

Conclusion God's strategy of pedagogy is simple: in ever widening circles, let the truth get out. But make certain that it is the same truth! This idea of getting matters into the hands of others after this manner is not new with this verse, but is the consistent evident intent of the Lord (Ex. 18:13-21; Eph. 4:11-16; Acts 14:23).

THE BOOK OF SECOND TIMOTHY

"Biblical Pedagogy"

2 Timothy 2:1, 2

Introduction

1. Teaching is an art. It involves work. Entire books have been written to explain how to do it. God has His methodology. It is stated carefully in our text.
2. The assignment provided here is a direct response to the problems just mentioned (1:15-18). Large numbers in Asia had turned against Paul. One outstanding example had remained true--Onesiphorus. The moving appeal of Paul in the final verses of chapter one cannot be easily removed from one's memory.
3. Now what? By the use of an emphatic personal pronoun "thou," Paul challenges Timothy to be somewhat different! This is also the impact of "therefore." Paul has real reason to expect Timothy to respond to his appeal: Timothy is a child (so Greek) in the faith (cf. 1:2). The force of the possessive pronoun "my" is great! The use of the present passive imperative "be strengthened" is significant. There is a necessity to "keep on being empowered" in the sphere of grace in which the strength is imparted. Fidelity at the last is really God's work in the life and not the constraint of the individual believer!
4. The reason for this strong appeal to Timothy is to fit him for the divine principles of pedagogy. Here is God's strategy against the infidelity which rose in Asia. Being an inspired record, we are assured that this is God's intent for today and all time. Here is the way to do it:-

1. INVESTMENT OF TRUTH

a. Identification

The neuter relative pronoun is the basis for the word "things." This single letter in the Greek is used to identify what Timothy received from Paul. No one really

knows what is involved here, but certainly an enormous amount of truth is in view. Paul must have taught Timothy throughout his associations with him. Some of the material was also inspired revelation from God. A body of truth is at stake (Jude 1:3).

b. Reception

The simple aorist verb "heard" magnifies the fact that Timothy was directly exposed to the teaching of Paul. This is accented by the prepositional phrase "from me" which points to Paul being an intermediate one for the truth involved, but not its source!

c. Recognition

The phrase employed here means "in the presence of many witnesses." Two are specifically mentioned (1:6; 1 Tim. 4:14). What Timothy received was associated with a public series of witnesses! He could not deny the "things" indicated.

2. COMMITMENT OF TRUTH

What Paul allowed Timothy to hear is now to be passed on. This is the first PIO (pass it on) club! But there are strict rules to be followed:

a. Do it with sameness

The neuter demonstrative pronoun here is used to indicate a remarkable divine principle. While there is no line of apostolic succession, there is the provision for apostolic truth to be handed down. With no deviation! There is no room for discussion here. No provision here for a distilling of truth; only for its digestion! How enormous has been the departure from this principle in modern pedagogy so often employed among the believers--even in professing fundamental churches!

b. Do it with safeness

The aorist middle imperative of the verb "commit" points to a personal involvement and one with concentration. This same verb has already been used (1:12,

14) in relation to Timothy. Here he is to do something with truth given to him. He is to deposit it safely with others. It is not to be lost.

c. Do it with selectness

In the light of what happened in Asia, this is understandable. Only "faithful men" are to be given the truth. The use of the generic word for "men" may suggest that a co-educational practise is not despised. Further, the word "faithful" connotes "trustworthy" persons. Not everyone is worthy of the deposit from Timothy (Acts 16:2).

3. EMPLOYMENT OF TRUTH

Here is the final link in the scheme of pedagogy. Paul gives to Timothy; Timothy gives to others. Note the plan in detail:-

a. For men of ability

The copulative verb "shall be" shows that the deposit of truth from Timothy will equip the selected personnel for the job of teaching. Here is a competency gained and not inherited. The whole idea of "becoming" what one is not is suggested.

b. For men of activity

The deposit of truth in faithful men is not for a period of uselessness. A goal is in view: teaching! Thus the deposit is not for personal interest, but distribution. The use of the technical word for "teach" shows God sees the object of the whole matter a specific kind of activity.

c. For men of necessity

Here is the prime goal of the matter: the reaching of others. The Greek employs the term for others of a different sort. The idea is that others in addition to the named select men and not necessarily others as distinct or different. This is a true outreach program if ever there was one.