

Faithfulness in Light of the Future  
II Timothy 2-4

**Faithfulness in Guarding the Sacred Deposit** 1:15-3:17

- A. The Description of the Defection from Faith 1:15-18
- B. The Description of Principles Concerning Faithfulness 2:1-13
- C. The Demand of Procedures for Faithfulness 2:14-3:17

**1. Present Circumstances** 2:14-26

- a. The Disputes :14
- b. The Duty :15
- c. The Danger :16-18
- d. The Design :19
- e. The Directions :20-26
  - i. The Reality :20-21
  - ii. The Request :22-26
    - a. Run to the Truth :22
    - b. Refuse the Error :23
    - c. Replace the Error with the Truth :24-26
      - 1. The Lord's Servant - Action and Attitude :24-25a
      - 2. The Lord's Action and Attitude :25b
      - 3. The Liar :26
        - a. The Deceived
        - b. The Deceiver
        - c. The Deliverer

Paul begins this last section of the body of his letter with a dual emphasis: Eschatology and Ethics. He is going to speak about the future and how we're to live in the present. How do we live today in light of the difficulty of the evil days and the coming day of the Lord?

**2. The Future Realities** 3:1-17

- A. The Prophetic Reality :1
  - Last days (Acts 2;17 Heb 1:2 James 5:3, I Pt 1:5, 2Pt 2:20, 3:3, I Jo 2:18)
  - Is Paul referring to a future eschatological day- Are we near it? Or in it?
  - Last day began when Jesus was raised from the dead?

The demise of culture is a theme found not only in today's newspapers but also, in the ancient writing of the bible and other sources. Dan 12:1 I Enoch 80:2-8, 100:1-3, 4th Ezra 5:1-12, Mk 13:3-13 I Cor. 7:26,29-31, I Jo 2:18 2 Peter 3:3 Jude 17-18.

- B. The Problematic Reason :2-9

1. The Attitude :2-5

a. The Moral Dimension :2-4

Vice/Virtue List: (Rm 1:29-30, Rm 3, Gal 5). This list has 19 items 5 of them only found here.

b. The Spiritual Dimension :5

:5 “they have the form of godliness but deny its power”  
( Morality and Magic- Acts 8:9,13:6-8, 19:13-16)

These teachers were immoral but claimed to be religious  
They deny the power that leads to godliness- They are morally out of control because no true religious foundation. (Mormons and Muslims have “morals” but bad theology) I Tim 4:1-8, 6:5-6. (Jimmy Swagart, Ted Haggard)

c. The Practical Dimension :5c

Timothy - have nothing to do with them-“Avoid” (2:16,22) 2Thess 3:6  
This is different than the idea of being patient to instruct 2:24-26??  
Maybe some could be reached and other were hardened?

2. The Action :6-7

The reason or the reality of the danger of these teachers

- The People

\* House of women (Rich women who had power as pagans)

\* Weak- gullible women loaded down w/ emotional excess (I Tm 2:12)

\* Maybe reference to their pagan past- Some sins are hard to get over.

These women lacked judgment in spiritual truth

Women were not allowed in much of the government but were allowed to lead in religious functions and guilds. (But not elders in the church I Tm 2:11ff) Caesar Augustus played the religion card- women have more children in the name of religion so they would help domestic values and for the sake of the empire.

\* They are trying some new thing or thought but never come to truth.  
“Knowledge of the truth”- Salvation or Christian maturity?

- The Procedure

Go house to house- Worm their way in, infiltrate I Tim 5:13, Titus 1:11 “make captive- capture”

- The Product

What was the lure?

Spirituality instead of sex I Tim 4:3?

Asceticism vs domestic role? Ease women’s guilt from pagan sins

- The Purpose

Their goal was money- “money lover” “lovers of pleasure” 3:2,4

3. The Aftermath :8-9

a. Past Illustration :8a, 9b

Magic against Moses ( Ex 7:11-12, 22 8:7,18 9:11 This is also found in Qumran community )

b. Present Issue :8b,9a

The question is:

\* Area these Christian false teachers that lose salvation?

Rejected from the faith- disqualified αδοκιμοι

\* Are these false teachers that never were saved?

Rejected but never part of the true church αδοκιμοι

\* Are they Christians that fall away

Rejected the faith by teaching a substandard doctrine but still saved I Cor 9:27 αδοκιμοι

At least we can say that these men were inside the church to some degree and were worming their way into the homes, lives and wallets of Christians. This is what Paul is warning Timothy about and telling him how to deal with them.

C. Paul's Perspective :10-17

1. Paul's Personal Paradigm :10-11

Notice Paul gives a Virtue list (9 items) to replace the Vice list (19 items)

Notice the contrast to the false teachers by looking at Paul (2:2)

BTW What do people see when they look at you?

a. Teaching (see :16, 4:3)

b. Conduct- way of life (I Cor 4:17)

c. Purpose (Resolve and commitment to the gentile 4:16-18- see Acts)

d. Faith Not easy at times to be faithful ( I Tim 6:12, II Tim 4:7)

e. Patience ( I Tim 1:16, II Tim 2:24)

f. Love

g. Perseverance (Paul worked hard with the gentile mission 2Cor 1:6, 6:4, 12:12)

h. Persecutions and sufferings (Notice they are plural not singular)

Persecutions 2 Cor 11:24-25

Sufferings Rom 8:18 2 Cor 1:6-7 Philp 3:10, Col 1:24

Notice Paul's travel that he mentions in Acts

Antioch (Pisidian Antioch) Persecution Acts 13:14-52

Iconium Acts 14:1-5

Lystra Acts 14:6-19 2 Cor 11:25

Notice Paul's perspective- The Lord rescued me from them all

Similar to deliverance in Ps 33:5 then Paul quotes Ps 33:18,:20

2. Paul's Prophetic Promise :12-13
  - a. Promise for Believers :12  
(See Matt 5:10-11, 24:9 Rom 5:3, 8:18)
  - b. Promise for Unbelievers :13  
Evil men- Impostors ("sorcerer" tie to Jannes? Or swindler )  
They deceive others but are deceived themselves
3. Paul's Prescription for Power :14-17
  - a. The Request :14  
Abide – Remain - Impv. μενω (John 15)  
Knowing (Perfect tense - past act and focus on continued effect)
  - b. The Reason :15  
Timothy learned from Mother and Grandmother as a child. (2 Tim 1:5)  
Paul's input in his life 2 Tim 1:6-7; 1 Tim 1:18, 4:14)  
Holy writings ιερα γραμματα - Temple service

\*\* Why do the holy writings give wisdom for salvation? Because they are from God.

- c. The Reality :16a
  1. All scripture or Every scripture (γραφη)  
  
Paul is referring to the OT in its completion
  2. Inspired θεοπνευστος god (theos) breathed - wind (pneuma)  
(All scripture or every scripture is god breathed. Not "every god  
breathed scripture is...)

## INSPIRATION

The Work of God, whereby He superintended the human authors so that using their own individual personalities and styles they composed and recorded God's Word to humanity. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. 2 Peter 1:20-21

d. The Results :16b-17

1. Profitable

A Teaching

B Reproof

B' Correction

A' Training in righteousness

2. Product

a. Complete - Capable

b. Equipped - Outfitted Perfect Participial – Past act-Present effect

The holy writing / the scripture is God breathed – inspired, and produces men and women who are prepared to do the work of God

**Revelation**

1. Defined: Revelation is divinely authoritative and is conveyed Objectively and Propositionally through the words of the Bible.

2. Types of Revelation

A. General Revelation

Definition: The revealing of God's greatness through His creation and natural order.

General Revelation is based on the following:

Creation – Romans 1:18-32; Psalm 19

Conscience – Romans 2:14-16

History (providence) – Col. 1:17; Rom. 13:1

B. Special Revelation

Definition: The revealing of God's glory through the suspension of the natural order.

Special Revelation has been given to man in a variety of ways:

Miracles – 2 Cor. 12:12

Dreams, Visions, Direct Communication (Heb. 1:1-2)

Person of Christ – John 1:1

Scriptures – 1 Cor. 2:6-16

**Inspiration**

1. Inspiration IS NOT...

Intuitive – Where the writer has deep insights into moral and religious truth. This approach is purely naturalistic.

Conceptual – Where God has inspired the concepts though not the actual words of Scripture. In this theory the precise words become unimportant, only the big picture is to be considered (Cf. Matthew 5:18).

Gradated – Where certain parts of Scripture are more or less inspired than others (Cf. 2 Timothy 3:16).

Dynamic / Partial– Where only matters relating to faith and practice are viewed as inspired. Areas regarding science, history, etc. are subject to human error. A distinction is made between “redemptive” and “non-redemptive” subjects.

Dictated – Where the human authors were merely vessels for God’s message. Holding this view would require the denial of the different personalities, vocabularies, styles, etc. evident in the different biblical writers.

2. Inspiration IS...

Verbal – This indicates that the process actually involves language and not just the conveyance of ideas (John 17:8; Exodus 20:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:13).

Plenary – Indicates that inspiration extends equally to all aspects, genres, parts of Scripture.

Infallible – True

**Inerrancy** The Bible is fully true in all it teaches or affirms; this extends to areas of both history and science. Complete Inerrancy.

## **Last Words Are Lasting Words** **II Timothy 4:1-8**

I. The Request - 4:1-2

A. The Audience: 1

See 2:14 Solemn Testimony

1. In the presence of God (see I Tim 5:21)

- Solemn Persons:
- Solemn Event:
- Solemn Occasion:

(The living judged at appearing - Matt 25, the dead at His kingdom - Rev 20)  
(Do we understand that we do our ministry in the very presence of God?)

2. In light of reality - Given the future inroads of false teachers 3:1 and of the power of the scriptures 3:16, it is a solemn responsibility to proclaim the word of God.

NB. The ministry is not for the weak and the consequences are staggering (James 3 - Let not many of you become teachers...stricter judgment)

B. The Action: 2

1. The Content – “Preach The Word”

2. The Constancy - In season and out
3. The Conviction – reprove
4. The Correction- rebuke
5. The Challenge – exhort

\*All of this is to be done with “all patience and instruction.”

The job of a pastor teacher in either the first or twenty-first century is to teach and proclaim the truth of the inspired words of God against the so-called wisdom of the world and the so-called truth of culture. Instruct (Eph. 4:12). (Feed Lead Protect)

## II. The Reason - 4:3-8

### A. The Undesired Reality in the Church:3-4

#### 1. The Reality

The culture will get worse. The church will get weaker.

#### 2. The Reason

- Do not “endure” ἀνεζόνται bear up sound doctrine

Unsound doctrine - I Tim 1:10, 6:3; 2 Tim 4:3; Titus 1:9

Sound (Healthy) Doctrine - I Tim 1:10, 4:6, 6:3; 2 Tim 1:13, 2:1-2

- Turn from truth

- Turn to fables

- Itch for something more and so they accumulate-bring together teachers who tell them what they want. (Can you think of a few today?)

**“But we need to be relevant”** If you want to be eternally relevant then.....

### B. The Desired Response :5

#### 1. The Request for Timothy :5

“But you...”

a. Be sober

b. Endure 3:12

c. Evangelize

d. Fulfill your ministry

\* How do you stack up to this check list of qualifications of ministry?

2. The Reality of Paul :6-8

a. The Perspective of Time 4:6

"Departure is Near". (Drink offering Phil 2:17 Departure. See Philp 1:23)  
It could be near for all of us any day. Are you ready?

b. The Perspective of Trial 4:7

Difficulty is Relative

Three Statements that Summarize a life well lived

1. "Fought the Good Fight" :7

2. " I have finished my course"

From beginning to end I kept focus on the goal

I Cor 9:24-27; Heb 12:1-2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, Heb 11:24-25-Moses

3. "I have kept the faith"

Not easy to do in difficult times

c. The Perspective of Triumph :8

Motivation to work so hard

\*There were Victories in Paul's Christian Life but now the End is near and we see the Vacating of the Christian Life. Notice what he sites as the marks of his successful ministry.

Conclusion

We must understand the times we are living in and how we are to Live in them.

Life is either lived by design or default. Which is it for you?

*I would rather lose in a cause that will some day win,  
than win in a cause that will some day lose.  
Woodrow Wilson*

Things that matter least must never come about at the expense  
of things that matter most. Goethe