

I Timothy Sermon #7

I Timothy 1

Theme – sound doctrine for church conduct

This epistle is here to give us healthy teaching for church conduct – polity

I've entitled tonight's message "The Charge of Every Minister"

I Timothy 1:18

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

I Timothy 1:18-20

Let us pray

You may be seated

The Charge of Every Minister

Paul gave Timothy the charge to refuse any deviation from sound doctrine – vs. 3

Paul then gives two major reasons for that charge

Vs. 5 – the goal of the charge is love

First reason for sound teaching is the promotion of love

So the church can have a sincere love for God and each other – real, not superficial.

Vs. 18 gives us the second reason for this charge to teach sound doctrine

Vs. 18 – same word charge – same as in vs. 5 and vs. 3

Timothy had first a (charge) **command** to obey. This word is used for a military order.

It is not a suggestion. It is not open for discussion.

It is a mandate to be carried out obediently. 5:21; 6:13-14 (II Timothy 4:1-2).

Go back I Timothy 1:18

Second, Timothy was entrusted with a commission to fulfill. . . . **entrust** refers to committing something of value to another. . . . putting a deposit in a bank.

Paul had given Timothy a valuable deposit, God's truth (cf. 2 Tim. 2:2)

Paul himself had been entrusted with that deposit (cf. 1:11)

We must preserve it and hand it down intact to the next generation.

When there is a breakdown of transferal, the church and its people are left unprotected.

Back in vs. 18, Paul talks about Timothy's appointment to be a pastor/preacher

The second reason to hold to sound teaching and refuse false teaching is Timothy's personal appointment to that ministerial office.

Timothy, you teach sound doctrine – #1 for what it promotes.

And secondly, you need to teach it because of your calling

This is your appointment

Timothy needed to be reminded of that!

Vs. 18b

That gives the confirmation/authorization of Timothy's appointment.

In other words, Timothy, your appointment was verified by certain prophetic utterances.

You can know that you were called because the prophecies said it would be so.

Timothy had a confirmation to live up to.

Vs. 18 implies that a series of prophecies had been made **concerning** Timothy's vocation

Paul's command to Timothy was not his own, but was confirmed by God through the ministry of some prophets.

Pastors and elders are no longer called to the ministry in such a dramatic fashion.

As we will see in 3:1, the call to the ministry rises from inside through desire, rather than outside from revelation.

That desire is then to be confirmed by the church.

The church, by observing a man's life and service, can confirm whether he gives evidence of being called by God to the ministry.

That's how it operates for us today.

The prophecies pointed out Timothy – to Paul.

In other words, the Holy Spirit gave certain revelation to the apostle Paul and other men so that they would recognize Timothy had been separated for the work of the ministry.

Well, I've never heard of this before. Yes, you have.

Turn over to Acts 9 – God gave prophetic revelation to a man named Ananias.

God said you go to that house and behold, Saul is there praying.

Acts 9:10

Acts 9:15-16, *“But the Lord said unto him [Ananias], ‘Go thy way: for he [Paul] is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for My name's sake.’”*

Now, there is a prophecy which led Ananias to Paul to confirm his ministerial appointment.

Look also in Acts 13:1-2

Five men

Holy Spirit said you separate two of the five. Which two?

Saul and Barnabas – Acts 13:2

Vs. 3

This is what I Timothy 1:18 is saying.

These prophecies were given at the time of his ordination

Prophecies that were revelations from God of what Timothy would do

Two references regarding this – I Timothy 4:14; II Timothy 1:6

Those two references indicate that Timothy experienced something very unusual at his ordination.

There were actually spiritual gifts communicated to him at the time of his ordination

You say – does that happen today? I don't know.

I Corinthians 12 tells us that every believer has spiritual gifts, and that these spiritual gifts come at the moment of conversion

Vs. 18e

That right there gives the nature of the work to which a minister is appointed

This is the nature of the work

It's a warfare! This word refers to a lifelong campaign as a soldier

View the work as a military campaign

Folks, do you realize that the ministry is not a single battle, or a couple of battles with
the enemy?

It is a lifelong battle.

It's not a sprint; it's a marathon.

It's not a sailing around the lake; it's a voyage.

In other words, what Paul is trying to communicate to Timothy was this: Timothy, you
stick with teaching sound doctrine; stay in there, preacher.

This is your calling, appointment for life.

A leader can't quit. . . . **fight the good fight**. . . . noble, excellent, virtuous.

What better thing to live and die for than the great war between God and Satan—a war
for the souls of men and women

Not only is the ministry this way, but so is the Christian life. Isn't it?

Satan is still on the prowl

Our flesh is still with us.

Nor can we be free of the world's attractions

Every day is warfare.

The Christian life is a lifelong fight against the evil world system, Satan, and the
believer's own sinful human flesh.

Sadly, much of the contemporary church seems to have missed that reality.

Paul calls Timothy to fight the good fight, to fight against Satan.

Like all those in the ministry, Timothy was called to an unceasing spiritual warfare.

That fight demands equipped and trained and devoted soldiers.

That's why the demands of qualifications for leaders – I Timothy 3

They must be well qualified. Otherwise – I Timothy 3:7

There is no one in the church Satan would rather destroy than leaders (frontlines)

Paul had left him in Ephesus to oppose the enemies – false teachers

For the man in the ministry – he must always remember when he faces difficulties –
when there is struggle.

That is part of the ministry and he cannot fold up his tent and go home.

He has to stick with it.

Notice the encouragement to Timothy – war the good warfare

Remember your calling, your appointment. Don't give up.

Now, Timothy, while you are engaged in your campaign, you must hold on to two things
– vs. 19

#1 – you must hold on to faith – vs. 19

What is faith? Our conviction of the reality of unseen things

It is our conviction of what we cannot see, is so!

So we have a belief – a conviction in our heart about

The deity of Christ

The virgin birth of Christ

The resurrection of Christ

The return of Christ

Keeping the **faith** means holding fast to that revealed truth.

Timothy's first responsibility to the Lord was to remain loyal to the objective body of
revealed Scripture.

Timothy was to remain unwaveringly devoted to the Word of God.

Hold on to faith.

And secondly, hold on to a good conscience.

That is a conscience that only approves things that keep with the truth

It is possible to be a Christian and not have a good conscience

Maybe we have a conscience that is not properly lit by the Scripture, so that we are holding on to some things that are not in keeping with truth

Hold on to a good conscience

A good conscience is the result of a pure life.

The conscience is a God-given device in every human mind.

It either accuses or excuses (Rom. 2:14-15).

It produces feelings of well-being; it activates guilt.

Its purpose is to warn the person of the fact that he is sinning.

It is to the soul what pain is to the body.

Doctrinal purity – holding fast the faith – must be accompanied by purity of life—good conscience.

There is an inseparable link between truth and morality,

Consequently, theological error often has its roots in moral rather than intellectual soil.

Sound doctrine and Godly living are the twin wheels on a motorcycle.

Dear people, if we will hold on to those two things, we can be successful in the work that God has called us to do

Timothy, you have been charged with a sacred trust.

You have been appointed to do this – called to this.

Now, fight a good warfare – by holding to the truth and by living it out.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Is there anyone tonight that is flirting with false doctrine?

Living apart from what they know to be true?

Do we have a good conscience?

A clean conscience?