered sexual passions but also includes other bodily appetites.
 - (3) Some of the churches in Scripture succumbed to this problem. **1CO 11:21-22; REV 2:14, 20-22.**
- M. *Fierce*. Paul warns of a vicious generation.
- (1) Fierce: “Of formidably violent and intractable temper, like a wild beast; vehement and merciless in anger or hostility.”
 - (2) When self-love is all important, nothing will be allowed to get in the way of its goal.
 - (3) The ferocious treatment of “heretics” by the “form of godliness” Catholic Church comes to mind here.
 - (4) Those with only “a form of godliness” can be roused to fierceness

in short order when one takes a strong stand against sin, especially their hypocrisy.

- N. *Despisers of those that are good.* Paul warns of hatred for good men.
- (1) Lovers of self will resent whatever convicts them of their sin. The person who takes a stand for righteousness and truth becomes a target. **PSA 38:20; ISA 59:15.**
 - (2) To legitimize such despite, values are likely to be reversed. **ISA 5:20.**
 - (3) Heroes today are people like Che Guevera, Magic Johnson, Tom Cruise, Freddie Mercury, Gloria Steinem. **PSA 12:8; PRO 28:4.**
 - (4) Enemies today are people like Joe Wright, the minister who stunned the Kansas Assembly in 1996 with a prayer that told it like it was.
- O. *Traitors.* Paul warns of people who betray any person that trusts them, or any duty entrusted to them.
- (1) Again, the basis for betrayal is selfishness or love of self.
 - (2) Traitorism is not just a political/national/business problem.
 - a. Women betray their unborn children.
 - b. Marital infidelity is betrayal.
 - c. Spreading someone's private matters to others is betrayal.
 - (3) Religious traitors are in very poor company. **LUK 6:16.**
 - (4) The righteous can (and should) look to none but a trustworthy God in such times. **MIC 7:1-7.**
- P. *Heady.* Paul warns of men being headlong, precipitate, impetuous, violent; passionate; headstrong; 'hurried on with passion.'
- (1) Impulse-buying is a manifestation of headiness.
 - (2) Making major spiritual or life decisions without seeking godly counsel is a manifestation of headiness. **PRO 15:22; PSA 119:24.**
 - (3) Christians are to be marked by circumspection, not rashness. **EPH 5:15.**
- Q. *Highminded.* Paul warns of a generation which would think too loftily.
ct/w **ROM 12:3; GAL 6:3; EPH 4:2.**
- (1) Men use their minds to imagine "molecules to man" evolution, and even churchmen presume to outthink God by incorporating such false science into God's revelation. **1TI 6:20.**
 - (2) Men have become drunk on their own wisdom and technology to the point of denying the existence or relevance of God. **ROM 1:22; 1CO 1:21.**
 - (3) Beware of the attitude, "I would never do that." **ROM 11:20.**
- R. *Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.* Paul warns of hedonism.
- (1) One could wonder if Paul were looking at our present culture.
 - (2) Consider our infatuation with sports, recreation, amusement, pets, entertainment, travel, vacations, etc.
 - (3) Churches feel they must incorporate these diversions to keep the pews

filled.

(4) It is Babylon revisited. **ISA 47:8.**

(5) It is Sodom revisited. **EZE 16:49.**

(6) Pleasure-living is death. **1TI 5:6.**

S. *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.* Paul warns of “hollow egg” religion.

(1) These go through the motions of religion but no real change is effected in their thoughts, attitudes or behavior. **EZE 33:30-33.**

(2) Their lives deny that the godliness they profess has any real impact on them.

(3) Matthew Henry observed, “They will assume the form of godliness to take away their reproach; but they will not submit to the power of it, to take away their sin.”

(4) The power of godliness produces the effects described in Paul's prayer in **COL 1:9-12.**

(5) The power of godliness enables one to lay aside the ungodliness that characterizes perilous times.

(6) The person who professes to know God and yet says that he cannot do what God commands is denying the power of godliness!