

93 - We Trust In the Living God - 1 Timothy 4:10 - 2021-10-10

Stephen - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 84:1-2

Roel - Scripture Reading - Jeremiah 10:1-10

Jeremiah - Congregational Prayer

Benediction -

Rita - prelude

Rita - Trinity 400 "Come, Thou Fount" (Andrew leading)

Allison - Trinity 76 "With Grateful Heart"

Allison - Trinity 548 "More Love To Thee"

INTRODUCTION

Here is a saying that is true, faithful, trustworthy, by all means to be received, worthy and deserving of all acceptance: Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

There is profit or benefit promised to those exercising themselves unto godliness---those who believe in Jesus Christ, with a true, living faith that produces good works in loving obedience to God's commandments. We, then, do exercise ourselves unto godliness, looking to receive the promised good, both in this life, and especially in the life to come.

In that truth, our Lord's apostle, Paul, found expression of the reason why he lived as he lived, why he did what he did. So, too, do we find a simple way of affirming in ourselves and communicating with others the reason why we live as we live, why we do what we do. What we read in our Bibles today, our own hearts echo. Long ago, the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write this truth in his letter to Timothy in Ephesus; today, the same Holy Spirit causes our born-again souls to rejoice in agreement with Paul's confession: The reason we live as we live, the reason we do what we do, is that we trust in the living God.

TEXT

1 Timothy 4:7-10a

BODY

I. The Main Confession

A. We

1. those who serve the Lord Jesus Christ officially, in office
 - a) the apostle Paul, along with the other apostles
 - b) those directly appointed by the apostles: Timothy, Titus, etc.
 - c) those men deemed faithful and set in office by the churches to be pastors
2. by extension, all who serve Jesus Christ; all who are His disciples
 - a) those who have heard the good news, and turned from their sins to trust in Him; who are now exercising themselves unto godliness
 - b) this number always growing as those who were not His disciples before hear the good news and become His disciples

B. We trust; we hope

1. trust: we rely on, we believe in, we depend on, we have faith in
2. trust/hope:
 - a) distinction
 - b) that distinction not applicable here, as the reference is to both
3. false notion: we do all the good we can do, trusting or hoping that it will be good enough to please God, so we can be justified, go to heaven, and have eternal life; “If I do enough good, God will love me.”
4. truth: we trust in all the good that God has done for us through Jesus Christ’s life and death, having a sure hope that we will go to heaven and have eternal life; in that trust and hope, we work to do all the good we can, loving God because He first loved us; “I cannot do enough good, but Christ has done good for me, because God loves me.” I believe that all the promises God has made to bless the godly, He surely will keep.

C. We trust in the living God

1. we reject the common practice of trusting in man, in certain men, in mankind
2. we reject the Disney religion of trusting in our own hearts, in our own feelings
3. we reject the pagan practice of trusting in gods of our own invention, represented by idols of our own manufacture
4. we trust in the one being who is life, who has life in Himself, who gives life to all creatures, who is the great “I Am”
5. we trust not in men, who think themselves gods, nor in idols, which are called gods, nor in false conceptions of who God is, given by false prophets; instead, we trust in the one and only true God

II. We Trust In the Living God---That Is The Reason We Labor

A. We labor in works of worship

1. Paul travelled thousands of miles on foot to be able to preach Jesus Christ all over that part of the world; he prayed constantly for all the churches
2. we who are in office now continue the work preaching the word and praying for the churches
3. all who are the disciples of Jesus Christ labor in these things
 - a) daily at home
 - b) on the Lord's Day in the congregation

B. We labor in all the things the Lord has commanded us

1. firstly, all the matters pertaining directly to love for God
2. secondly, all the matters pertaining directly to love for our neighbor (which also pertains to love for God, since our neighbor is made in God's image)

C. We find

1. no work too wearisome if done in obedience to the commandments of the living God
2. no labor too long if done in the power of the living God
3. no toil too tough if done for the promised blessings of the living God

III. We Trust In the Living God---That Is The Reason We Suffer Reproach

A. Here some of your Bibles say we labor and “strive”

1. I believe the correct reading is we “suffer reproach” or “are rebuked”
2. you might use the word “strive” if you consider that people speak against you, and so you find yourself in strife not of your own making

B. We suffer reproach because of how we worship

1. more broadly from the unbelievers in the world, who consider it foolish to worship God at all
2. also from those who claim to worship Christ, whose ideas of worship have become corrupted
 - a) to our sorrow, that is sometimes close friends and family
3. historically all over the world, and more recently even close to us here, we suffer reproach from those who want us to let the government officials control our worship
 - a) whether long ago against the wishes of Rome pagan, and decrees of the emperor
 - b) or more recently against the wishes of Rome papal, and the decrees of the pope
 - c) or today against the wishes of government officials thinking it their right to impose restrictions on how we meet for worship, and whether or not the congregation may congregate

C. We suffer reproach because of what we do

1. we get married and stay married
 - a) we love our wives
 - b) we submit to our husbands
2. we have children, and maybe even many of them
 - a) we, the parents, discipline our children to obey
 - b) we, the children, obey our parents

D. We suffer reproach because of how we do it

E. We suffer reproach because of what we refuse to do

F. We find that

1. no sneer is sufficient to stop us from worshiping the living God
 - a) as we understand Him to command us in the Bible
2. we can bear the frowns of a dying world, because we see the smile of the living God
3. we can ignore the curses of a decaying culture, because we stand on the firm foundation of the living God

CONCLUSION

Whether considered narrowly, regarding Paul, and Timothy, and current-day pastors, or whether considered more broadly, regarding all of us Christians exercising ourselves unto godliness, there is a reason why we do what we do, why we live how we live; and it is the very best of reasons: we do what we do because we trust in the living God.

For therefore

Trapp:

Because godliness hath so much happiness laid up in the promises, 1 Tim 4:8, and there is so much certainty of the performance of those promises, therefore we both do and suffer, 1 Cor 15:58.

JRY:

Why is it that we are willing to work so hard at things the world does not value, or by methods the world despises? because of what He provides in this life and in the next

specially of those that believe

RWP:

Making a distinction in the kinds of salvation meant. "While God is potentially Saviour of all, He is actually Saviour of the *pistoi*" (White).