

II TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3 & 4

tools for every area of life.

- a. When this passage is thoroughly digested a total person is the result.
 - b. This would encourage Timothy to know he had a message that would give him the necessary equipment to meet the coming apostasy.
2. Once the man of God is whole he can use what has made him whole to accomplish this same wholeness in others.

III. PAUL REMINDS TIMOTHY OF THE MESSAGE AND MINISTRY NEEDED TO DESTROY THE APOSTASY. 4:1-5.

- A. "Chapter three stresses the fact that Timothy, confronted with developing opposition to the truth, must abide in the true doctrine. Chapter four brings into prominence Timothy's duty to proclaim this doctrine." Hendriksen, II Timothy, p. 307.
- B. He reminds Timothy to whom he is responsible.
- v. 1.
 1. He does not have to give regular reports to some denominational headquarters.
 2. He is urged to remember he answers to God and Christ, not fellow men!
 3. Paul states 3 reasons for the authority of Christ.
 - a. He will judge the living and dead.
 - b. He will have a second coming (this destroys the doctrine, "the resurrection is already past").
 - c. He is King, Ruler, over a Kingdom.

4. Mr. DeWalt aptly states, "The Kingdom" here mentioned probably is best identified with the eternal kingdom where all Christians will reign with Him." DeWalt, I & II Timothy and Titus, p. 248.
5. As we review these facts of verse 1, we begin to see the greatness of the charge Paul expresses to Timothy.
 - a. This was not given because Timothy was drifting away from Christ.
 - b. It was given to show that the power available from God, was greater than the apostasy caused by Satan.
 - c. With this encouragement Timothy could face the coming apostasy with confidence!
- C. The content of Paul's charge is given in 5 imperatives. b. 2.
 1. Preach the Word-- "Proclaim or Herald" Vine, p. 200.
 - a. The preacher is the Herald of God's message.
 - b. He cannot, he dare not, change the content of that message one bit if he wants to please God and help fellow men.
 - c. Preaching the Word is the divinely inspired method of ambassadorship of God. I. Cor. 1:21.
 - d. Notice these who were ambassadors for God.
 1. Noah--II Peter 2:5.
 2. Jonah--Jonah 3:4 & Matt. 12:41.

 3. John the Baptist--Matt. 3:1-2 & John 1:29.

4. The healed Gadarene Demoniac--Luke 8:39.
 5. Paul--Acts 9:20; Gal. 6:14; I Cor. 15:20f; I Thess. 4:13-18.
 6. This is but a partial list as it is impossible to name everyone who has, or is, preaching the Word.
2. Be urgent in season, out of season.
 - a. "To take a stand," "stand upon it or up to it" "carry on", "stick to it". Robertson Word Pictures of the New Testament, Vol. 4, p. 629.
 - b. One must never take the message lightly.
 - c. We are not to grow careless with the message because we have such close contact.
 - d. We are to continually be proclaimers. There is no time when the message is not to be preached.
 3. Reprove--preach in such a manner so as to convince the listeners by producing the evidence for your faith and preaching.
 4. Rebuke--This means conviction. It is the application of the proclaimed message to individual needs, hurts, hungers, and joys.
 5. Exhort--Encourage rather than condemns. This speaks to the motives of preaching. We are to motivate through exhortation, not by demands.
 - a. The attitude of all this preaching is found in "longsuffering and teaching."
 - b. A question to ask self is: "Am I as long-suffering with those to whom I proclaim God's message as He is to me?"

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- c. The answer to that question will aid each person's ministry for Christ.
- D. Paul gives specific reasons for "Preaching the Word." v. 3.
1. There will be a time when some people will not appreciate, nor accept, words of sound spiritual health, thus Timothy is urged to "Preach the Word."
 2. "This prophetic description of the temper of Christians during the apostasy, hath been verified to an astonishing degree. For then the generality of the people nauseated the wholesome doctrines of true piety and sound morality inculcated in the Gospel: Then the monks and friars, in all their sermons, spake of nothing but of miracles performed at the tombs of martyrs and confessors, or by their relics: And then the people delighted to hear nothing from their teachers but fables of that sort, as the apostle foretold, verse 4, because by these they were confirmed in the belief that the superstitious practices which their teachers recommended would procure them the pardon of their sins, however atrocious, and admission into heaven, notwithstanding they continued to sin to the end of their lives." Macknight, Vol. III-IV, pages 332 and 333.
 3. They will seek, and find, teachers who will teach what they want to hear (tickle the ear), not what God knows and desires they should hear.
 - a. The word "heap" is very descriptive of the amount of teachers, and their worth.
 - b. All together they are but a human junkpile of religious teachers.
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- c. "Their craving is for teachers to suit their fancies or perverted tastes.

- d. This reminds one of Jer. 5:31, 'The prophets prophesy falsely...and my people love to have it so,' and of Ezek. 33:32, 'And lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear thy words, but they do them not.'
 - e. They are not interested in the truth itself, only in the way in which it is presented, the preacher's 'style,' 'oratory,' ...the preacher himself, his voice, bearing, looks, mannerisms." Hendrikson, p. 311 & 312.
4. After their own lusts, "The word is used of a good desire in Luke 22:15, Phil. 1:23 and I Thess. 2:17 only. Everywhere else it has a bad sense. To obey the lust refers to those evil desires which are ready to express themselves in bodily activity." Vine, p. 25.
- a. If the people are to be trained the evangelist must preach God's message, not satisfy the evil desires of men!
 - b. This is related to II Tim. 2:1f.
5. The result of collecting teachers to say what they want to hear does two main things:
v. 4.
- a. Turn them away from the truth.
 - b. Turn them unto fables.
6. The following of fables and errors is possible because they appeal to:
- a. Lust of the eye.
 - b. Lust of the flesh.

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c. Pride of life. I John 2:15.

E. Paul outlines the Duties of the Evangelist for Timothy. v. 5.

1. Be sober in all things.

a. Be mature in the manner with which you handle all things.

b. Timothy is to show a calm, well balanced attitude.

2. Suffer hardship.

a. Paul was preparing him to overcome the difficulties of the ministry.

b. He was to expect them to appear in his ministry and overcome them through dependence upon Christ. Phil. 4:13.

3. Do the work of an evangelist.

a. Reread the instructions in I Timothy, II Timothy and Titus.

b. Obtain a copy of DeWalt's book entitled, "The Church in the Bible" from the library and read the section on the office and work of the evangelist.

c. I would recommend that each family have this book in their personal library.

4. Fulfil the ministry.

a. Remember the purpose in the life of service to God and shrink not from complete exhortation.

b. This would not be easy for Timothy because of the persecution and apostasy but Paul encourages him to use all the talents God has given him.

SUMMARY:

In this section, II Timothy 3:1-4:5, Paul, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, gives a very valuable lesson to every evangelist. Though he was speaking to the immediate needs of Timothy he also is speaking of our needs today.

We must know that there are false teachers and persecution against God's Church going on now and will continue until He returns. The ways of mankind have not changed since Paul penned these passages.

Paul encourages Timothy by giving a testimony of how the Lord has delivered him safely time after time. He wants Timothy to know that all of God's children shall suffer persecution.

Paul then reminds Timothy he is a steward of the power that can defeat the devil. That power is the Word of God. But the Word must be taught with all of one's ability. The soul saving power is not passed on from person to person by way of physical birth. The way of God must be taught to each generation.

Notice the "Passing It On Principle":

"First Generation...Knows God and His Word or Work...Commitment.

Second Generation..Knows God but not His Word or Work...Compromise.

Third Generation...Knows not God nor His Word or Work...Conflict. (Rebellion)"

*Walk Thru The Bible Ministries.

Now it is clear why Timothy is charged to preach the Word.

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SECTION V. PAUL'S TRIUMPHANT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH. 4:6-22.

A. Paul has assurance in the face of death. vs. 6-8.

1. He views The Present Reality with confidence.
v. 6.

a. I am right now, being "poured out."

1. He considered this prison term as the beginning of his death.

2. Even in life as well as death Paul was "poured out" for the Lord.

3. His total life was a sacrifice to the Lord to be used any way the Lord needed and at this moment of death he is not filled with regret but joy.

4. Elizabeth Kubler--Ross writes in her book "On Death and Dying" that there are 5 attitudes toward death and dying.

"1. Denial and isolation

2. Anger

3. Bargaining

4. Desperation

5. Acceptance."

5. But if you read the writings of Paul you will find his view of death as pure joy!

6. This clearly shows the center of his life.

2. He quickly summarizes his past. v. 7.

a. Fought a good fight.

b. Finished the course.

c. Kept the faith.

d. Those are three words that each Christian

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must keep in his personal vocabulary and attitude.

1. We are to fight, to finish and to keep.
2. This is a tremendous encouragement to each person who claims Christ as his.
3. He has confidence in his future. v. 8.
 - a. I have a crown of righteousness reserved for me in heaven.
 - b. That crown will be presented by the Christ who endured so much and strengthened me so greatly.
 - c. I am not going to be in heaven alone.
 1. Those who love His appearing more than the world shall also receive a crown.
 2. This is not frantic hope, it is the inspired Word of God's Promise.
 - d. The confidence in life beyond the grave is as great for us as Paul.
- B. Paul urges Timothy to be with him at this time. vs. 9-15.
 1. Do everything you can to get here quickly. v. 9.
 2. He asks Timothy to put forth extra effort because of surrounding circumstances. v. 10.
 - a. There has been a "thinning" of my work force here. v. 10.
 - b. Demas has gone to Thessalonica, rejecting my company and returning to the world because of the lust of the world--SERIOUS.

The reason it is serious is that Demas has rejected Christ and loved Satan.

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- c. Crescens has gone to Galatia.
- d. Titus is ministering in Dalmatia.
- e. Of all the hard workers, only Luke remains.
v. 11.
- f. Please find Mark and bring him with you.
 - 1. He is needed in my ministry.
 - 2. This one statement reveals the humility of Paul.
 - 3. In Acts 15:38,39, we have a different picture.
- g. I have sent Tychicus to work in Ephesus.
v. 12.
- h. Paul requests Timothy bring the items on this visit. v. 13.
 - 1. Cloak--winter was close at hand. v. 21.
 - 2. Books--Old Testament book?
 - 3. Parchments--skins of sheep and goats prepared especially to be used for writing.
 - 4. Paul may have wanted to prove to all that the Christ he obeyed and preached was but a fulfillment of the Old Testament and therefore convince the Roman government that there was no valid reason for the suspicion and persecution of the Christians.
- i. Alexander has caused me great problems.v. 14.
 - 1. I am willing to let the Lord repay him equal to his actions.
 - 2. ~~This is real trust in the Lord.~~

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3. If you meet him or any of his students be very careful and alert. v. 15.
4. He was bold enough to deny all that I taught!
5. He was not a shy individual.
3. Paul's legal situation would be reason enough for Timothy's haste. v. 16.
 - a. No one stood by me when I made my first defense - See I and II Timothy and Titus by Don DeWalt, pages 258 & 259.
 - b. They did not remain silent. They took the position against me!
 - c. Paul echoes the words of Christ and Stephen when he requests the sins of his former helpers be not held against them.
4. Paul, though deserted by men, had sufficient support. v. 17.
 - a. The Lord's power was with him.
 - b. He gave me the needed strength to stand without friends before enemies.
 - c. I did not just stand, but the Lord enabled me to preach His mighty Word for the purpose that Gentiles might hear the plan God has for all mankind.
 - d. Not only did He give me strength to witness, but He delivered me from the imminent danger.
 - e. Paul's confidence was not shattered, rather it was emboldened; not because of his own abilities, but because the power of the Lord was protecting Paul. v. 18.
 - f. "He will save me unto His heavenly kingdom."

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1. In the past Paul had been delivered from death by the Lord.
2. If he is to die he will be delivered by death to be with Christ completely.
3. Either way - Paul cannot lose!
4. Because of this "deliverence" Paul places honor where the honor belongs - on Christ.
 - a. He is the One to receive honor and glory.
 - b. He is to receive it for eternity, beginning now!

C. Paul's closing salutation and remarks. vs. 19-21.

1. Greet (salute) Prisca and Aquila.
2. Greet the house of Onesiphorus.
3. Erastus is still in Corinth. v. 20.
4. Trophimus - Paul left sick in Miletus. (DeWelt has a good point concerning this situation on page 260.)
5. Paul again urges Timothy's quick travel, referring to the coming winter. v. 21.
 - a. He would want the warm coat.
 - b. The sailing season would soon be shut down and when the spring thaw arrived it might be too late for Timothy to be of help to Paul.
6. The brethren, and Eubulus, Pudens, Linus and Claudia send greetings to Timothy.

D. Paul's great closing benediction. v. 22.

1. The Lord be with your spirit.

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2. Grace be with you.
3. After the many charges and examples of testimony Paul commits Timothy to the Lord's keeping.
4. We, too, should commit ourselves to the Lord's keeping.

SUMMARY:

As Paul closes this letter he pens his last words that are recorded. What a great influence he was on Jew and Gentile alike. But it was not the man Paul who was so tremendous; it was the working of Christ in his life that was sensational.

We first learn of him as Saul the murderer. We last hear of him as Paul the persecuted, but happy servant of the Lord on his way home to heaven.

The desire of heaven's home should be as great in each of us as it was in the apostle Paul!