

I Timothy Sermon #8

Turn in your Bibles to I Timothy 1:18

Last time, Timothy was charged to stay at Ephesus and war a good warfare.

Two pillars—holding on to the faith – beliefs/doctrine
and holding on to a good conscience – living it

I've entitled tonight's message "Shipwrecked"

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

Shipwrecked

Now Paul gives Timothy a reason for holding on to those two things

Vs. 19b – some having put away – idea of thrusting away/casting away – to reject/to refuse

What did they refuse? A good conscience.

A good conscience some have put away – to push off

Concerning their whole Christian faith – they have made shipwreck

Why? Because they put away a good conscience.

What connection does having a good conscience have to do with keeping the faith?

Folks, do you realize it's a very short walk from a defiled conscience to a rejected faith?

When we see people who have made shipwreck concerning the faith and we say to ourselves, "They know better," – not a question of knowledge.

It's a question of conscience.

This is a failure of application of Scripture to their own living – no interest in holiness, in obedience.

They have allowed their conscience to be hardened.

The problem goes back to the place when he would not do the revealed will of God/

The problem goes back to the place of decision-making – yielding to the Spirit or yielding to the flesh.

Most doctrinal error is rooted not in intellectual problems but in moral problems.

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

Here's what happens – follow me – a person decides to forego their convicting conscience – next step is to change the Truth to comply with my lifestyle.

Deviation from the faith and improper conduct is often preceded by a violation of the conscience.

A good conscience is like a rudder to our ship and when we abandon good conscience, we have abandoned the rudder and we will end up on the rocks regarding the faith.

Could this happen?

When a person puts away a good conscience, he is on his way to being shipwrecked.

Paul gives Timothy specific examples of this—those who suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.

Vs. 20 – two men – result of rejecting their conscience – they suffered – shipwrecked – lost navigation – lost their compass.

Professed Christians who “make shipwreck” of their faith do so by sinning against their consciences

What does it mean to be delivered unto Satan?

Look with me – I Corinthians 5:1, 5

This phrase “deliver such a one to Satan” is only used twice in the Bible. I Corinthians 5 and I Timothy 1:20.

Paul ordered the Corinthians to put the sinning member out of the church – vs. 13

The purpose was “for the destruction of his flesh” – vs. 5

Now, Satan’s power over this particular individual in Corinth was limited.

Although his flesh might be destroyed, his spirit would be saved.

Do you see that in vs. 5—Satan can destroy a Christian’s effectiveness, but not his eternal life.

When that man was involved in a physical relationship with his stepmother, Paul told the church of Corinth to deliver that man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh.

There are two kingdoms on this earth – the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan.

And when a believer steps over the bounds of the kingdom of God and flirts with the kingdom of the devil, sometimes it gets to the point where the people in the kingdom of God has to release that man so that the fruit of his actions can come upon him.

That's called "church discipline"

It is a part of the church's ministry to deliver certain people to Satan.

II Thessalonians 3:14-15

Such people who are excommunicated are delivered to Satan.

Paul had done this with Hymaneus and Alexander.

Paul invites Timothy and us to continue to do.

It is not enough for a local church to teach sound doctrine and to proclaim the Gospel.

The church must also defend the faith by disciplining its members.

It is important that our ministry be balanced.

Some churches only preach the Gospel and seldom teach their converts the truths – evangelism, but no discipleship.

Other churches are only opposing false doctrines; they have no positive ministry.

We must be teachers of healthy doctrine, or the believers will not grow.

We must preach the Gospel and keep winning the lost to Christ.

And we must defend the faith against those who would corrupt the church with false doctrine and godless living.

It is a constant battle, but it must be carried on.

These men had abandoned a good conscience and had made shipwreck of their faith

Paul mentions these two men by name.

Hymenaeus is mentioned again in 2 Timothy 2:17 with another false teacher, Philetus.

II Timothy 4:14-15

Both men **Paul delivered over to Satan**. That is, he put them out of the church. They were removed from the protection and insulation of God's people and put into Satan's grasp.

There are unbelievers who are blessed by virtue of their association.

I Corinthians 7:14

Nonbelievers in a Christian's family are beneficiaries of God's blessing on the Christian.

There is a shelter of God's protection.

Unbelievers who associate themselves with the church today are better off than those outside the church.

They benefit from God's grace and goodness to his children.

Delivering someone to Satan removes the insulation and protection afforded by the believing community.

They are handed over to Satan for judgment.

Why? What is the goal? Restoration.

I Timothy 1:20 – Paul speaks of Timothy's responsibility to deal with those false teachers.

He is to follow Paul's example and, if necessary, deliver them to Satan!

Paul's purpose in delivering them to Satan was (vs. 20) **that they may learn not to blaspheme**.

This word "learn" refers to training (instruction) through physical punishment.

The physical consequences of their sin were to teach them not to **blaspheme**.

To **blaspheme** is to slander God.

Misrepresenting divine truth from God is blasphemy.

Whether that is by teaching or by living, it is blasphemy to God.

Christians can be guilty of it – Colossians 3:8.

How can one avoid being delivered to Satan for chastening?

By receiving the truth and then keeping faith and a good conscience.

When a Christian refuses to repent, the local fellowship should exercise discipline, removing him from the protective fellowship of the saints, making him vulnerable to the attacks of Satan.

The fellowship of the local church gives a believer spiritual protection.

Timothy's job was to care for the church by winning the lost, teaching the saved, and defending the faith.

One reason some local churches are having problems is that the pastors and spiritual leaders are involved in too many extracurricular activities and are not doing the primary tasks God has called them to do.

Shipwrecked

Let us stand for closing invitation

Are there any areas of our lives that we know the Truth and we are deliberately side-stepping, compromising, or rejecting the Truth?

That is a dangerous way to live as a Christian