

WAR A GOOD WARFARE

1 TIMOTHY 1

Text: 1 Tim 1:18

(1 Timothy 1:18) "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;"

Introduction:

Timothy was a young man that responded to Christ's call to help build His church. He was one of the Apostle Paul's special assistants. He tackled some of the tough assignments in the churches that Paul had founded.

He was brought up in a religious home, and had been led to Christ by Paul.

(2 Timothy 1:5) "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

He was born of mixed parents: His mother was a Jew and his father a Greek. He was so devoted to Christ the his local church leaders recommended him to Paul, and Paul added him to his missionary staff.

(Acts 16:1-5) "Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: {2} Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. {3} Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek. {4} And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. {5} And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily."

Timothy was faithful to the Lord and had a deep concern for God's people.

(1 Corinthians 4:17) "For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church."

(Philippians 2:20-22) "For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. {21} For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. {22} But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel."

But in spite of his calling, and close association with Paul, Timothy was easily discouraged. The last time Paul had been with Timothy he had encouraged him to stay on at Ephesus and finish his work.

(1Timothy 1:3) "As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,"

Paul wrote the letter we call 1Timothy to encourage Timothy, to explain how a local church should be managed, and to enforce his own authority as a servant of God. In chapter 1 Paul explained the three responsibilities of a pastor and people in a local church.

1. PREACH SOUND DOCTRINE (1:1-11)

Paul used military language to help Timothy and his people see the seriousness of the problem of false teachers.

Charge means to give strict orders from a superior officer. What was the order?

A. Don't teach different doctrine.

- In many churches today the pulpit and choir lofts are places of entertainment, not enlightenment and enrichment.

- Paul had identified the false teaching as “fables and endless genealogies.
- It is tragic when Christians get off course because they refuse “healthy doctrine”, “sound doctrine”, but many prefer vain jangling

1. Works salvation.

2. PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL (1:12-17)

(1 Timothy 1:11) "According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust."

This moved Paul to share his own personal testimony. He was proof that the Gospel of the grace of God really works.

- A. What Paul used to be (vs 13)

(1 Timothy 1:13) "Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief."

1. A blasphemer
2. A persecutor
3. Injurious

B. How Paul was saved (vs 13-15)

(1 Timothy 1:13-15) "Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. {14} And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. {15} This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

1. Grace and mercy are God's love in action.

C. What Paul became (vs 12,16)

(1 Timothy 1:12) "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;"

(1 Timothy 1:16) "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."

1. From persecutor to a preacher
2. From a murderer to a minister
3. From a minister to a missionary

- Paul not only became a minister, he also became an example. (vs 16)

(1 Timothy 1:16) "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."

3. PRACTICE THE FAITH (1:18-20)

(1 Timothy 1:18-20) "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; {19} Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: {20} Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme."

A. It is not enough to proclaim the faith with our lips; we must practice the faith in our daily lives

Close:

God help us to war a good warfare, and to remain faithful.