

Holding Faith And A Good Conscience

1Timothy 1:12-20

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“This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.” (1Timothy 1:18-20, ESV)

Introduction

The main point of last week’s message was arguably the goal of faith according to Paul: *love from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith* (1Tim1:5). As we continue with Paul’s letter to his “*true son in the faith*,” we can see that as Paul was reminding Timothy of the foundation for fighting the good fight of faith, he also wanted to remind Timothy that it is God’s prophetic call on our lives that provides the sense of God’s purpose and plan for our lives. *What is God’s prophetic call on your life?*

1. Through Christ who gives us strength. (vv.12-14)

- a) Paul is thankful that it is Christ who qualifies us for ministry and not ourselves.
- b) The grace of God brings to us the faith and love which are in Christ.

2. The perfect patience of Jesus Christ. (vv.15-17)

- a) “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”
- b) Christ’s perfect patience displayed in Paul’s life is an example for you and I.

3. Gifts, calling, character and faith lead to fruitfulness. (vv.18-20)

- a) God gave prophetic words through the elders who had laid hands on Timothy.
- b) Yet gifts and calling must be complemented by character and faith to be fruitful.

Conclusion

The words of correction, direction and encouragement which God speaks into our lives are like seeds which need the soil of a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application

- 1) Compare Peter’s teaching in 1 Peter 2:5-8 with that of Paul in 1Timothy 1:18-20.
- 2) Read Philippians 4:13. How might this verse fit with what Paul tells Timothy here?
- 3) Compare John 3:17 and 1Timothy 1:15. Why did God choose to reveal Himself to you?

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