

emperors. In the Asian province generally (where Ephesus was), this imperial cultus was organized as the highest and most authoritative religion. Domitian (81-96 A.D.) assumed the titles "Lord" and "God." Hadrian (117-138 A. D.) allowed the worship of his statues. But Paul states this is all wrong because only the God of the believer has immortality or is incorruptible. He dwells in the light and is unapproachable. No man has seen Him nor can. But all honor and power which is everlasting belongs to Him.

b. To God the Son.

The single fact brought about the Lord Jesus is that He bore a good confession before Pontius Pilate. This was a common phrase in the first centuries and pointed up the warrant for Timothy's confession before men. "Witness" is the verb which by transliteration would mean to witness as a martyr. It is this kind of seriousness which is brought to Timothy.

Conclusion: Timothy is assured a Measure of success in his ministry as he remembers to serve the Lord fully. This will include being dedicated, being opposed, and being subjected to the Lord. It is not an easy calling to serve the Lord Christ, but it is an holy one and merits the serious and solemn response of a true child of God. There was never a day wherein the need for men of this calibre was any greater. God give them to us for His praise alone. Amen.

THE BOOK OF TIMOTHY

"When Youth Takes Over"

I Timothy 6:13-16, 20-21

Introduction

1. These are the last words of Paul to Timothy in his epistle to him on church government and organization. They are solemn ones indeed!

2. Paul has run the gamut of truth for a local pastor that he might stand for the Gospel of our Lord. Not all is included, it is admitted, but a tremendous amount of blessed instruction is given. It is all so important and one realizes this the more as he views the assemblies of today.

3. These last items on which Timothy should give his attention are given with such pathos and candor. Think of such phrases as "I give thee charge," and "O Timothy." The very heart of the apostle is in the message which he brings to the young pastor. He wants him to succeed. Three injunctions are given to help assure his victory:

1. BE DEDICATED vv. 14, 20

Two verbs are highlighted here. The first one is "keep" (v. 14). It is present tense and urges maintenance of that which exists in tact, A heritage is understood to be good and reputable. The verb in v. 20 is the one for guard and brings in a military thot. But to what is Timothy to be given" Here's the answer:-

a. To the Christian life.

This is the essence of the term "commandment" (v. 14). The whole obligation of the Christian life is in view. It is an ethical matter. The moral precepts are in view. These are to be kept unsullied (spotless) and without reproach. And this is to be "until His appearing." Consistency in Christian living must be!

b. To the Christian faith.

The faith itself is in mind here for Timothy is urged to guard a deposit which has been placed in him. The word for "committed to thy trust" is one in the Greek and means a "deposit." It is only used in the Pastorals (cf. 2 Tim. 1:12-14 and I Thess. 2:4). Paul reminds his young son in the faith that he had at the first come into touch with the Gospel; now he is to keep it as a trust. He would do this if he kept in tune with it by the Holy Spirit.

2. BE OPPOSED vv. 20, 21

It is not very popular today to suggest a negative for anything. That is, in the matters of faith and practice. Actually, much of the world around us is negative, but believers are not supposed to be! Here they are urged to be. The verb "avoid" is present and middle, hence it notes persistent and personal involvement. With what is Timothy to be opposed? Check these items:-

a. To unprofitable discussion.

We live in a day of endless talk! Paul warned 2000 years ago against utter emptiness. Actually, the word used here is composed of the word "empty" and "voice" and this is actually what so much discussion today is! If only Timothy could remember that the Seed of the Word is to be sowed and not argued! The word "profane" simple means that it is treated flippantly. We need a holy seriousness in these days of almost utter disregard. The Bible is nothing to laugh about.

b. To unwise thinking.

An antithesis is to be given by Timothy to knowledge which is so-called but really isn't! The term "science" is unfortunate here. Better: knowledge.

Believers have nothing to fear from reverent research and seeking for information, but they must studiously avoid that which professes an intellectual soundness but makes profane the Word of God! This is pseudonymous indeed! When will we learn that the Word of God is not discerned intellectually or rationally, but spiritually (1 Cor. 2:14)? That's why Paul notes that some have actually missed the mark (cf. 1:6 for this same word of "err."). How we need the grace of God in matters like this. It is more true today than it was when Paul wrote because of the increased quantity of unbelief!

3. BE SUBJECTED vv. 13, 16, 17.

These verses take Timothy to his stand before an Almighty God. He is to ever remember the solemnness of the whole matter of the Gospel of our Lord. He must remain low before God. But this is detailed to be a subjection:-

a. To God the Father.

Several items are listed about Him:-

- 1) He quickens all things. The verb used here the one which means "to give life or bring forth life." Only found here and in Acts 7:19. There is no doubt but what He is lifted up as the Creator and Sustainer of all life! Let God be God!
- 2) He will show all things. It is noted that He will exhibit (that's the true meaning of the verb) who is the only Potentate, the king of those who rule, and the Lord of those who lord it. All this will take place at the appearing of Christ our Lord! There is a good possibility that the allusion here is to be practice of deifying the Roman