

Midweek Study

Notes

GOD'S
Dream Church

Through 1 Timothy

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

Avoiding a Shipwrecked Faith

1 Timothy 1:18-20

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I. I Must Be Self-DISCIPLINED (1:18-19a)

1 Tim 4:16 - *Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

1 Cor 9:27 - *But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

A. The CHARGE is Too Sacred. *"This charge I commit to you"*

- Paul used military language "charge" meaning "an urgent command handed down from a superior officer"
- Transline NT - "I am depositing this instruction with you..." That is, the following set of instructions, directives, commands, regarding men, women, elders, deacons, which Paul wants to "deposit" with Timothy "in order that by them he may fight the good fight".

B. The CALLING is Too Clear. *"according to the prophecies"*

- *"aided by the prophetic utterances." Williams*

- It is not enough to proclaim the faith with our lips; we must practice the faith in our daily lives. One man said of his hypocritical pastor, "He is such a good preacher, he should never get out of the pulpit; but he is such a poor Christian, he should never get into the pulpit!"

C. The COMBAT is Too Dangerous. *"you may wage the good warfare"*

- *Greek means continuous action – or habit. You may continue waging the good warfare.*

D. The COST is Too Great. *"have suffered shipwreck"*

What if I Were To Shipwreck My Faith??

MY BATTLEFIELD WEAPONS AND NAVIGATIONAL TOOLS ARE FAITH AND CONSCIENCE. (see 2 Cor. 10:3-4)

Notes

1) FAITH - *"The word 'faith' is used here with the article 'the' preceding it. This is very significant for it means that Paul has in mind the faith, the body of truth which is believed, the Gospel of the Grace of God ..."*

Jude 1:3 (KJV) *[I] exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

2) CONSCIENCE

Acts 24:16 (KJV) - *And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.*

- CONSCIENCE - The magazine editor H.L. Mencken defined conscience as "the inner voice which warns us that somebody may be looking."

- **A little boy's definition of a conscience** - Something that makes you tell your mother before your sister does.

II. I Can Be Divinely DISCIPLINED (1:19b-20) see also Hebrews 12:5-11 (NASB)

A. When I Backslide.

- Redefining My **CONVICTIONS** - *"There are some, you know, who by relaxing their grip and thinking anything goes have made a thorough mess of their faith."* Message

1:19b – **It is not their faith that is shipwrecked – although that, too, has happened – but the faith.** By rejecting faith (their complete trust in God's grace), they are at the same time in the process of bringing the faith (the gospel itself) to ruin. [Gordon Fee]

- *Bad doctrine usually starts with bad conduct, and usually with secret sin.*

- Rejecting My **CONSCIENCE** - *"for some people have disobeyed their consciences and have deliberately done what they knew was wrong."* Living

- Rejected is from *apōtheō*, which means "to thrust away," or "refuse." The false teachers had no devotion to maintaining a pure conscience. They had little interest in living for holiness.

Bad theology has its roots in bad morals. Those who teach error do so in order to substitute a system that accommodates their sin.

- **Billy Graham says, "Most of us follow our conscience as we follow a wheelbarrow. We push it in front of us in the direction we want it to go."**

**YOU'VE INTENTIONALLY THROWN AWAY YOUR MAP AND YOUR COMPASS
– YOU'RE HEADING STRAIGHT TOWARDS A SHIPWRECK.**

B. When I Blaspheme.

"they must be taught by discipline not to insult God." Barclay

"to be so disciplined that they will stop their abusive speech." Williams

"to teach them not to slander holy things." Beck

"I let them wander off to Satan to be taught a lesson or two about not blaspheming." Message

"I have given these men over to the power of Satan, so they will learn not to oppose God." CEV

1:20 – Possibly the clause means that Paul has handed them over to Satan with the expectation of physical punishment (cf. GNB). It seems more likely, however, that the phrase "hand over to Satan" simply means "to put back out into Satan's sphere," outside the church and the fellowship of God's people. [Gordon Fee]

See Psalms 91:1-4, 1 Corinthians 5:1-8 and Hebrews 2:1