

Timothy is given a solemn charge, a commandment to be keep. A charge prefixed by the word “But.” A charge to him personally addressed as “Thou Man of God.” All men (and women) of God (and would be’s) ought to hear, heed and live what is charged here. Note the tremendous backing behind this charge and support for those to receive it and seek to carry it out Note the order in this call to action.

* Flee, – Get free so can follow. Flee, shun, run. Run from the attractions and influences of the world that cater to the flesh and draw the heart away from God into covetousness.

* Follow, – Pursue attributes becoming to a Man of God.

* Fight, – Struggle, as in a competitive sport, rather than as in battle or war.

* Lay hold of – Take, seize decisively, for some purpose.

* Eternal life, not merely eternal existence but a unique quality of life that is given by God to each believer as a gift not only to be received but to be taken, seized, possessed as owned, and lived to its fullness forever.

* Called – Selected and gifted for a commitment to a life’s course and/or for specific missions serving the Lord.

* Charge – Command or order received from a superior to be transmitted to others, in this case Paul to Timothy from God.

* Quickens – gives, sustains, preserves life.

This charge is given by Paul to Timothy with no less authority than God Himself and Christ Jesus. The example to follow is the Jesus’ bold, faithful witness before Pontius Pilate, the occupation governor representing the Emperor of the most powerful nation in the world. He gave a good confession, although brief, it was respectful, truthful, complete and unambiguous. What did He say? When asked He told Pilate He was King of the Jews.

Although this charge was addressed to Timothy, and as “Thou Man of God,” we are not excluded or excused from its force and urgency. The commandment given Timothy is to be kept in a manner that no one could find fault with what is done or the manner in which it is done. And it is not just a single act that is called for but a life’s testimony and work, to be kept and kept at until the appearing of the Lord. A long range commitment with that coming event always in view as imminent. And accompanying it His inspection of our work and evaluation of our service as His own.

Though His appearing will far outshine any of our acts of love and service for Him, He will concern Himself with us anyway. He condescends, yes lovingly accepts, treasures and displays what we have been and done for Him. Though it is He that has wrought through us, He will give us public recognition and rewards for things we have done for Him in His name.

But first He will show who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords. God the Father is Potentate – Supreme, Ruler (King) of rulers,

Controller (Lord) of controllers. He only has immortality, “deathlessness.” God the Father dwells in, resides in, occupies unapproachable light. Hidden from the sight of created beings by light. Only one man has seen Him, Jesus. Only One can see Him, Jesus. No creature ever has, can or will see God in His Full Glory. But we see Jesus... !

John 6:46 *Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.*

John 14:9 *He that hath seen me hath seen the Father;*

Other beings might hide in darkness. Not Him. God is Light, 1John1:5. No hiding Him with darkness. He shines in and He shines out..

James 1:17 *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. 18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

Well might we, with all, say “to whom be honor (esteem) and power (dominion) everlasting. Amen.” (Note here the Greek word for honor given God is the same as that to be given elders and masters in this epistle.) We begin the chorus here, more clearly when above.

Revelation 4:10 *The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

We sing the worthiness of the Lamb as well. Then and now.

Revelation 5:12 *Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*

And to both The Father and the Lamb:

13 *And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*

In stark contrast, amidst all this glory being given God, Paul calls to mind the rich in this world. These might become the objects of undue respect and adulation in this world. They might be lifted up in pride becoming highminded, (lofty of mind, arrogant, conceited, haughty.) and stoop to trusting in their riches rather than God. The Giver of all good does not condemn wealth itself. He who has wealth beyond imagination gives us richly all things to enjoy. He does not forbid good food and marriage, and encourages the medicinal use of wine. Yet part of the fruit of the Spirit in us is temperance (self control), Galatians 5:22-23.. But Paul reminds us that riches are indeed uncertain. Unreliable, no matter how well managed or how adept in accumulating wealth one might become. God gave Solomon the great wisdom he asked for but He gave him wealth as well. Was this a test? A demonstration to all mankind of the corrupting influence of affluence? Could

the wisest king become the richest king and successfully apply his wisdom to avoid the pitfalls of wealth? Solomon didn't. Those whom God has blessed with more than they need are warned. We are warned of this and urged to lay hold on eternal life. How? Do good, be rich in good works, ready and willing to give to others. Being so and doing so we lay up in store for ourselves a good foundation against the time to come. The phrase "time to come" here seems not to refer to saving for "a rainy day" here or for our retirement and care in our declining years but for our future beyond this earth. A good foundation as that the Lord spoke of, Matthew 6:19-34. Not that insurance, retirement planning, estate planning and the like are not wise and good in themselves. Certainly from an earthly prospective they are. But trusting in uncertain riches lies before us like a pit to swallow us up if we are not trusting in God. Lay hold on Eternal Life. We each have it if we have trusted Christ as our personal Savior but are we laying hold of what we have? Are we living what we are? Generous like our Savior God? Sacrificing self interest and self for God and for others as the Lord Jesus His Son did?

Even though relying on earthly wealth is to say the least unwise, God expects us to exercise good stewardship with what He has entrusted to us. Whether spiritual truths or earthly possessions.

1Corinthians 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

So Paul earnestly appeals again "O Timothy."

* Keep! Keep what is committed to thy trust. To your trust and mine. Read the letter again. Keep it. Watch and guard, preserve safely, isolate from contamination, obey.

* Avoid! Avoid (deflect, turn away, turn out of the way from) profane and vain babblings.

* Profane – unholy, uninterested in God's things or promises, not sacred. Example, Esau, Hebrews 12:16.

* vain babblings – empty sounding, fruitless discussions of useless subjects. Don't get caught up in useless discussions and campaigns to impose Christian values or knowledge on the general population. This turns them off to the gospel. They need Christ, not correction.

* oppositions – conflicts among theories and with the truth of the Bible.

* science – "knowledge" refers to Gnostics, "the knowers," who claimed to have superior knowledge but had no reliable authority or facts to back up this claim.

* falsely so called – Grk. **pseudonumos**, pseudonym, a false name or title.

True science in the recent centuries claims to rest its theories on facts and truths discovered through methodical processes of careful and repeatable observation documented by detailed, juried, published reports. All theories are to be tested and modified or discarded if observations prove a deficiency. Today, amazingly, some real science survives in this world. It has led to many wonderful insights and beneficial inventions. But it remains man's knowledge. And man's knowledge is incomplete outside of God. It falls short because scientists fail to fully investigate certain avenues of discovery. They are deemed unproductive, unimportant or irrelevant to favored theories. This attitude of passive dismissal shuts out work toward real discoveries that might open up wonderful fields of knowledge of God's glorious creation undreamed of now. What can we do? Avoid it.

If interested, a believer can watch for the factual discoveries concealed behind the popular media reporting of new discoveries. Such announcements are almost invariably presented in a context of a presumably proven theory such as Evolution. Seek the gems of truth hidden in the Gnostic garbage offered daily in the media and at schools. Be prepared to use God's word to filter science courses, and science news you may be exposed to. Then enjoy His magnificent Creation. Learn to see His majesty, power, beauty and yes, His character in it. But beware that you not be taken in by "knowledge falsely so called" and join the ranks of those who have erred (swerved aside, missed the mark) concerning faith.

Grace be with thee! And grace be with all who hear and heed what Paul wrote Timothy. Yes, grace be with you all!

By Ron Canner, May 10, 2006