

Thursday, September 15, 2022 • Read 1Timothy 1:18–20

Questions from the Scripture text: How does the apostle describe this statement in v18? To whom is it committed? How does he describe Timothy? With what is this entrusting in accordance? What else (besides Paul's letter) will be done according to these prophecies? With what two attributes does the apostle hope the prophecies will enable Timothy to wage this warfare (v19)? What have some done to faith and to good conscience? What has been the result for them? What two such individuals does the apostle name in v20? What has he done to them? For what purpose?

Why is it so urgent that Timothy reestablish right preaching, conduct, and order in the church in Ephesus? 1Timothy 1:18–20 looks forward to the second serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these three verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **Timothy (and other gospel ministers) must labor for right doctrine, practice, and order both to fulfill the will of God Who called them and to safeguard their own and others' faith.**

Fulfill the will of God

The apostle has just set before Timothy the great glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in the display of His mercy in redeeming sinners and enlisting them into His service (cf. v12–17). Now, he reminds his "son" (v18) Timothy that he too has been called by Christ Jesus. The Word of God was proclaimed and applied in bringing him into ministry. So, it is a matter of obedience to God's will that he press on in this ministry.

And ministry is a battle (end of v18). It is a good battle. It is worth fighting, and it would be unfaithful to stop fighting it. The apostle tells Timothy that his hope is that his charge, working together with the proclamations that have been made to Timothy and about him, would enable Timothy to do this battling.

Safeguard your own and others' faith

Timothy has been on the receiving end of good theology. We remember that in v5 two of the things aimed at by the command to maintain good theology were "a good conscience and sincere faith" (cf. v19). Now, he tells Timothy that the way to wage the good battle of the ministry is to do so "having faith and a good conscience." He must have faith: he must be convinced of the truth of the Scripture. He must have a good conscience: his affections, choices, and desires must be ruled actively by the truth of the Scripture.

But there are those who seem to have had these things and do so no longer. "Some have rejected" (v19) this faith and good conscience. This has been disastrous for them. The apostle describes their faith as "shipwrecked"; they have done great harm to themselves. Timothy apparently knows Hymenaeus and Alexander, and they are significant enough for the apostle to mention them by name.

Yet, these significant men have been delivered to Satan. This means that they have been excommunicated and that the protection from Satan that comes to those in the church, they have lost. Even this action was designed to discipline them ("that they may learn," v20) so that their doctrine and life would stop blaspheming God. But there are others who have been shipwrecked as well. Timothy's calling is God's means for protecting others in Christ's flock from suffering similar.

When a minister of the gospel is properly called, who has called him? Who called your minister? What is his ministry designed to safeguard you from doing? What should be done if this fails?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for giving us men whom You help to battle the battle of ministry. Forgive us for forgetting that it is You who have called them. Truly, we too easily lose conviction about what Your Word teaches, and our consciences come to be bad consciences, directed by other ideas. Forgive us, Father and stir up our faith, and make our consciences good, by Your Spirit's blessing upon the Word of Jesus Christ, in Whose Name we ask it, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP32AB "What Blessedness" or TPH433 "Amazing Grace"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

First Timothy 1 verses 18 through 20. These are God's words. This charge I commit to you, son, Timothy according to the prophecies previously made concerning you that by them, you may wage the good warfare having faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected having rejected concerning the faith of suffered shipwreck of whom are homones and Alexander, who might delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

So far the reading of Gods inspired and inerent word on the first chapter of this letter, we have learned that Paul is commanding Timothy to do the work. Now, of Reformation looking to the Lord to bring revival in Ephesus. Because There are those who are teaching doctrine, that is not from the Bible at all and some are even doing.

So by twisting the, the scriptures and the doctrine that is being taught is leading to on godly unholy sinful living, and these things are even evident in the organization and the worship of the church. So that those who whom the Lord has called and gifted to lead and by whom he cares for others are not leading and there are others who are leading into this.

There's disorder in the church. So, just by way of reminder, those three things are Timothy's. Main tasks to see a restoration of true doctrine to see a restoration of that holy living, which comes from true doctrine that love the for God. And for others that comes from Drew Doctrine.

And then the restoration also of order in the church and so he says he's urging Timothy. This charge I commit to you, son Timothy. He's reminding him that the grace that Paul has just been describing that Christ has shown to him. That Christ has shown to it to Timothy as well that just as God has historically, worked from one generation to the next.

Making a godly father. The means by which he brings his son into the means of grace. And by those means of grace into his own faith and into his own godliness. So also this happens. Sometimes not from biological father to son but from a spiritual father to son, as Paul has done with Timothy.

Timothy of course had an unbelieving, Greek, biological father. On other things that Timothy has in common. Now, with Paul as his father is not just the faith but the ministry like father, like son as far as ministry goes, he reminds Timothy that there were those by good understanding of Scripture and wisdom given from God and prayer.

And the action of the elders and apostles that have gone before. We'll see both of those in one in First Timothy 1, and 2nd Timothy that by all of these things is evident that Timothy being administered was not something that originated with man, but originated with God. And so this charge, I commit to use Sun Timothy.

According to the prophecies previously, made concerning you a man who is in the ministry needs to have good confidence because things have been done according to Scripture and because God is the one who is at work in his church that it is God who has put him into the ministry.

So that's the first reason. The Timothy's work is urgent because he's fulfilling the will of God. It will that God has made plain. Perhaps in extraordinary news, special revelation, but the Lord still makes His will plain through the scripture and through what he does. Among his people. As they follow the scripture, this should be true of every minister today when the church falls into kind of a volunteer society, kind of model where there is not the following of Scripture to discern the biblically qualified those in whom.

God has worked by his grace to produce especially the right character and also given not just skill, but fruit that the Lord has attended in his own family and so forth. We're going to hear about these things especially in chapter 3, but when we don't follow Scripture for who will lead, how in the church than we lose this fulfilling, the will of God, We end up fulfilling the good intentioned hopefully, but you got to put fear quotes on good because good is what God defines as good.

The sincere. Intentions will say it that way of men who desire a good outcome, but are going about it their own way. So that's the first reason. The Timothy has to do it to fulfill the will of God when everything else falls apart in your life. And you're not seeing fruit and you're unsure of yourself and your gifts and all those kinds of things.

One of the things, one of the great things that can sustain you in the service to, which you have been called, is that, you know, that this rule that you're in, is biblically something that you've been called to a husband is always called, to be a good husband. He can't just fall out of love, and say, he doesn't just doesn't feel it anymore.

The spark has gone or whatever. Parents. Don't get time off. They're often at the end of their wits, but they haven't been called into parenthood by their wits. They've been called and to burnt by the problems of God, who tells us what parents are, and what parents should do, and how the Lord sustains them.

And what he will use in the lives of their children and so forth. While there's a how much more from those types of things to ministers who are called not just my naked providence. But by the studied preached prayed. Well, reasoned. Conclusions of an assembly of the elders of the church, of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And so that's the first reason that the work is so urgent. Fulfill the will of God. The second reason is it's war and do not expect that because it's the will of God, it will be easy. In fact, the opposite is true, there is in the devil and his angels, a direct opposition to everything, the Lord does.

And so, if it's the Lord's, will that will that it be done? Then it will be the devil's war against it being done. And so, we can't slouch towards or come without zeal and awareness and attentionality and preparation. It is a good war but it is a war, the word war that's translated wage is derived from the same root that is translated warfare.

So battle, the good battles. You think so that's the second reason. Number one that we that he must fulfill the work the will of God. Number two, it's a battle. And so he needs to go to it with a goodwill to fight the good warfare. Number three to safeguard his own faith.

He says having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected etc.

Timothy fulfilling God's will and obeying. God's Word is an outcome of believing that it is. God, who has spoken those words? That's faith. Timothy doing according to what God has said, is deciding that what God says isn't just true. And so, he believes it, but it is good and it's right.

And so he evades it, that's a good conscience, a good conscience. Remember is the one that agrees with the Bible about what good things are. And so we do those things. There are those who through studied in difference or even rejection of a good conscience of the look to rejection of the law of God that is written on their hearts.

Develop, what is called a bad conscience? There's the seared conscience that never talks at all. You just get so dull, and you ignore it so much, that that you never do what a good conscience says, and that becomes a seared conscience. And then there's a bad conscience. A conscience that you have talked into the wrong things, by bad teaching and excusing things for instance, the righteous lie thing, the twisting of Scripture to malinstruct, to teach your conscience, bad things, and it becomes a bad conscience and approves a bad thing.

He's saying Timothy? No, you have to not just believe whatever. God says that's faith. You have to do, whatever God commands and you. Your good conscience is telling you to stick with it, even though you don't feel like it even though it feels impossible, even though you anticipate it being miserable and painful yet your your conscience being instructed by the word of God is good.

You must listen to a good conscience, but there are some who haven't and they have suffered shipwreck concerning their faith. And two of them are significant enough examples. Maybe because of their leadership in the church or their association with Timothy and Paul previously, or whatever, we're going to hear about, Alexander the copper Smith later.

It may well be the same Alexander, Although it's a very common name, but those are his reminding Timothy's and this happened to Hymanas in Alexander. It could happen to you Timothy. We don't often think of people like Paul and Timothy as vulnerable to catastrophic. Faith failure. But Paul was very urgent that he finished.

Well, and at one point, he says, lest after preaching to others, I myself be disqualified, and hear his warning, Timothy that. He, if he doesn't heed this command, he could end up like Hymanas in Alexander. And so there's the safeguarding of his own faith. So, three reasons so far fulfilled, the will of God.

Number two battle. The good battle. Number three, safeguard has unfaith. But then he's also to safeguard others faith. Remember all the way back up diversified. Now, the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience. And from a sincere faith, So that which Timothy already has and Paula saying, don't shipwreck for yourself.

If the other believers, if the flock of the Lord Jesus in Ephesus are going to love the Lord with all their heart and soul, light and strength, and love their neighbor as themselves. The way that that love comes out of their lives, comes out of their hearts is from this pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith.

That are the fruit of a faithful ministry of the Word. And so, it's not just Timothy's faith and good conscience that are in danger. It's not just Timothy who's in danger of having a shipwreck of faith. If the flock of the Lord Jesus, in Ephesus does not receive a faithful ministry of the Word.

They will lose the good conscience and the sincere faith and the pure heart. And they will cease loving the Lord. Jesus Christ with all their hearts on strength, loving the Dragon, God with all their hearts alone and strength and they will see sloving their neighbor as themselves. And this indeed is what ends up happening because we remember and revelation chapter 2, that the Lord Jesus himself sends to the angel of the church in Ephesus the preacher.

Maybe even Timothy here. Whoever succeeded Timothy or someone who followed him down the line and reminds them that they have lost their first love. There had been some Reformation that had taken place if we were to compare those two things, but the, the need for the church to have a pure heart, a good conscience.

Since it's your faith, which the Lord brings, by the means of the very ministry that Timothy is being charged to. So four reasons to pray for your ministers for your elders. To be faithful in their leadership and their ministry in the church. Number one because it's God's will, then let's do it.

Because God said so Number two because there's a battle on and when you're in battle, you have to do battle number three to safeguard their own faith, so that they will not be shipwrecked in their own faith. Number four to safeguard the faith of those entrusted to their care, to their ministry, the ministry through which, they receive that pure heart, that good conscience, and that sincere faith.

Hold us. Pray that the Lord would do this for our pastor and elders and that the Lord would do this for us. Our Father in heaven. We thank you that. You are the one who gives love. You're the one who gives pure heart and sincere faith and a good conscience.

We thank you that you have also given your word this portion of your word in which you tell us the means by which you work in us and we pray O Lord that you would continue to sustain to us to extend to us. Those means. So we pray for our minister, we pray for our elders that you would not allow them to stray from a good conscience or faith but that you would preserve them and guard them that they would not be shipwrecked and that we would not be chipwrecked Lord.

We do pray for our congregation and all congregations of your church. All true congregations of your church that you would maintain to them a faithful ministry and which the doctrine and the Holy living and the order in the church are maintained according to scripture, grant, especially to those genuinely called ministers.

Who are weary and who are not preparing and battling in the battle. And in danger of shipwrecking granted to them to have at least this first restoration that they would remember that. It is your command that they fulfill their ministry. Help us. So God how we thank you. That these things are not the instructions of a God who has placed upon us all of your demands in ourselves.

But that these things come from you who have given yourself to be our sufficiency, and who have provided all that is necessary in Christ. And so, even more than we pray, for right actions, according to your word and good fruit. From this actions, we ask O Lord that your spirit would give the fruit from the Lord Jesus.

In his name, we ask it. Amen.