

These Things Teach and Exhort

First Timothy 5:19 – 6:21

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~ The modern Christian in the modern church are both like an ice cream float: all fizz, foam and froth. It's just a bunch of sugary sickening-sweet emotionalism that tastes great – but has no spiritual nutritional value. Ultimately, it's bad for you. *"Love, love, love"* is the popular theme; and anyone who teaches the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ hating their sins is insulted, ridiculed and rejected – just like Jesus Himself was. Those same people always want to tell sinners to repent; but, my friends, Jesus told the religious rulers to repent – and Jesus told the churches in Revelation to repent – but Jesus never told a sinner to repent. So, frankly, we're dealing with a bunch of rank hypocrites and abject fools in the large majority of churches today; but I am already digressing, sort of.

Our last report was not romantic or pretty; but some things never change – and one of the things that never change is the truth about sin and evil that the Word of God explicitly condemns. That which Paul taught Timothy is what I teach you dear readers; and it is what should be passed along to whomever you teach. Now, of course, the church should be the primary place where love is shown, but true and genuine love is more than sentimental surface affections. Real love wants the very best for the other person and, sometimes, a genuine love is going to involve telling that other loved one about the things that God hates. We're going to have to do the hard work if we ever desire for the Lord Jesus to fill us with His love. Call it tough love if you want to but, really, it's only true love when it is sound doctrine in Word and in truth....

V

19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.

20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

~ Our Spiritual Safari has spent a lot of time in this section of the Word of God; placing an emphasis on the duties of the officers in the church of Christ Jesus. Paul has seriously stressed the significance and importance of the office of elders and deacons – and the code of conduct and behavior regarding the relationships those offices have towards the laypersons in the congregations. We have also been taught about pastors, bishops, young widows, old widows and the Bible teachers of sound doctrine, too. If you have not read all of our safari reports from this first epistle to Timothy, then I suggest you go back and do so now. They can be read in about six hours for an average reader; and it would be well worth your time.

Alright, if verse nineteen were properly observed by the pastor and every member of a church, there would be ZERO gossip, strife or discord in the congregation; which would, by de facto, eliminate divisions, cliques and factions. See, the important thing is to always get the facts when dealing with a situation; because hearsay will always lead to a wrong judgment. If you have the facts, they are never to be used to perpetuate or fuel a scandal, either; but, rather, facts are the truth that will mitigate and correct those problems – and, if you involve the proper authorities when doing so, the outcome will be sweet and fruitful. See, any accusation must have more than one witness – actually, three is the most reliable – because if two people know about a thing, then there's a high likelihood that *MANY* more know about it, too; so, getting three witnesses should be very easy if a matter is true....

21 I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

~ We've been over the laying on of hands in myriad previous reports; and, while there are no spiritual vibrations given out or anything like that, it was a symbolic gesture used by the early church – and some still use it today. There's nothing wrong with doing it – but it is purely a figurative gesticulation. So, what Paul means here is the newly converted are not to

be made officers in a church. Frankly, the worst testimony in the world comes from a baby Christian – particularly a celebrity or star athlete – because those people always seem to immediately turn around and write some half-baked book on their journey. It’s always weird and wild shenanigans they write, too, by the way. Not unsurprisingly, many others will swallow reckless and irresponsible ramblings hook, line and sinker – and, voila! – a cult is born. It happens all the time when the new convert attempts to teach the Bible – and it happens exactly that way, too.

The church is a place where proper, correct and complete Bible instruction, presented in sound doctrine, is to be disseminated. A new convert or twelve-year-old child does not have the experience or understanding to stand up and start preaching. Candidly, you are a partner in sin if you allow that to happen. It’s truly foolishness when it does happen, which is far too often, by the way. All they talk about is “*love, love, love*” – and love is wonderful, to be sure – but a display of love **MUST** include teaching that one cannot love righteousness without hating unrighteousness. If we do not hate that which God hates, we can never – *EVER* – love as God loves; because that would be impossible. These are anchors in the Word of God that most people today literally cut the rope from, and cause the congregation to drift into any old heresy the wind blows their way.

It is a **HUGE** mistake to interpret our experiences as the rightful outcome of the tests and trials of life. We must reason from truth to experience. When we reason from experience to truth, we have our cart before the horse; in fact, we end up with the horse *INSIDE* the cart! Your dreams and visions mean absolutely nothing to anyone except *YOU*, my friends! The Word of God is instruction to everyone – and **THAT** is the test. Our experience follows and proves the tenets of Scriptural truth. If your experience contradicts the Word of God, then you have spirits from hell dictating your life; and when spirits from below dictate your life, you will begin professing the doctrine of demons. That’s the way it is. That’s what’s real. It happens that way with every single self-professing believer who falls away from the faith. That’s the **BIG** problem today. No exceptions, Period. Full stop.

The elders were the teachers in the early church; and, as we examined very closely in our last report, they rightly received remuneration. Teaching the

Bible is serious business, friends. If your life is not *ONE HUNDRED PERCENT* given to prayer, Bible study, meditation on the Word of God, combined with a sole objective of teaching the *ENTIRE* Word of God to the entire world in sound doctrine, then don't call yourself a Bible teacher – because you're not a Bible teacher – you're anything *BUT* a Bible teacher. The selection and appointment of competent Bible teachers is absolutely critical in a church today. If we get that wrong, our church won't be around very long. Now, I'm sorry I have to bear down on this point so hard that we risk breaking the pencil lead and tearing the paper – but – someone needs to say these things today; because the Bible is just not being taught properly, correctly and completely in most churches today – and I just happen to be the man who doesn't mind giving it to you straight. I don't partake in other men's sins, my beloved – you can just write that down. As a result, I never compromise in the Word of God....

23 Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.

~ This utterly abused verse of the Bible does not condone alcohol as a social beverage. Obviously, it is in the context of medicine for a legitimate ailment and need. I am sure Timothy, over there in Ephesus, dealing with these deacons, had developed an ulcer in his stomach the size of a grapefruit. The tensions and pressures of the position Timothy had been ordained to must have made him unwell – because that's what a genuine ministry will do to you, friends. You can argue with me and disagree until you turn blue and fall over dead – and you'll still be absolutely wrong. If you are doing the work of the Lord properly, correctly and completely – you will pay a physical price with your health. It simply cannot – and will not – be otherwise....

24 Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.

~ Christian's are typically judged by God in the here and now. However, that is not a standard rule; and just because God doesn't judge us immediately doesn't mean He isn't going to judge. We're also going to be told by Paul that Bible teachers shall receive the greater judgment. Turn all

of that over in your mind a few times and see what you come up with. Paul has already said, in regard to the Lord's Supper, which the church in Corinth was conducting in a wrong manner without any discernment of the Lord's body, "... for this cause many of you are weak and sickly among you and many sleep." — first Corinthians chapter eleven verse thirty. Intruding into the priest's office caused Uzziah to become a leper; and Uzziah was a *GOOD* king. Sickness and death are a judgment of God, my friends. I know most people don't want to hear any of this – but this is the way it is; irrespective of whether you believe it, understand it, accept it, agree with it, like it – or not. Ananias and Sapphira are also clear demonstrations of this truth....

25 Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.

VI

1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.

2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

~ So, as we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God in this first Pastoral Epistle, we have a relationship we have not yet seen presented: that of the minister to the servant. I would love to spend a *LONG* time in this chapter considering the dynamics of the interactions of spiritual and Godly capital and labor. I'm not going to do that, though. If you pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment – and then read this chapter – the Lord will speak directly to your heart. Suffice it to say that any man who considers himself a Bible teacher is to turn in a proper, correct and *COMPLETE* report. *COMPLETE* being the keyword; because that means the whole thing, my beloved readers. Frankly, partial reports are not going to be accepted as worthy by God on judgment day. In fact, if you want your entire life's work for the Lord to go "*WHOOSH*" in the

fire, in an explosion that can be seen from distant galaxies – then just teach the Bible incompletely. I can promise you that you will have absolutely *NOTHING* left in that day. Harsh? Judgmental? You bet your life it is....

3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen. (The first to Timothy was written from Laodicea, which is the chiefest city of Phrygia Pacatiana) ~

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