

Let's imagine that we just got this letter from Paul. What would your reaction be? Would you immediately turn to supporting scriptures? I find myself wanting to list a lot of supporting verses. Let's try today to just read it and determine what Paul is trying to say to Timothy through this letter. (Timothy was probably 35-40 years old and he had gone through a lot already in his life.)

FAITH:

Some basics from the dictionary:

(Hebrew 'emun; Greek pistis) has a two-fold sense in the Bible.

- A. Active one. Fidelity (hi-fi – a sound you could rely on – clarity). Trustworthiness.
Romans 3:3 where the "faith of God" means His fidelity to promise. His hi-fi to us.
(Fidelity Bank and Trust).
- B. Passive one. Trust, reliance – is used in the overwhelming majority of cases. It has the meaning of trust, reliance.

People in the New Testament had to be taught that faith is what saved them and that faith would help keep them in their earthly journey (not salvation from Hell).

I Timothy 4:12 – be an example to the believers.

Faith is used many times in this letter:

- 1:2... Timothy, my own son in the faith
- 1:4... godly edifying which is in faith
- 1:5... faith unfeigned
- 1:12.. he counted me faithful
- 1:14.. exceeding abundant with faith and love. ..
- 1:15.. faithful saying...
- 1:19.. holding faith and a good conscience
- 2:7.... a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity
- 2:15.. if they continue in faith, charity and holiness...
- 3:9.... holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience
- 3:11.. wives...faithful in all things
- 3:13.. boldness in faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- 4:1.... some shall depart from the faith
- 4:6.... nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine whereunto...

4:9. ... faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance
4:10. . trust in the living God...
4:12. . faith...
5:5. ... trusteth in God...
5:8. ... denied the faith and is worse than an infidel
5:12. . cast off their first faith
6:2. ... they are faithful and beloved takers of the benefits
6:11... Oh man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith,
love, patience, meekness...
6:12. . fight the good fight of faith
6:21. . which some have erred concerning the faith

PURITY

That the concept of purity was deep within the religio-social structure of the children of Israel since very early times comes as no surprise to the student of the Bible. The attitude of Jewry as a whole, and of the Pharisees as a class, is brought out in Mark 7:3, 4.

Religious purity was both ceremonial and ethical. Under Mosaic law, ceremonial purification was required for four acts:

1. Birth of a child, removed through circumcision (if male) and separation of women (Leviticus 12:2)
2. Contact with a corpse; the offering of the red heifer is prescribed sacrifice of purification (Numbers 19:1-10).
3. Certain diseases, as leprosy (Lev. 13:8).
4. Uncleanliness due to running sores (Lev. 15).

Family purity was guarded through strict laws concerning sex (Lev. 20:1-21; Deut. 22:20, 21).

In the New Testament, though there is transfer from outward to the inner, there is no relaxing of the basic requirements for purity itself.

While it may be unclear how much of the New Testament Timothy knew, it is required that he do his work of making sure the scriptures were passed on accurately and that action was necessary to see faith and purity grow (see Matt. 5:27; 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-10; I. Cor. 5:9-13; 6:18-20).

Other considerations:

The context of our chapter suggests some practical ideas to get the principles of verse 14 going and how to make them work and keep going.

Three activities in which Timothy is to engage in are:

1. Reading the Scripture;
2. Exhortations rightly based on scripture that are read;
3. Doctrine is teaching that grows out of the same scriptures that were read and they are intertwined with other scriptures to establish the whole body of Christian doctrine.

Six more things in verses 14-16

1. Do not neglect the gift that is in you; not personal but for God and His use to build them up.
2. Meditate on these things.
3. Give yourself entirely to them.
4. Take heed to yourself.
5. Take heed to the doctrine.
6. Continue in them.