



First Timothy

Keep The Command

Be Like Jesus

I Timothy 6:13, 14

Lesson Thirty-Three

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum



First Timothy

A Study of the First Letter of the Apostle Paul to His Son in the Faith

Good Confession—I Timothy 6:13, 14

In our last lesson we discussed Timothy's "good confession." Paul continues to write about the good confession and how the confession is not only for human witnesses, but is witnessed by God, Himself. Read I Timothy 6:13, 14.

In commenting on verse eleven, we said that Paul wanted Timothy to take all that Paul was saying very seriously. Here, he points out to Timothy that all that he does is "in the sight of God." Now that's serious.

It is not unusual for us to be involved in something and ask ourselves, "What would other people think if they could see me now?" Let's remember that no matter where we are, and no matter what we do, God sees us. And, when Paul told Timothy that his behavior was before God, Timothy knew just how serious Paul was. And, just in case Timothy was not thinking seriously enough, Paul identifies God as "the one who gives life to everything."

We might think here of how bad things looked when Jesus died on the cross. The one who called Himself the Son of God, the one who was thought of as the promised Messiah, was dead. But God, who gives life to everything, raised Jesus from the dead. So we, who seem to have nothing to look forward to but death, now worship the One who gives life.

It doesn't seem that Paul was trying to give Timothy ideas for his confession, but part of every Christian's confession, or testimony, is that God is the creator of everything, and He is also the one who keeps together all that we know anything about. No one is like God...not even close.

And, Paul said that Timothy's life was lived before Christ Jesus. It might help here to point out that the name Christ is not simply a first name for Jesus. To the Jews, God had promised a Messiah, an "anointed one." He was going to offer freedom to everyone and rule over a new Kingdom. The Hebrew name Messiah in Greek is Christ. So when Paul put the name Christ before the name Jesus, he was making a very important statement. He was identifying Jesus as the one for whom the Jews were looking.

He said that Christ Jesus was the one who made the "good confession" before Pontius Pilate. He referred here to the trial of Jesus just before He was crucified. The story is told in John 18:33-37. Jesus told Pilate who He was and why He had come into the world. Paul called that a good confession...and it certainly was.

Jesus lived up to His mission on earth. He didn't fail in any way. When He came to His death on the cross, He could say, "It is finished." (John 19:30) This is the example Paul held up to Timothy.

Paul "charged" Timothy. Just as Jesus had told Pilate that He was the King, Timothy was to continue that confession by constantly telling everyone that Jesus is Lord. And, as one writer said, "When a Christian confesses his faith, he does what his Lord has already done; when the Christian suffers for his faith, he undergoes what his Master has already undergone; when we are doing some great Christian task, we can say, 'I stand with Christ.'" (William Barclay)

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Every Christian needs to remember that what he or she does that is good, is done to Christ. We do our Christian work before Christ, and by our work we reveal Christ to the world. With such a wonderful message, our own testimony that Jesus lives in us and adopts us into His family, we give hope to everyone, and we please Jesus.

Paul “charged” Timothy to “keep the commandment.” It is pretty clear that Paul is telling Timothy to do all the things that Paul has “commanded” him to do in this letter. What is he talking about? We might summarize Paul’s “commands” or teachings here by looking back at verses eleven and twelve.

He said, “flee from these things.” He was referring to bad teaching and using the role of minister to get rich. He said to pursue; he listed “righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and godliness.” He said to fight the good fight. He said that meant being faithful and living life that is not for just time, but also for eternity.

So, Timothy had much to do. He was to build his work as a minister on the things listed in verses eleven and twelve, but probably not only these things. Paul had given Timothy many instructions in this letter that would help him to be the best minister that the church could have. And, if Timothy was to please God and Jesus, who were watching him every minute of his life, he, Timothy, needed to live up to all that Paul had told him.

Have you ever heard about someone who has a “stain” on their record? Usually this refers to someone who has broken the law and was found guilty in court. When that happens, the illegal behavior is added to their record. It is a stain on their record. Have you ever seen a clean sheet of paper, or even a piece of clothing that had an ink spot or some other mark on it? Paul wants Timothy to look at his work as a minister as a clean cloth. Timothy should do his very best to keep that cloth clean. We might think of it as being able to present to God our life without any spots.

Paul then reminded Timothy that he was to do his best until Jesus comes back to earth. It was good for Timothy and it is good for us to look forward to the return of Jesus. It kept Timothy’s mind focused on the future, and on what will be the greatest thing that could happen to our world. When Jesus returns, He will end all the evil and suffering. He will take His children to the presence of God, the Father, and we will receive our reward for all our good work.

When Paul wrote Timothy there was a lot of suffering in the church. It was easy to feel hopeless. But, looking forward to the day when Jesus comes back, brought hope as it should today.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to have courage and live as God calls them to live.

Scripture Memory: “Keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus.” I Timothy 6:14

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Student Worksheet—Following Through

Keep The Command—I Timothy 6:13, 14

- >Let's remember that no matter _____ we are, and no matter _____ we do, God sees us.
- >But God, who gives _____ to everything, raised Jesus from the _____. So we, who seem to have nothing to look forward to but _____, now worship the One who gives _____.
- >What does God keep together?
- >What is the name Christ in Hebrew?
- >What did Jesus tell Pilate?

- >Because Jesus lived up to His mission on earth, what could He say on the Cross?

- >We do our Christian _____ before Christ, and by our _____ we reveal Christ to the world.

- >If Timothy saw his ministry as a clean cloth, what was he to do about it?

- >How long was Timothy to do his best?

- >What does looking forward to the Second Coming of Christ bring?

For Memory: “Keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus.” I Timothy 6:14

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.